



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON Wednesday 24th February 2016 at the offices of the Board, The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor OX39 4HA commencing at 10.30AM AND CONCLUDING AT 13.00 PM

Present:

Cllr David Collins	Board Member
Cllr. John Griffin	Board Member
Cllr. David Nimmo-Smith	Board Member
Ray Payne	Board Member
Cllr. Ian Reay	Board Member, Chairman of the meeting
Helen Tuffs	Board Member
Cllr Alan Walters M.B.E.	Board Member

Sue Holden	CCB Chief Officer
Chris Smith	CCB Finance Officer

In attendance	
Deirdre Hansen	Clerk to the Board

15/16-29 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Heather Barrett-Mold, Secretary of State appointment.

15/16- 30 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

15/16- 31 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 9th December 2015 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

15/16- 32 Matters arising from the minutes 9th December 2015.

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

15/16- 33 Public Question time

No members of the public were present.

10.32 The Countryside Officer joined the meeting.

15/16- 34 Updates:

1. **Chalk and Trees:** The Chief Officer informed the meeting that the magazine will in future be published once per year.
2. **Hillforts:** The Countryside Officer reported following the success of the stage 1 application of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant, recruitment for a Development Officer will take place in March.
3. **HS2:** The Countryside Officer reported that:
 - a. Jerry Unsworth, an external consultant, had been back to the Select Committee on 20/01/16 on behalf of Local Authorities and the CCB to press for a better deal for the AONB Review Panel. Further negotiations have given further assurances.
 - b. Parity with the Colne Valley Review Panel was achieved, a further £3m for additional enhancement works in the AONB to be made available, but neither an independent panel chair nor the panel's administration costs and professional costs over and above the £3m were agreed.
 - c. The final sitting of the SC was 23/02/16, with a report published. A worrying point in the report is "do not believe that the mitigated effects represent an intrusion into the AONB inconsistent with its status. HS1 demonstrates ability of HSR to blend into the landscape."
 - d. The next stage in the process is the House of Lords Select Committee, which is expected to start sitting around Easter. This may represent a second opportunity to reopen the case for the Long Tunnel.

The meeting discussed the position and considered the current fragmented long tunnel options. If a view could be reached for the option of 1 tunnel through the AONB, then regard for the AONB and the landscape, which have been disregarded by the SC, could set the scene for presentation to the House of Lords SC. The Committee maintained its position for the principle of a tunnel through the AONB.

4. **Landscape Partnership:** The Countryside Officer reported that an expression of interest, summarising the heritage and the project's purpose, had been submitted. The development phase of the project could be 18 months and the delivery of the Landscape Partnership a 5-year project. Discussions are ongoing with partners, which are vital to this project. She and the Chief Officer had had a meeting with the head of HLF for the region, which had been encouraging. A cautionary note had been issued that the first attempt is often not successful, but there is a second opportunity to apply. The concept of the project is clear, as is the timing. Many of the ideas have been on the backburner for a long time and now with the increasing pressures on the area and HS2, the time is right to start a scheme like this.

15/16- 35 Treasury Management.

The Finance Officer presented a report on the Conservation Board's Treasury Management Strategy and Policy. The new style of working and the requirement for better returns was discussed.

- 1. The Committee AGREED to adopt the Treasury Management Strategy outlined in the report and the Treasury Management Policy Statement as presented.**
- 2. The Committee AGREED that it should receive a report on the performance of the Treasury Management after the end of each financial year and AGREED to keep the Treasury Management strategy under review.**

15/16- 36 Finance Report and Budget 2016-17

The Finance Officer presented the financial position to the end of January and the projected outcome for the end of the financial year as well as a draft budget for 2016/17 to be considered for recommendation to the Board in March.

The projected loss for the year is less than budgeted (£13,668 vs £56,359).

The budget 2016-17 shows projected losses for the year. The Chief Officer has already cut a significant number of budgets and has a few more cuts in mind.

The Defra grant for the next four years has been offered and accepted, but the contributions from Local Authorities will not be known until later.

The Committee considered the proposed budget.

- 1. The Committee NOTED the financial position and RECOMMENDED the adoption of the budget 2016-17 to the Board, subject to final notification of Local Authority contributions and in-year initiatives to reduce the deficit.**

15/16-37 Business Plan and Action Plan

The Chief Officer had provided a revised Business Plan following feedback on the Plan presented to the Board in January. She had reviewed the action plan, reduced the actions and altered some priorities.

The Business Plan has been sent to Defra along with the contributions acceptance forms. The Business Plan has been sent to local authorities and will be discussed with the Boards' partners.

- 1. The Committee SUPPORTED the revised plans and the next steps.**

15/16-38 Other business.

There was no other business.

15/16-39 It was RESOLVED that members of the public be excluded from the meeting to consider the Staff Health Benefit Scheme and HR Policy changes.

1. The Committee AGREED the proposed recommendations.

Next meeting: Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 10.30 am at the offices of the Board in Chinnor.

Future meeting dates: Thursday 8 September 2016 and Thursday 8 December 2016

The meeting closed at 12.15

The Chairman.....

Date.....