



Exmoor National Park Authority

Exmoor House

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23 September 2026

To: All Members of the Exmoor National Park Authority

A meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority will be held at **10.00 am on Tuesday, 6 October** in the **Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton.**

The meeting will be open to the press and public subject to the passing of any resolution under s.100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

There is Public Speaking at this meeting, when the Chairperson will allow members of the public two minutes each to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition relating to any item relevant to the business of the Authority or relating to any item on the Agenda. Anyone wishing to ask questions should notify the Democratic Support Officer as soon as possible, or at the latest by 4pm on the working day before the meeting of the agenda item on which they wish to speak, indicating a brief summary of the matter or matters to be raised (contact Committees@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

The meeting will be **recorded**. By entering the Authority's Committee Room and speaking during Public Speaking you are consenting to being recorded. We will make the recording available via our website for members of the public to listen to and/or view, within 72 hours of the meeting taking place.

Members of the public may use forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairperson so that those present may be made aware.

(The agenda and papers for this meeting can be downloaded from the National Park Authority's website www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

Sarah Bryan
Chief Executive

Conduct at Meetings

As set out above, the Authority welcomes public engagement with its work and believes that everyone attending a meeting of Exmoor National Park Authority or one of its Committees has the right to be treated with respect and to feel safe at all times, including before, during and after the meeting they attend.

The Authority understands that some situations can be difficult and lead to frustration; however, the Authority is committed to promoting an environment where everyone feels listened to and respected and is not subjected to unacceptable behaviour. Further guidance is provided in our Customer Notice, available on our [website](#).

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Chairperson's Announcements

4. Minutes (1) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 1 September 2026 (Item 4).

(2) To consider any Matters Arising from those Minutes.

5. Business of Urgency: To introduce any business which by reason of special circumstances the Chairperson, after consultation with the Chief Executive, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency and to resolve when such business should be ordered on the Agenda.

6. Public Speaking: The Chairperson will allow members of the public to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition. Questions of a general nature relevant to the business of the Authority can be asked under this agenda item. Any questions specific to an agenda item can be posed when that item is considered subject to the discretion of the person presiding at the meeting.

7. Authority Meetings Schedule for 2027: To consider the report of the Head of Enterprise & Operations (Item 7)

8. Members' Reports: To receive any updates and reports on meetings or events attended by Members as representatives of Exmoor National Park Authority.

Further information on any of the reports can be obtained by contacting the National Park Authority at the address and telephone numbers shown at the top of the agenda.

Details of the decisions taken at this meeting will be set out in the formal Minutes which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. In the meantime, details of the decisions can be obtained from the Democratic Support Officer, at Exmoor House.

Exmoor National Park Authority

6 October 2026

Agenda Item 4

Minutes of the Meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday, 1 September 2026 at 10am in the Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton

Present

Miss A V Davis (Chairperson)

Mr R Milton (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr T Butt-Philip

Mrs F Nicholson

Mr M Ellicott

Mr J Patrinos

Mr W Geen

Mr S J Pugsley

Mr J Holtom

Dr S Warren

Mr R Hopley

Miss L Williams

Dr M Kelly

Mr G Wren

Mr M Kravis

23. Apologies for absence

Mr L Baker, Mr A Bray, Mrs F Smith, Miss C Strom, Mr N Thwaites.

24. Declarations of interest

There were none.

25. Chairperson's announcements

The Chair, along with the Chair of Dartmoor National Park Authority, had written a joint letter to Minister Stephen Morgan regarding concerns on the impacts of Blue Tongue disease on the farming community and as an animal welfare issue. A reply was awaited.

A new sound system had been installed in the Committee room, this would enhance sound for those using a hearing device, and for the YouTube recordings available to the public.

26. Minutes

Confirmation: The [Minutes](#) of the Authority's meeting on 7 July 2026 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters arising: None.

27. Business of urgency:

There was none.

28. 2025/26 Outturn – Statement of Accounts

The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Chief Finance Officer

The Authority's consideration

The unaudited statement of accounts was prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and proper accounting practices, principally the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice. The accounts were certified and published, together with the required public inspection notices by the deadline of 30 June 2026.

The External Auditor's interim audit was scheduled for mid-September 2026, with the final audit planned for November 2026. This would enable the Auditor to provide an opinion on whether the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as of 31 March 2026 and its income and expenditure for the year. The audit would also assess whether the Authority had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

- 28.1 Members noted that the revised local audit framework included statutory backstop dates for publication of accountability statements. For the 2025/26 financial year, the backstop date would be 31 January 2027.

Any further amendments to Accounts following the audit would be announced to Members and shown in the Final Accounts Committee.

Members were advised that the Accounts were prepared on a going concern basis reflecting the Authority's approved budget, medium term financial planning, continuing core funding streams from DEFRA, and reserves held to manage known financial risks and service pressures.

Officers highlighted a technical change to the valuation programme for non-investment assets, moving to a five-year rolling revaluation cycle supported by annual indexation in the intervening years.

