**Peak Park Parishes Forum**

**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online on Saturday 3 October 2020 at 9.30am**

**In the Chair:** Cllr Martin Beer, Chair of the Peak Park Parishes Forum

Also attending were 16 other Parish representatives and P. Leppard (PPPF Secretary)

**Apologies:** received from P Brady (Taddington PC)

**Minutes of AGM, 12 October 2019:** these were approved as a correct record.

**Chair’s Report:** Cllr Beer gave his report, as follows:

This has been a challenging year, with the appearance of Covid-19 in February and March and the subsequent national lock down. The Parishes Forum Management Committee has continued to meet, and represent the parishes, online throughout the lockdown and the subsequent period of gradual release. These have been challenging times for many parishes as they have had to accommodate large numbers of new visitors, many unused to the countryside environment, with many of the normal facilities to support them closed. I would like to thank all members of the Management Committee for their dedication and support over this difficult period, and particularly Peter Leppard for the sterling work he has done in keeping everyone, and particularly the member parishes informed in ever changing circumstances.

The Parishes Forum has continued to carry out its principal purpose, which is to act as an independent link between the parishes the and the National Park Authority. It has therefore maintained a regular link with various officers while they have been working from home, and held its regular joint meeting with the Chair, Chief Executive, and senior officers in June. A major part of the meeting was taken up with the pandemic and the effects of the lockdown on the local communities.

This year’s activities have included:

1. A subgroup of the Management Committee has developed a potential definition of thriving and sustainable settlements, as required by the National Park Management Plan, which has been shared with the National Park Authority to be considered together with input from other sources.
2. I have joined the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group (with alternates) to provide input from parishes in developing future strategies for the National Park. A particular emphasis this year is Climate Change and mitigating its effects.
3. The Forum has been invited as regular observers to the Local Access Forum so that residents’ views can be represented.
4. The Forum Management Committee has met twice with representatives of the group wishing to reopen the Matlock-Buxton railway line and has strongly represented the majority view of the parishes with respect to the Monsal Trail. This is that an equivalent cycling and accessible route must be provided before any other work is initiated (in other words, there should always be a fully open Monsal Trail).
5. The forum has responded to the recent government consultation on **Changes to the Current Planning System**.
6. Rosalind Lees has joined the White Peak Partnership to increase the liaison with the parishes.

Objectives for the next year include:

1. The Forum will continue to liaise with the National Park Authority and represent the views of the parishes.
2. The Forum will respond to the current government consultation on future planning policy **Planning for the Future**.
3. The Forum will continue to liaise with the parishes as the National Park Management Plan moves forward so that:
   1. The definition of Thriving and Sustainable Communities developed meets the needs of the communities within the National Park.
   2. Community interests are fully represented in the developing policy on Climate Change.
   3. There is a clearly defined policy on sustainable development, including developing policies for managing transport within the park, which is long term and supports the needs of local people.
4. We shall also review the governments review of the Glover Review of the National Parks and keep the parishes informed of developments.
5. We shall continue to Liaise with the groups wishing to reopen the Matlock-Buxton railway line and inform parishes of development in a timely manner.

(End)

In response, members asked questions of the Chair about progress with the Thriving & Sustainable Communities workstream. It was also noted that Government’s consultation documents on proposed Planning changes were unclear as to their effect on Planning in National Parks, and that PDNPA is urgently seeking clarification.

**Accounts for 2019/20:** the meeting voted to approve these.

**Election of Management Committee:** the following were elected for the next 12 months:

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| Cllr Martin Beer, Hucklow PC | Cllr Joanna Collins, Edale PC |
| Cllr Sue Beckett, Bamford with Thornhill PC | Cllr Peter Cooper, Charlesworth PC |
| Cllr Trevor Bellamy, Holme Valley PC | Cllr Paul Downing, Bradwell PC |
| Cllr Stephen Bennett, Bradfield PC | Cllr Linda Granger, Bradwell PC |
| Cllr Patrick Brady, Taddington PC |  |

Noting that this leaves 2 vacant seats, the Chair exhorted potential Management Committee members from the more southerly parts of the Peak to put themselves forward for co-option, to give more geographic balance to the Committee.

**PDNPA teleconferences with Parish representatives:** these had been introduced during the past year, and were felt by those who have participated to be a useful improvement in communication. Forum members who have not yet participated were encouraged to do so going forward.

**Any other business:** none

The meeting closed at 10.00am.