



**Draft MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD HELD
ON Wednesday 17th October 2012 at The Clare Foundation, Saunderton HP14 4BF AT 10.45 AM AND
CONCLUDING AT 13.00PM**

Member	Appointing Body
Appointed by Local Authorities	
Cllr Anna Badcock	South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr David Barnard	North Herts District Council
Cllr Roger Emmett	Wycombe District Council
Cllr Marion Mustoe	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr David Nimmo Smith	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Brian Norman	Three Rivers District Council
Cllr Richard Pushman	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Ian Reay	Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr Chris Richards	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Cllr Jeremy Ryman	Chiltern District Council
Cllr Bill Storey	Hertfordshire County Council

Appointed by the Secretary of State	
Mike Fox (Chairman)	Secretary of State
Bettina Kirkham	Secretary of State
Dr. Simon Mortimer	Secretary of State
Ray Payne	Secretary of State
Helen Tuffs	Secretary of State

Elected by Parish Councils	
Cllr John Griffin	Oxfordshire
Cllr Margaret Jarrett	Hertfordshire
Cllr Shirley Judges	Buckinghamshire
Cllr Barbara Wallis	Buckinghamshire

Officers	
Deirdre Hansen	Clerk to the Board
Steve Rodrick	CCB Chief Officer
Chris Smith	CCB Finance Officer
Colin White	CCB Planning Officer

12/13.18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from David Barnard, Heather Barrett-Mold, Mary Goldsmith and Julia Wells.

12/13.19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

12/13.20. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 21st June 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman after the spelling mistake in the name Badcock on p 40 was amended.

12/13.21. Matters Arising

1. Re item 12/13.13 the Board has been invited to a meeting with the Management Committee for the Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails.
2. Re item 12/13.14 no monies have yet been released to Local Nature Partnerships.

12/13.22. Public Question time

No members of the public were present.

12/13.23. Report from the Executive Committee

Members received the report of the Chief Officer advising the Board members of the matters considered, and decisions taken, by the Executive Committee under delegated powers.

At its meeting on 20th September 2012 the Executive Committee:

1. Received and approved a finance report on the provisional outturn to the end of August 2012. .
2. Discussed and approved the draft medium term financial plan 2012-2015.
3. Approved a Treasury Management Report.
4. Approved a report on Insurance cover and had decided to reduce insurance cover. Which in turn will reduce the premium.
5. Reviewed and amended the Risk Management Register.
6. Noted a report on Secretary of State appointments to the Board. Members resolved to aid DEFRA to promote the current vacancy, which has been advertised.
7. Received and discussed a report on HS2
8. Approved a proposed Farm Advice Project.
9. Discussed and approved a report on the review of the AONB Management Plan and possible review of the AONB boundary.
10. Noted a report on changes to the Planning System.

- 1. The Board NOTED the matters discussed by the Executive Committee and the decisions made under delegated authority.**

12/13.24. Report from the Planning Committee:

Members received the report from the Planning Officer, the purpose of which was to bring to the attention of the Board the items considered by the Planning Committee on 5th September 2012 and the decisions taken under delegated powers. The following were noted:

1. The High Speed 2 update.
2. AONB Management Plan Review.
3. Feedback from events.
4. Planning Conference 2012.
5. Student research project
6. Luton development issues

7. Responses to development plans
8. Responses to planning applications.

1. The Board NOTED the report from the Planning Committee and the decisions made under delegated authority.

12/13.25. Annual Audit Return 2011-12

The Finance Officer presented the Audit Commission's completed audit report of the Board's account for 2011-12. They drew the Board's attention to four matters. The annual return had provided the information in accordance with proper practice and no matters had come to the audit commission's attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The issues arising and the responses were as follows:

1. Review of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. This will be done at the next Executive Committee meeting.
2. Payment authorisation procedures are already in existence. They will be repeated in the new version of Financial Regulations.
3. Income/ Expenditure figures from the Countryside festival will need to be reported as a gross amount in the Annual Return. The accounts presented to the Executive Committee will reflect the net figure.
4. The minute reference was incorrect due to the timing of the meeting. Finance Officer and clerk to note for future reference.

