



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CHILTERNES CONSERVATION BOARD HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017 at the Bellingdon & Ashridge Village Hall, Chesham Road,  
Bellingdon, Bucks HP5 2XU commencing at 10.00 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Appointed by Local Authorities**

Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown  
Cllr David Collins  
Cllr Heather Kenison  
Cllr Charles Mathew  
Cllr Ian Reay  
Cllr Nick Rose

**Appointing Body**

Buckinghamshire County Council  
Dacorum Borough Council  
Three Rivers District Council  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Chiltern District Council

**Appointed by the Secretary of State**

Colin Courtney  
Alison Doggett  
John Nicholls  
Professor Ray Payne  
Helen Tuffs  
Elizabeth Wilson

Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State

**Elected by Parish Councils**

Cllr Susan Biggs

Oxfordshire

**CCB Officers**

Allen Beechey  
Graham Hurst  
Sue Holden  
Lucy Murfett  
Emma van Dijk  
Donna Webb

CCB Chalk Streams Project Officer  
CCB Finance Officer  
CCB Chief Officer  
CCB Planning Officer  
CCB Communications Officer  
CCB Administration Officer

**Other:**

Deirdre Hansen  
Les Mosco

Clerk to the Board  
Chiltern Society Trustee

1 member of the public present

**17/18.14 Item 1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Alison Balfour-Lynn, Hertfordshire Parish Councils, Cllr David Barnard, North Hertfordshire District Council, Cllr Paul Duckett, Central Bedfordshire Council, Cllr John Griffin, Oxfordshire Parish Councils.

Cllr Lynn Lloyd, South Oxfordshire District Council, Cllr Hugh McCarthy, Wycombe District Council, Cllr Richard Newcombe, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Ian Waller, Secretary of State appointee.

The passing of Cllr Alan Walters M.B.E. was noted and the Chairman reported that the CCB's full appreciation of Alan would be covered at the end of the meeting.

#### **17/18. 15 Item 2 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **17/18. 16 Item 3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **17/18.17. Item 4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not on the agenda

#### **17/18. 18. Item 5. Public Question time**

None.

#### **17/18.19. Item 6. Appointment to the Executive Committee**

The passing of Alan Walters has created a vacancy on the Executive Committee. The Chairman had asked for volunteers for this appointment. Alison Doggett had volunteered and as none had been forthcoming from the Local Authority members, Alison Doggett was appointed to the Executive Committee under the new code of conduct.

#### **17/18.20. Item 7. Board Review**

The Chief Officer welcomed Les Mosco, a Trustee of the Chiltern Society.

Donna Webb was welcomed back to the CCB after her maternity leave.

Reports from the Chief Officer, the Executive Committee, the Planning Committee, Landscape and Conservation, People and Society and Development and Communications had been received.

- The Chief Officer and the team were congratulated on a successful Annual Forum at the Elgiva. It had been an excellent event with much positive feedback.
- Some general discussion took place and suggestions were made to widen, in particular rural interests', membership of the CCB.
- The Chairman highlighted the remarkable funding achievements and projects of the past year:
  - i. Beacons of the Past- Hillforts in the Chilterns Landscape HLF stage 2 bid
  - ii. Chalk, Cherries and Chairs HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme
  - iii. Walking festival
  - iv. Food and Drink festival

10.17 Cllr Charles Mathew arrived.

- The report from the Planning Committee showed the increasing pressures on housing and development in the AONB. The Planning Officer answered questions on the report, members discussed the report and made suggestions.

#### **1. The Board NOTED the reports and the decisions made under delegated authority.**

**17/18. 21 Item 8. Position Statement of the Cumulative Impacts of Development on the Chilterns****AONB**

The Planning Officer had presented the Board with a new draft position statement on the cumulative impacts of development on the Chilterns AONB.

The work was carried out following a Board suggestion that the CCB states a clear position on development and after planning officers suggested that an advice guide on Cumulative Impact of Development in the AONB would assist Local Authorities, making decisions in isolation, under increased pressure. A guide on Assessing Cumulative Impacts on the Chilterns AONB in Sustainability Appraisals (SA/SEA) was commissioned from Professor Riki Therivel, funded by the Chiltern Society.

At the Planning Forum mapping of development pressures in the AONB was started helping the understanding of cross-boundary impacts.

The meeting discussed the report by Professor Therivel and agreed the report was an excellent piece of work. There was agreement that in a protected landscape, as the AONB, development should be at the right level and with the right design.

The contradictory pressures of the NPPF and the Act establishing the Board were touched upon and suggestions were made to mitigate the conflict. Members would engage with their MP's to highlight the conflicting pressures resulting from legislation.

- 1. The Board CONSIDERED and APPROVED the Draft Position Statement on Cumulative Impacts of Development on the Chilterns AONB**
- 2. The Board AGREED that subject to any changes the Position Statement is published and circulated directly to local planning authorities.**
- 3. The Board AGREED for members to engage with their Local Members of Parliament.**

**17/18.22. Item 9. Annual Audit Return**

As the Annual Audit report has not yet been received from the external Auditor this item was moved to the next agenda.

**17/18. 23 Item 10. A presentation from the Chiltern Society's Trustee Les Mosco on the work of the Chiltern Society**

Agenda items 10 and 11 were swapped around

Les Mosco gave an interesting and informative presentation on the work of the Chiltern Society and those parts he is personally involved with.

The Chairman and Chief Officer thanked Les for his presentation and recorded the CCB's thanks for the huge effort and all the volunteer work done by the Chiltern Society in looking after the Chilterns landscape.

The Chairman remarked that the two organisations can work very well together.

**17/18.24 Item 11. 20 Years of the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project**

The Chalk Streams Project Officer gave a presentation on the Chalk Streams Project’s 20-year history, all its achievements and the threats for the future.

85% of the worlds chalk streams are found in the UK. Chiltern chalk streams are the most under threat of all chalk streams in the world.

The project is a partnership project with abstraction reduction at its core. The project has delivered over £1 million of work on Chilterns chalk streams. Funding has declined recently and fundraising has now become a requirement.

The Chief Officer acknowledged the significant achievements of the project and thanked the Chalk Streams Project Officer for all his hard work over the last 12 years on this project.

**17/18.25 Item 12. Any other Business**

The Chairman made a presentation to Sharon Walters, the widow of Alan Walters M.B.E. in recognition of Alan’s contributions to the CCB. The CCB acknowledged and appreciated the contributions Alan had made in his many years as a member of the CCB. He had been an active member of the Board and the Executive Committee. His role in advising the CCB on HR resources had been invaluable and his absence is felt by the CCB.

Sharon replied that Alan had been very proud and pleased with his involvement with the CCB.

Future meeting dates:

Board meetings: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018  
20<sup>th</sup> June (+ AGM) 2018  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Executive Committee: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Planning Committee: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2018

The Members were invited to a walk after lunch to Captain’s Wood led by John Morris and the Chiltern Society.

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