- Members requested further information regarding the increase in short term debtors. Officers advised that £158K was in relation to HMRC and was no longer outstanding at the date of the meeting. An active creditor control process was in place, and the authority experiences a very low level of bad debt.
- Officers advised that indicative Capital Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2027/28 and 2028/29 had been provided by DEFRA; however, there would be caveats on any new scheme/projects during that time. There should be a reasonably high level of confidence associated with ongoing capital funding.
- Officers confirmed that valuation of property and assets is principally based on Existing Use Valuation (EUV) which differs to the value obtainable should ENPA wish to sell or pass on that asset to another body.

Miss L Williams arrived at 10.10am during this item and was therefore ineligible to vote.

Resolved to:

1. CONSIDER and NOTE the Statement of Accounts for 2025/26 at Appendix 1.

29. Personnel Update

The Authority noted the staffing changes.

30. Members' Reports

On 18 July, Dr M Kelly took part in a very successful and well supported event at the Pinkery Canal with the Exmoor Archaeological Society. The archaeological open day had been a popular event and was attended alongside ENPA Rangers and Officers.

Mr R Milton had attended the Exmoor Health Hub Opening along with other Members on 15 July. The event, held at Cutcombe, Wheddon Cross, was an impressive resource. The timing of the event was also important given the Blue Tongue outbreak. Mr Milton had also attended an event for the Exmoor Hill Farming Network which discussed the impacts of Blue Tongue and the challenges of farming on Exmoor - this had over 240 attendees.

The Chair Miss A V Davies and Chief Executive Mrs S E Bryan had attended a 75-year National Park anniversary event in July at the Peak District National Park, where they also met with the (*since changed*) DEFRA Minister.

The meeting closed at 10.20 am

(Chairperson)

Exmoor National Park Authority

6 October 2026

Agenda Item 7

Authority Meetings Schedule for 2027

Report of the Head of Enterprise and Operations

Purpose of Report

To present to Members a schedule of meetings of the Authority and its Committees for 2027.

Recommended Decision

That the Authority:

1. **ADOPT** a schedule of meetings of the Authority and its Committees in 2027 attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The schedule provides for monthly Authority and Planning Committee meetings, with January and August being reserve dates, and two meetings of the Standards Committee (April and November).
- 1.2 The Authority Meetings Schedule for 2027 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Member training and briefing sessions will be scheduled throughout the year when time permits. Members will receive prior notice of these as appropriate.
- 1.4 Following recent legislative changes affecting local audit and governance arrangements, a review of the Authority's governance structure, committee terms of reference and meeting arrangements is being undertaken. Dates and times for meetings of a new Audit and Governance Committee and any additional meetings of the Standards Committee will be agreed and notified according to business requirements. Further amendments to the Authority's committee framework may therefore be brought forward over the coming months.
- 1.5 As is usual practice, the schedule has been shared with the constituent County and District Councils.

2. Legal and policy considerations

- 2.1 Strategic alignment – Develop and maintain effective and efficient services.
- 2.2 Legal implications – The Authority's Standing Orders provide that each year the Authority shall approve a calendar of meetings of the Authority and its Committees and Sub-Committees.

- 2.3 Equality implications – The equality and human rights impact of the recommendation of this report has been assessed as having no adverse impact on any particular group or individual.
- 2.4 Financial implications – The Authority’s meeting arrangements are intended to make best use of member time and resources while ensuring Authority business is dealt with efficiently and in a manner open to public scrutiny.
- 2.5 Risk management implications – The proposed schedule provides a clear framework for the timely consideration of Authority business and supports effective governance and decision-making.
- 2.6 Climate implications – The proposed schedule supports the efficient planning of Authority and Committee business. Continued use of paperless meeting arrangements will help reduce paper use, printing and associated administrative resources, in line with the Authority’s Climate Emergency response.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 Adoption of the proposed schedule will provide clarity for Members, officers, partner authorities and the public on the Authority’s meeting arrangements for 2027. It will support effective forward planning and ensure that Authority and Committee business can be managed in a timely and transparent way.

Report Author

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September 2026

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Exmoor National Park Authority Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2027

Background papers

None

Draft EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES 2027

Day	Date	Time	Meeting
JANUARY			
tbc	<i>Tbc (1st Jan is bank hol*)</i>	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	5 January	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	5 January	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting (Reserve Date)
Friday	29 January	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
FEBRUARY			
Tuesday	2 February	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	2 February	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	26 February	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
MARCH			
Tuesday	2 March	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	2 March	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
APRIL			
Friday	2 April	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	6 April	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	6 April	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday	6 April	tbc	Standards Committee Meeting
Friday	30 April	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
MAY			
Tuesday	4 May	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	4 May	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	28 May	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
JUNE			
Tuesday	1 June	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority ANNUAL Meeting
Tuesday	1 June	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting

Draft EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES 2027

JULY			
Friday	2 July	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	6 July	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Annual Meeting
Tuesday	6 July	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	30 July	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
AUGUST			
Tuesday	3 August	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	3 August	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting (Reserve Date)
SEPTEMBER			
Friday	3 September	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	7 September	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	7 September	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
OCTOBER			
Friday	2 October	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	5 October	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	5 October	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	29 October	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
NOVEMBER			
Tuesday	2 November	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	2 November	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday	2 November	tbc	Standards Committee Meeting
Friday	26 November	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
DECEMBER			
Tuesday	7 December	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	7 December	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday	7 December	tbc	Final Accounts Committee Meeting
tbc	tbc	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)