1. The Board APPROVED and ACCEPTED the audited Annual Return and the issues arising report for 2011-12 and agreed to the responses and action set out above.

12/13.26 Report on HS2

The Chief Officer advised members of recent and planned HS2 activities. The continuing workload related to the HS2 activities is stifling other activities.

Most recent activity includes:

1. A meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport
2. Exchange of letters with Secretary of State.
3. Attendance at Community Forum meetings.
4. Receipt of Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment.
5. Meeting with HS2 Ltd on selection of viewpoints to be used for the visual assessment.
6. Development of Tunnelling Options.

Planned activity includes:

1. Assessment of final version of the scoping report for the EIA
2. Attendance at community Forum meetings
3. Participation in the Bucks mitigation panel
4. Liaison with HS2 Ltd on visual assessment.
5. Setting up of working parties with HS2 Ltd

- 1. The Board REQUESTS that HS2Ltd/DfT undertake a full valuation study of the actual and notional costs and benefits of a full length bored tunnel under the Chilterns AONB.**
- 2. The Board repeats its REQUEST, that Government applies the National Ecosystem Assessment methodology to determine the potential and value of the impacts of HS2.**

12/13.27 Review of AONB Boundary and Management Plan

The Chief Officer outlined the programme for the AONB Management Plan review which includes a public consultation in late summer 2013. By that time the Board will have to have decided whether to include recommendations to review the AONB boundary. The matter was widely discussed by members. It was decided that Bettina Kirkham, a professional in the field, would lead a working party on the matter for the Board.

- 1. The Board DECIDED that it will include in the AONB Management Plan review proposals for changing the boundaries of the AONB.**

12/13.28. Report on the Impact of National Planning Policy changes.

The Planning Officer advised the members about the likely implications arising from recent Government announcements about temporary (3 years) changes in the planning system to encourage growth in the construction sector. Nothing had been published at the time of the meeting, but there are likely to be implications for the AONB.

The Planning Officer reported to the Board the expected changes and their implications. There will be no public consultation. The Board has prepared a comprehensive response to the proposed changes, which the members discussed. It was decided that the Board should press that any changes do not apply to AONB's and National Park.

- 1. The Board DECIDED that it would make representations to Government as outlined in the paragraphs 8-14 in the accompanying papers and seek support of local MP's.**

12.15 Roger Emmett left the meeting.

12/13.29. Review of ancient Woodland Inventory

12.20 John Morris joined the meeting.

The Chief Officer introduced John Morris, The Director, Chilterns Woodland Project to the meeting. The Director informed the members of the results of a recently published survey that the area of ancient woodland identified in the Chilterns AONB had increased from 9,827 hectares to 11,058 hectares. Ancient woodland is defined as woodland which has survived continuously since 1600. As 60% of all woods in the AONB are ancient, the Chilterns is one of the most important areas in England for ancient Woodland. Most ancient woodland does not enjoy legal protection, but is given policy level protection, which has been upheld in a number of planning enquiries.

The Director of the Chiltern Woodland Project gave a presentation on the work he has undertaken for the new ancient woodland inventory. The Forestry Commission and Natural England have continued giving encouragement for the project. The information gathered is used by the Forestry Commission, Natural England, Planning Departments and the like. He advised the Board to continue taking a leading role to bring ancient woodland into management and create links between woods.

- 1. The Board NOTED the publication of the report and the increased area of ancient woodland identified.**
- 2. The Board supports the Forestry Commission and Natural England to ensure there is a high level of awareness of the revised inventory.**

12/13.30. Report on the Works Programme 2012-13

The Chief Officer provided the members with an update on the works programme 2012-13. All detail had been provided with the agenda.

12/13.30. Arrangements for the Annual Chilterns Forum

- 1. The Board NOTED that the Annual Chilterns Forum will take place November 16th 2012 at Hastoe Village Hall.**

12/13.31. AOB:

There was no other business.

12/13.32. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th January 2013, Location TBC.

12/13.33. Future dates: Wednesday 27th March 2013, Tuesday 25th June 2013 and Tuesday 17th October 2013.

The meeting closed 13.00

The Chairman..... Date.....