



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILTERN'S CONSERVATION BOARD HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at Wendover Memorial Hall, Wharf Road, Wendover Bucks.  
HP22 6HF commencing at 10.00 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Appointed by Local Authorities**

Cllr Bill Bendyshe Brown  
Cllr David Barnard  
Cllr Hugh McCarthy  
Cllr. Lynn Lloyd  
Cllr. Charles Mathew  
Cllr. Richard Newcombe  
Cllr Ian Reay  
Cllr Nick Rose

**Appointing Body**

Buckinghamshire County Council  
North Hertfordshire District Council  
Wycombe District Council  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Chiltern District Council

**Appointed by the Secretary of State**

Colin Courtney  
Elaine King  
John Nicholls  
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 Alison Balfour-Lynn  
Cllr Susan Biggs  
Cllr John Griffin  
Cllr Charles Hussey

Hertfordshire  
Oxfordshire  
Oxfordshire  
Buckinghamshire

**CCB Officers**

Sue Holden  
Graham Hurst  
Lucy Murfett  
Claire Readey  
Annette Venters  
Donna Webb

Chief Officer  
Finance Officer  
Planning Officer  
Fundraising and Development Manager  
People & Society Officer  
Administration Officer

**Other:**

Deirdre Hansen  
Les Mosco

Clerk to the Board  
Trustee Chiltern Society

2 members of the public present, Paul Hayes and Andrew Walker

**18/19.26 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Alison Doggett Secretary of State, Cllr Luisa Sullivan, South Buckinghamshire District Council, Cllr Clive Thomas, Buckinghamshire Parish Councils and Ian Waller Secretary of State

Absent without apologies:

Cllr David Collins Dacorum Borough Council, Cllr and Paul Duckett Central Beds Council

#### **18/19.27 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **18/19.28 Minutes of the Board Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

The minutes of the Board Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **18/19.29 Matters Arising.**

The Chief Officer reported that submissions had been made to the Glover Review by the CCB, by the National Body and by the Regional Bodies. The Chair will visit in May.

#### **18/19.30 Public Question Time.**

It was agreed to suspend standing orders for this item only to allow for public speaking.

Andrew Walker, Development Director Chiltern Railway Project spoke on the expansion plans for the Chinnor to Risborough Railway.

#### **18/19.31 Board Review January 2019 including reports from the Executive and Planning Committees.**

- a. The Chief Officer had provided a comprehensive report with the highlights:
  1. The successful Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Landscape Partnership bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund resulting in a £2m grant been awarded towards the delivery of this £2.8m, 5-year scheme in the Central Chilterns
  2. And approval in principle of a £120,700 grant from HLF BLEF fund towards a 3-year programme to boost the visitor economy in the Chilterns.
- b. Reports from the Executive Committee, the Planning Committee, Landscape and Conservation, People and Society and Development and Communications had been received.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

The request was made that the link with the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs project summary be sent to all members.

#### **1. The Board NOTED the review January 2019.**

#### **18/19.32 AONB Management Plan 2019-2024**

The Draft Management Plan 2019-24 was presented for approval and adoption by the Board.

The Chief Officer gave a presentation on the review of process, the structure of the Management Plan, the style of the Management Plan, the results of the second consultation, the changes between the 2014-19 and the 2019-24 Management Plans, the risks of achieving the plan and the next steps.

Members discussed the Plan and how members could assist in taking it forward following publication. They expressed their enthusiasm for the Management Plan 2019-24 and commended the Chief Officer and her whole team on their work on this impressive and authoritative document.

1. **The Board APPROVED and ADOPTED the revised draft of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019-24.**
2. **The Board APPROVED delegating to the Chief Officer the power to undertake any final minor amendments to the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019-24.**
3. **The Board AUTHORISED the Chief Officer to send the adopted Plan of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019-24 to the DEFRA Secretary of State.**
4. **The Board AUTHORISED the Local Authority Members to engage with their Local Authorities with the Chief Officer, following publication of the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019-24.**
5. **The Board AUTHORISED the Secretary of State appointees to seek a meeting with the DEFRA Secretary of State to present the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019-24.**

#### **18/19.33 Business Plan and Budget 2019-20.**

The Chief Officer presented the Business Plan and the Budget approved by the Executive Committee 22 January 2019.

It was noted that the BLEF grant had not been included, nor the extra post. The step up in project work will require some office improvements and the new partnership workings will be discussed with the Executive Committee in May.

The budget for 2019/20 and the forecasts for 2020/21 shows a cumulative draw on reserves estimated at £7,406.

Members discussed the Business Plan and the Budget.

1. **The Board NOTED the CCB Business Plan and Budget 2019-20.**

#### **18/19.34 Safeguarding Policy**

The Chief Officer informed the Board that the Executive Committee had approved the Chilterns Conservation Board's Safeguarding Policy.

1. **The Board NOTED the Safeguarding Policy**

#### **18/19.35 HS2 Landscape and Biodiversity Connectivity Project.**

The Chief Officer reported that the CCB proposes to be the delivery lead on the Chilterns AONB HS2 Review Group's identified high priority landscape and biodiversity connectivity enhancement projects for the £3m additional Projects Fund. Chiltern District Council (CDC) administers the fund.

A 5-year project proposal valued up to £500,000 to be led by the CCB on behalf of the Review Group has been developed to run concurrently alongside with the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The Chief Officer seeks approval to enter into a contract with Chiltern District Council to lead on this project, taking on responsibility for reporting under Heads of Terms agreed with CDC

1. **The Board APPROVED the proposal for the CCB to enter into a contract with Chilterns District Council to lead delivery of HS2 Landscape and Biodiversity Connectivity Project**

**18/19.36 Any other Business.**

1. It was asked if the CCB was involved in 2019 Year of Green Action. The CCB is not directly involved.
2. It was noted that 6 parishes in the Reading area had asked their MP for a boundary review (outside the AONB)
3. The Chairman gave an update on the recruitment process for a new Chief Officer.
4. This meeting is Helen Tuffs, Secretary of State Appointee’s, last Board meeting.  
She has been a Board member for 9 years. The Chairman thanked her for all her valuable work and noted that she had received a letter of congratulations from Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity on her outstanding work done for the CCB as Vice-Chair and Planning Committee Chair  
She will stay on to assist in the recruitment of the Chief Officer.

Helen was presented with a gift. She thanked the Board and mentioned that HS2 had permeated her time with the CCB. She greatly admires the work of the CCB and it had been a great experience and a privilege to serve on the Board. She wishes the Board well for the future, may it carry on doing good work and make the CCB more prominent.

The Chairman noted that there will now be a vacancy for Vice Chair and encouraged any member to contact Helen for more information and if interested in the position to contact the Chairman.

**18/19.37 Meeting Dates 2018-19**

**Full Board:**

- 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (and AGM)
- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Executive Committee:**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019
- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Planning Committee:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> March 20198
- 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Lunch would be followed by a visit to Wendover Woods.

The Chairman.....date.....