

**Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee**  
**Draft Minutes of the meeting at Woodford Lodge, Chew Stoke Hill, Bristol BS40 8XH**  
**17<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**Present:**

**Partnership Committee:**

Paul Bryan	Mendip Hills AONB (acting Chair)
Julie Cooper	Sedgemoor District Council Officer
Cllr Nigel Taylor	Mendip District Council
Graham Price	Mendip Society
Ian Clemmett	National Trust
David Clark	Mendip District Council Officer
Mike Adams	North Somerset Parishes Representative
Chris Lewis	Somerset CPRE
Pippa Rayner	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Rachael Fickweiler	Avon Wildlife Trust
Liz Brimmell	Bath and North East Somerset Parish Representative
Roger Dollins	Somerset Parishes Representative

**Other Attendees:**

Eleanor Higginson	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Andy Mallender	AONB Project Development Officer

**Apologies received from:**

Cllr Dawn Hill	Somerset County Council
Barry James	Somerset County Council Officer
Cllr Liz Richardson	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Mark Minkley	Bath and North East Somerset Council Officer
Cllr Peter Downing	Sedgemoor District Council
Simon Larkins	National Trust
Michele Bowe	Somerset Wildlife Trust
James Small	NFU

**Summary of Actions**

Item No	Item	Action	
7.	<b>Date of meetings next meeting</b>	November 17 <sup>th</sup> 2016	ALL

Item No	Item	Notes	Action
1.	<b>Apologies</b>	Apologies noted from a number of members (listed above). Welcome to Liz Brimmell, Bath and North East Somerset Council parishes representative and Roger Dollins, Somerset Parishes Representative  The meeting was chaired by Paul Bryan	

<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held 12th November 2015</b></p>	<p>The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Nigel Taylor, seconded by Graham Price.</p> <p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <p><b>Ref 3.3</b> It was suggested that the proposed planning charges fee scale should be amended to include an ‘other’ category that would cover non local authority partnership members such as the Mendip Society. Following further consideration by AONB Unit, it was agreed that this change should be made.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Introductions to new Parishes Representatives:</b></p>	<p>PB introduced the new Parish Representatives, Liz Brimmell and Roger Dollins. Mike Adams continues as the North Somerset Parish Representative.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Officer Support Group – Paper A – Appendix 1. Budget 2016-19</b></p>	<p>DC presented the paper highlighting budget position for 2016/19, the plans in place to find a new Manager and interim management arrangements.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Delivery Plan – verbal updates</b></p> <p>i) Mendip Hills AONB:</p>	<p>AM gave an update on the work carried out by the Young Rangers, Volunteer Rangers and practical task volunteers. Also work in association with the Mendip Society and the Ramblers to waymark a new Mendip way route.</p> <p>AM announced that unfortunately, the Mendip Rocks HLF bid had been unsuccessful. <b>An investigation will be carried out to find out the reasons for this and what changes are needed in order that the bid is successful in the future.</b></p> <p>PB reported on the success of the AONB Tourism and Planning events.</p>	<p>AM</p>

	<p>ii) Updates from other partners</p>	<p>Further joint work is planned in relation to Tourism including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intelligence gathering.</li> <li>• Product development; itineraries, joint advertising/content for Destination Management Organisations web sites/brochures.</li> <li>• Brand; map of area, coverage of area, name, images, marketing, promotion events/ stories. Access via bus.</li> </ul> <p>PB Suggested that the planning event should be re-run for elected representatives later in the year. The suggestion was received with general support and <b>PB agreed to develop this.</b></p> <p>PB gave an update on Landscape Planning work. He reported that additional work had been carried out to further support the development of the Chew Valley Neighborhood Plan. He also reported on the initial work being carried out to support the Cheddar Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><b>National Trust</b> IC gave an update on NT's joint work with partners in relation to their property in Cheddar Gorge, including; involvement with the Cheddar Vision Group, the Cheddar Partnership, Avon and Somerset Police and Somerset Wildlife Trust. Issues under consideration included sheep and goat management, the management of Whitebeams and the changes made to the Cheddar Gorge shop in order for it to become a visitor information centre.</p> <p><b>Somerset Wildlife Trust</b> PR reported that SWT has bid to Natural England to carry out Stewardship Facilitation. <b>She agreed to make the Partnership aware of the outcome.</b></p> <p>SWT have been asked to give pre application comments on the proposed extension to quarrying at Callow Rock</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>PR</p>
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		<p>SWT have advertised for a new post of Nature and Wellbeing Manager.</p> <p>A series of events have been planned in connection with “Save Our Magnificent Meadows” project. <b>PR agreed to pass on dates.</b></p> <p><b>CPRE.</b> CL gave an update on the work of the Somerset Branch in relation to Mendip Local Plan Part II, quarries, renewable energy and housing.</p> <p><b>Avon Wildlife Trust</b> RF gave an update on the Trust’s work and reported that the “Bee Line” project was coming to an end, however that it may be extended by Bug Life</p> <p><b>Mendip Society</b> GP gave an update on the Society’s work including; launch of “My Mendip Story” a competition for children; the development of a Mendip Way booklet and their continued work developing a Mendip Book.</p> <p>GP announced that he had written to Somerset CC asking them to consider reinstating the warden service rather than recruiting for a replacement AONB Manager. Prior to the meeting, a copy of the letter had been emailed to some Partners, though not all. Discussion took place and Roger Dollins proposed that the issue should be revisited at the next meeting.</p> <p>NT announced that he was no longer acting as Manager at Westbury Quarry however he repeated his invitation for all partners to visit the quarry.</p>	PR
6.	<b>NAAONB Update - Paper B - Paul Bryan, Acting AONB Manager</b>	PB gave an update on the work of the National Association following his attendance at the AONB Lead Officers’ meeting in February.	
7.	<b>Date of next meetings</b>	November 17 <sup>th</sup> 2016	