

**Peak Park Parishes Forum**

**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online on Saturday 18 September 2021 at 9.20am**

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

Also attending were 13 other Parish representatives and P. Leppard (PPPF Secretary)

**Apologies:** Received from W Neilson (Sheldon PM) and K Potter (Rowsley PC).

**Minutes of AGM, 3 October 2020:** These were approved as a correct record.

**Chair’s Report:** Cllr Beer gave his report for the past year, as follows:

The Management Committee has met on its regular two monthly timetable throughout the year to conduct the business of the Forum and to liaise with the National Park Authority. All meetings were conducted online, except for the annual meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of the National Park Authority which was held in Bakewell. Sue Beckett from Bamford PC retired from the committee on resigning from the parish council. No new members were coopted to the committee during the year.

The committee spent considerable time discussing the issues exacerbated by the current crisis. This has included visitor numbers, including how to keep residents safe, encouraging appropriate behaviour in the countryside, visitor parking in villages and at beauty spots, private car use rather than public transport, planning and enforcement etc. All these have led to useful discussions with the relevant officers of the NPA.

I have represented the Forum on the Peak District National Park Authority Management Plan Advisory Group. The PPPF committee completed its proposed definition of Thriving and Sustainable Communities as part of its contribution to the National Park Management Plan and following further consultations with partners a revised version has been adopted by the Authority. The following reports have also now been published and may be of interest to parishes if they have not seen them already: [State of the Park Report (peakdistrict.gov.uk)](about:blank),

[Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (peakdistrict.gov.uk)](about:blank).

Rosalind Lees has joined the White Peak Partnership to represent the parishes and will present a separate report. *(Cllr Beer read out Rosalind’s report.)*

In January the committee wrote to all Members of Parliament whose constituencies include parts of the National Park, expressing our concerns about the reduction of resourcing leading to the NPA being unable to properly address its statutory functions. This led to a virtual meeting with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Peak District chaired by Robert Largan (MP for High Peak) which led to an active discussion of the issues. It was clear that the MPs present have recognised similar issues from their constituency work. It is intended to have another meeting later in the year, probably after the government’s response to the Glover review has been published.

Members of the committee took an active part in all the recent online consultation sessions on the new Local Plan. This allowed us to provide input on behalf of the parishes and residents in addition to that provided by the professional planners etc.

The committee has met several times with the Peaks and Dales Railway that is developing proposals to reopen the Matlock to Buxton line along the Monsal Trail. Consultation with the parishes indicates that opinions are pretty evenly split. It is however clear that there is a clear consensus that the Monsal Trail must be maintained or replaced with an equivalent accessible route before any construction work commences. So far, we have not seen details of a suitable replacement. The proposers have submitted a proposal to the Government’s Ideas Fund to develop an outline business case. If this is successful and the project moves on to the next stage the committee will continue to liaise with the proposers with the aim of ensuring that the gains made in developing the Monsal Trail are maintained, important and vulnerable wildlife sites are protected, and the railway service forms part of an integrated transport service that supports all the parishes.

The coming year is likely to be even busier with the Government’s response to the Glover Review due at any time. This is likely to involve significant changes to the NPA and we need to ensure that the parishes’ voice is well represented in any future organisation. Locally both the Management Plan and Local Plan are due for review and members of the committee have been active on the various consultancy groups that have been held to inform the NPA and will continue to be so. There is continuing work on developing policies for alleviating climate change and the committee will continue to ensure that effective action is taken to ensure that parishes and their villages continue to thrive.

The committee currently has eight active members and our constitution allows us to have up to eleven. It is important that we maintain a balance not only across the geographical spread of the National Park, but also between different types of parishes, large and small, rural and less rural, farming and moorland etc. Our normal practice is to invite interested councillors to one or two meetings as observers and if they are happy to participate fully to co-opt them until the next AGM. This gives an opportunity to learn about the work of the Forum. Any parish councillor who wishes to attend a meeting as an observer is very welcome to do so. If you are interested in joining the committee, please speak to either myself or Peter Leppard, our secretary.

(End)

**Accounts for 2020/21:** The meeting voted to approve these. It was noted that subscriptions will remain unaltered for the April 2022 renewal.

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

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| Cllr Martin Beer, Hucklow 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 | Cllr Zena Hawley, Over Haddon PC |
| Cllr Joanna Collins, Edale PC |  |

**Any other business:**

1. In response to a request from the floor, a number of parishes described how they organise their Village Scarecrow competition.
2. Several parishes shared views on the recent return to face-to-face PC meetings.
3. Rainow PC raised the issue of excessive speed of some cyclists, and their non-use of bells. Others commented on the dangers of e-scooters on pavements. The Chair stated that the Management Committee would consider these issues further at its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.55am.