

ITEM 4

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday, 5 November 2019 at 10.00am in the Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton.

PRESENT

Mr R Milton (Chairperson)	
Mr S J Pugsley (Deputy Chairperson (Planning))	
Mrs L Blanchard	Mrs F Nicholson
Mr R C Edgell	Mr J Patrinos
Mr M Ellicott	Mr P Pilkington
Mr N Holliday	Mr B Revans
Mr J Holtom	Mr M Ryall
Mr J Hunt	Mrs E Stacey
Mr M Kravis	Mrs S Takle
Mrs C M Lawrence	Mr N Thwaites
Mr E Ley	Mr V White

Apologies for absence were received from Miss A V Davis.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The following interests were declared in relation to Item 6.1 – Application No. 6/10/19/111 - Proposed change of use to provide a café to include the siting of a Portakabin for use as cooking and preparation space to serve a proposed indoor seating and serving area within part of the stable building, for a temporary 12 month period (Full) – Dunster Castle, Castle Hill, Dunster, Somerset, the following declarations were made:

- Mr M Kravis declared a personal interest as a District Councillor for Old Cleeve & District Ward, which includes Dunster.
- Mrs C Lawrence declared a personal interest as the County Councillor for Dunster Division.
- Mr P Pilkington declared a personal interest as a District Councillor for Old Cleeve & District Ward, which includes Dunster.

In relation to Item 6.2 – Application No. 6/3/19/115 - Proposed agricultural workers dwelling and garage (Full) - Land at Higher Nicholls, Brompton Regis, Dulverton, Somerset, Mr J Holtom declared a pecuniary interest as he had acted in a professional capacity for the applicant and would withdraw from the meeting when this item was considered.

- 60. CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Chairperson advised that this would be the last meeting that Tim Braund, Head of Information and Communication, would attend before he left the Authority. On behalf of all Members, the Chairperson thanked Mr Braund for his immense and valued contribution to the important work of the Authority, throughout his longstanding service. The Committee wished Mr Braund well in his future career.

61. MINUTES

- i. **Confirmation:** The **Minutes** of the Authority's meeting held on 1 October 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- ii. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.

62. PUBLIC SPEAKING:

See Minutes 63 and 65 for details of public speakers.

Items relating to the Authority's role as sole local planning authority for the National Park area including determination of planning applications. This section of the meeting was chaired by Mr S J Pugsley, Deputy Chairperson (Planning).

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

63. Application No. 6/10/19/111

Location: Dunster Castle, Castle Hill, Dunster, Somerset

Proposal: Proposed change of use to provide a café to include the siting of a Portakabin for use as cooking and preparation space to serve a proposed indoor seating and serving area within part of the stable building, for a temporary 12 month period (Full)

The Authority considered the **report** of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Public Speaking:

- (1) Mr A Rice, local resident (written submission tabled)
- (2) Mr G Ebborn, local business owner
- (3) Mr S Rogers, applicant (National Trust)

RESOLVED: To grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report.

Before the officer presentation Mr J Holtom left the meeting room.

64. Application No. 6/3/19/115

Location: Land at Higher Nicholls, Brompton Regis, Dulverton, Somerset

Proposal: Proposed agricultural workers dwelling and garage (Full)

The Authority considered the **report** of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

RESOLVED: To grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report.

After the vote, Mr J Holtom returned to the meeting room.

65. Application No. 62/49/19/002

Location: Longstone Wells, Heasley Mill, North Molton, Devon

Proposal: Proposed formation of a new access track and associated landscaping (Retrospective)

The Authority considered the **report** of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Public Speaking:

(1) Sir R Peek, North Molton Parish Council

(2) Mrs L Selmi, applicant

RESOLVED: To grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report.

66. APPLICATION DECISIONS DELEGATED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The Authority noted the **decisions of the Chief Executive determined under delegated powers**.

67. SITE VISITS: There were no site visits to arrange.

The remaining section of the meeting was chaired by Mr R Milton, Chairperson of the Authority.

The meeting closed for recess at 11.10am and reconvened at 11.19am.

68. REVISED BUDGET FOR 2019/20

The Authority considered the **report** of the Chief Finance Officer.

Authority's Consideration

Members held a useful discussion regarding the principle of introducing a charge for pre-application planning advice, however the Committee ultimately felt that further information was required before they could come to a decision on this matter.

Officers were requested to gather additional statistical information and present it to Members at a future Members' Forum or Workshop, so that further discussions could take place with a view to bringing a report back to the Authority at a later date.

The Authority Committee thanked the Head of Finance & Operations for his excellent work in the management and effective stewardship of the Authority's financial position.

RESOLVED:

(1) To approve the revised Core Budget for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 1 with changes to core staffing.

- (2) To note the position regarding reserves as set out in Appendix 3 to the report and the projected balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2020 of £300,000 at the level agreed with the auditors.
- (3) To authorise the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to make such adjustments as are necessary to keep within the overall budget and with the objective of transferring underspends that arise to reserves.
- (4) To ask Officers to provide more detail at a Members' Forum or Workshop regarding the possibility of charging for pre-application planning advice, with a view to bringing a report back to the Authority.

Mr J Hunt and Mr V White left the meeting room.

69. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT

The Authority considered the **report** of the Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED: To note the Treasury Management Outturn for the first six months of the 2019-20 financial year.

Mr J Hunt and Mr V White returned to the meeting room.

- 70. EXMOOR CONSULTATIVE & PARISH FORUM:** The Authority received and noted the draft minutes of the Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum meeting held on 12 September 2019.
- 71. PERSONNEL UPDATE:** The Authority noted the recent staff changes as set out on the agenda.
- 72. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF URGENCY:**

The meeting closed at 12.39pm

(Chairman)