



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILTERNES CONSERVATION BOARD HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at Crowmarsh Battle Farm, 84 Preston Crowmarsh, Wallingford  
OX10 6SL commencing at 10.20 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Appointed by Local Authorities**

Cllr Bill Bendyshe Brown  
Cllr. David Collins  
Cllr Heather Kenison  
Cllr. Lynn Lloyd  
Cllr Ian Reay  
Cllr Nick Rose  
Cllr Richard Newcombe  
Cllr Charles Mathew

**Appointing Body**

Buckinghamshire County Council  
Dacorum Borough Council  
Three Rivers District Council  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Chiltern District Council  
Aylesbury vale District Council  
Oxfordshire County Council

**Appointed by the Secretary of State**

Colin Courtney  
John Nicholls  
Ray Payne  
Helen Tuffs  
Ian Waller  
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  
Cllr John Griffin  
Cllr Charles Hussey  
Cllr Clive Thomas

Oxfordshire  
Oxfordshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Buckinghamshire

**CCB Officers (for part)**

[Kathy Daly](#)  
Sue Holden  
Graham Hurst  
[Neil Jackson](#)  
Lucy Murfett  
[Vicky Pearce](#)  
Annette Venters  
Donna Webb

[Countryside Officer](#)  
Chief Officer  
Finance Officer  
[Conservation and Landscape Officer](#)  
Planning Officer  
[Communications Officer](#)  
People & Society Officer  
Administrations Officer

**Other:**

Deirdre Hansen

Clerk to the Board

**18/19.1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr David Barnard, North Hertfordshire District Council, Cllr Alison Balfour-Lynn, Hertfordshire Parish Councils, Alison Doggett, Secretary of State Appointee, Cllr Paul Duckett, Central Bedfordshire Council, Cllr Hugh McCarthy, Wycombe District Council and Cllr Luisa Sullivan, South Buckinghamshire District Council.

**18/19.2 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were declared.

**18/19.3 Minutes of the meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018.**

The minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 were signed by the Chairman as a true record after the following amendments were made:

1. 17/18.31 item 6 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point Governments was amended to "Government's"
2. 17/18.35 item 9 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph- prosed was changed to proposed.

**18/19.4 Matters Arising.**

None

**18/19.5 Public Question Time.**

No public present.

**18/19.6 Board Review**

- a. The Chief Officer highlighted the new staff members to the Board.
- b. The Chief Officer invited questions on the Board Review.
  - The success of the third Chilterns Walking Festival and the different forms of media that had been used to advertise the event, reaching out to different audiences from those that is usually reached were noted.
  - A second Food and Drink Festival will take place if an application being made to LEADER is successful.
  - The Chalk, Cherries and Chairs project is still short of match funding and every effort is being made to secure the required funding. The meeting briefly discussed the situation.
- c. Reports from the Executive Committee, the Planning Committee, Landscape and Conservation, Chalk, Cherries and Chairs HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS), North Chilterns Landscape Initiative, High Speed 2, People and Society and Development and Communications had been received.

*10.26 Cllr Nick Rose, the Countryside Officer, Conservation and Landscape Officer and the Communications Officer joined the meeting.*

**1. The Board NOTED the review June 2018.****18/19.7 Statement of Accounts 2017-18**

The Finance Officer presented the year end position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, showing an overall surplus of £27,550.

1. The year showed a surplus of £27,550, this will be offset the following two years by an anticipated deficit. As reported the timing of projects can be uncertain, leaving income and expenditure out of line.
2. The Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 was approved and signed in the appropriate places by the Chairman and the Clerk.
3. The Accounting Statement 2017/18 was approved and signed in the appropriate places by the Chairman and the S151 Officer.
4. The Finance Officer brought the internal audit report to the Members attention noting that they had given good assurances, there were no recommendations and they had not issued any management actions.
5. Questions were raised about the pension deficit showing on the balance sheet, members were reassured that this is a statistical figure, provided by actuaries, not an actual one.

6. A minor adding up error was noted, which will be corrected.
7. It was noted that the way the business is now run means that larger cash balances are required.
  1. **The Board APPROVED the Statement of Accounts 2017-18 subject to a minor adjustment.**
  2. **The Board APPROVED the Annual Governance Statement included in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18**
  3. **The Board APPROVED the Accounting Statement included in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18.**

#### **18/19.8 Review of National Parks and AONBs**

The Chief Officer reported that the terms of reference of this review have now been published. The Chairman has been invited to attend a meeting with Howard Davies, CEO, NAAONB and 6 Chief Officers of AONBs including our Chief Officer to discuss. The Designated Landscapes Review is being chaired by Julian Glover. The meeting discussed the matter.

1. **The Board NOTED the terms of refence of the Review and CONTRIBUTED comments.**

#### **18/19.9 National Park Status**

The Chief Officer had reported that Cheryl Gillan MP had been seeking support for the Chilterns to become a National Park.

A request for consideration has to be made to Natural England and it would have to be included in the Management Plan 2019, with consultation starting through the Draft Management Plan's consultation process. A request will have to make a compelling case for a change of status. The Chief Officer had outlined the case and how the Chilterns AONB meets the criteria for National Park Status.

The Members discussed the proposal and expressed their views. Local Authority Members were reminded that they needed to take the Boards view, not their Local Authority's view on the proposal.

A vote took place and the Board unanimously voted giving approval for a request for National Park Status and that the proposal be included in the Draft Management Plan for consultation.

1. **The Board APPROVED that a request be made to Natural England for National Park Status.**
2. **The Board APPROVED that the proposal goes into the Draft Management Plan for consultation with partners and the public.**

#### **18/19.10 AONB Management Plan 2019-2024**

The Chief Officer had reported an update on the Management Review.

A lot of work has taken place and a first draft is being finalised for partner consultation this summer.

Members discussed their visions and top-level goals on which to build the plan and commented on the summary Draft Plan. The Chief Officer noted the comments and took them away for consideration.

Members were asked to look at the first draft in more detail and where appropriate discuss with their Local Authorities and Members.

- 1. **The Board GAVE their views on the vision, principles and strategic objectives for the Management Plan.**

**18/19.11 Meeting Dates 2018-19**

**The Board NOTED the following meeting dates**

**Full Board:**

- 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (and AGM)
- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Executive Committee:**

- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019
- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**18/19.12 Any other business.**

- 1. The meeting to note that the Executive Committee will review the Code of Governance at its next meeting and will bring their review to the next Board meeting.
- 2. Secretary of State Appointment: there had been a strong field of applicants and the three appointable candidates have been put forward to the Secretary of State, a decision is expected by the end of June.
- 3. It was mentioned that with South Oxfordshire's local Plan it has been decided to reassess their sites and concern is now being raised about the setting concerning the area on the edge of Reading.

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