

**National Parks England
Board Meeting**

Draft Minutes of the meeting held
on Tuesday 23rd September 2025

In-person Meeting

In Attendance		
<p>Directors Tiffany Hunt (TH) Ken Smith (KS) Vanessa Rowlands (Chair) (VR) Andrea Davies (AD) Harry Blathwayt (HB) Will Dracup (WD) Denis Mullan (DM) Victoria Mander (VM) David Bence (DB)</p> <p>Officers Clare Kerr (Policy Manager) (CK) Alison Baxter (Public Affairs Manager) (ABx) (online)</p>	<p>NPOs/ Chief Executives Gavin Capstick (GC) (online) Phil Mulligan (PM) Sion McGeever (SM) Sarah Bryan (SB) Rob Thomas (RT)</p> <p>Alison Barnes (ABar)</p> <p>David Butterworth (DBu) Tom Hind (THi)</p>	<p>NPA Lake District NPA Peak District NPA South Downs NPA Exmoor NPA Broads Authority Dartmoor NP Northumberland NPA New Forest NPA</p> <p>Yorkshire Dales NPA North York Moors NPA</p>

Item	
1	<p>Apologies & Intros</p> <p>Apologies were received from Kevin Bishop, Jim Bailey, Derek Twine, Tony Gates</p>
2	<p>Minutes</p> <p>2.1 Approve minutes from the meeting held on 7 July 2025.</p> <p>Approved, no amendments. VR noted the outstanding action of the shared NPE Board folder which has been due to access issues, which NPE is working to resolve.</p> <p>Decision: Minutes were approved</p>
3	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
4	<p>Approval of Tom Hind as Company Secretary.</p> <p>Following the approval of Tom Hind to act as interim Company Secretary for the AGM on 7 July 2025, Directors were invited to extend the appointment until 31 March 2026.</p>

	Decision: Approved
5	Urgent Business notified to the Company Secretary THi - no urgent business.
6	Discussion: NPE Organisational Design and Strategy. Directors discussed the overall purpose, structure and organisational design of NPE, including recruitment following the resignation of the Executive Director. Action: outputs from session to be pulled together and shared to the Board and CEOs by David Bence. Decision regarding recruitment (confirming the role and timetable) to be agreed and actioned at the NPE Board meeting on 20 October 25.
7	Protected Landscapes Partnership update SM gave a short update on the PLP, noting it is progressing well. Action: SM to share PLP Board minutes and headlines with the group once they are issued.
8	AOB THi raised the issue of a potential repeal of the Protected Landscapes Duty which was introduced via s245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act. Action: THi to draft a statement setting out NPE's position on P Duty and share with Directors/ CEOs Action: all to use statement once finalised to brief MPs and Peers.
Summary of Actions from this meeting	
1	DB – Circulate discussion outputs
2	SM – share PLP Meeting notes
3	THi – draft statement on PL Duty
4	All – share final PL Duty statement with relevant contacts

Next Board meeting: Monday 20 October 2025