



**Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 12th June 2008
at 2.00 pm at St Mawes Memorial Hall**

Present:

Peter Mansfield Chairman, Cornwall AONB Partnership

Members:

Cllr Val Newman	North Cornwall District Council
Cllr Jim Flashman	Caradon District Council
Cllr Beryl Martin	Caradon District Council
Cllr Bill Maddern	Penwith District Council
George Brew	Natural England
Ian Kemp	National Trust (substituting for Nick Lawrence)
Jimmy Scobie	Country Landowners Business Association (CLA)
John Mortimer	Country Landowners Business Association (CLA) – Guest
Ron Daniel	Cornwall Association of Local Councils

Supporting Officers:

Mike Hawkey	Cornwall County Council
Steve Crummay	Cornwall County Council
David Attwell	North Cornwall District Council
Al Collings	Caradon District Council
Polly Oliver	Penwith District Council (substituting for Rachel Bray)
Ann Reynolds	Cornwall County Council Historic Env Service (substituting for Veryan Heal)
Paul Walton	Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager
Colette Holden	Cornwall AONB Officer
Pete Maxted	Cornwall AONB Communications Officer
June Crossland	Cornwall AONB Planning Officer
Tasha Dale	Cornwall AONB Office Manager

1 Welcome and Apologies

Members:

Cllr Mark Kaczmarek, Kerrier District Council; Cllr David Hughes, Restormel Borough Council; Cllr Steve Chamberlain, Carrick District Council; Cllr Neil Hatton, Cornwall County Council; Mel Barge, Phil McMahon and Nick Russell, English Heritage*; Paul Cottington, National Farmers Union

Supporting Officers:

Rodger Dewhurst, Kerrier District Council; Malcolm Pinch, Restormel Borough Council; Rob Lacey, Carrick District Council; Kath Statham, Cornwall County Council; Karen Johns, Cornwall AONB Unit

Actions

* English Heritage representation - Mel Barge will no longer be the representative. Phil McMahon and Nick Russell are the new representatives but unfortunately neither could attend the meeting.

2 Minutes of last meetings and matters arising

2.1 Partnership meeting (13th March 2008)

- The minutes were **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record.

Matters arising:

Agenda page 2, item 2.1, Sustainable Development Fund – Review of Cornwall AONB SDF Delivery – The AONB Partnership Manager confirmed that formal notification of 08/09 SDF funding had now been received in the amount of just over £61,000. A number of suitable projects had been put forward to the AONB Unit and Colette Holden will be holding a grants panel to ascertain the most suitable projects to take forward.

AONB Unit

Agenda Page 2, Item 2.1, The Cornwall Lecture 2008 – The first Cornwall Lecture workshop was held on Monday 9th June with very positive feedback. It was felt that there could have been a slightly wider audience but that it was an extremely effective marker for the Cornwall Lecture in November. The next Cornwall Lecture workshop is taking place on 25th September. The Partnership Manager will produce a feedback paper with input from officers who attended. Karen Johns at the AONB Unit can be contacted if any Partnership Member requires an invitation to the September workshop.

AONB Unit

Agenda Page 5, Item 4.1 – AONB Display Materials – The new Display materials were successfully used at the Annual Conference and the Royal Cornwall Show and are now in the Long Gallery at New County Hall, Truro.

Agenda Page 6 – Item 3.5 – 2009 – Cornwall AONB 50th Anniversary – An offer had been received from CLA for the AONB to be included at their annual conference. This is now due to go before the CLA Committee for approval. A query was raised on whether the event(s) would be held whilst the District Councils still exist. One suggestion was to make the March Partnership Meeting a special event meeting to mark the anniversary.

Agenda Page 7 – Item 5 – NAAONB – Landscape Policy – The landscape policy workshop in Reading was attended by Colette Holden. Independent facilitators ran the workshop with the view to ascertaining whether current policies are fit for purpose as a result of modern threats to the landscape. Further information can be obtained from Colette Holden at the AONB Unit.

Agenda Page 7 – NAAONB – Powerline Undergrounding – The Partnership Manager circulated a copy of a letter from Western Power Distribution advising on a Stakeholder Consultation of its Business Plan. This includes asking stakeholders to support Western Powers' decision NOT to underground wires in National Parks and AONBs. Partnership members were asked to write to Western Power Distribution highlighting their concerns. It was suggested that a campaign should be started, making use of before and after undergrounding photographs.

Agenda Page 8 – Item 6 – AONB Office Manager – The Partnership Manager advised that Karen Johns had now returned from maternity leave and following a handover period, Tasha Dale's last day in the office would be Friday 13th June. Thanks were

extended to Tasha for her contribution to the AONB Partnership over the past year.

2.2 Officer Meeting (14th May 2008)

- The minutes were **AGREED** to be a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising:

Agenda Page 9 – Item 2 – HLS Targeting Update – A revised map has been received, allaying initial concerns that Cornwall would be disadvantaged by the new targeting approach. It was felt that the work put in by the Partnership into assessing the initial maps had helped bring about the change and thanks were extended.

Agenda Page 11 – Item 4.2 – Funding – 2008/09 Natural England grant update – Notification had been received that the AONB will continue to be supported and SDF funding was available but as expected no core project funding would be available this year. The invoices for the 2008/09 year had been issued.

3. Reports for Decision

3.1 Future of the Cornwall AONB Partnership – update

It had been agreed at the March meeting of the Partnership to give further consideration to the future of the Cornwall AONB Partnership once more was known about the structure of the Unitary Authority and the future commitment of Natural England (NE) to AONBs.

The paper confirmed that NE has affirmed its continued financial support to AONBs for the next three financial years. NE had also expressed its view that in developing a way forward with the new unitary authority the independence of the AONB partnership should be maintained. This was reiterated at the meeting.

The description of the structure and delivery mechanisms of the new authority outlined in the paper although still subject to further change, was considered accurate.

Members were asked for their views on the proposed Partnership structure, possible unitary council member representation and the merit of pursuing a wider landscape partnership.

Points raised included:

- Members should include a representative from the Policy and Spatial planning committee, not just the area planning groups.
- Parish Council representatives on the Partnership will be able to make up for the loss of local knowledge resulting from the removal of the District and Borough councillors.
- The profile of the AONB Unit and its position within the new authority will determine how well it can influence the work of the new council.
- There should be an increased presence of landowners on the AONB Partnership
- Environment Kernow (EK) provides an established mechanism for raising landscape management issues and the AONB Unit should look to play a greater role to strengthen the “landscape pillar” within EK.

➤ **It was AGREED that:**

- The proposed Partnership structure should be the starting point for

discussions between the Cornwall AONB Partnership, Natural England and representatives of the unified council.

- A meeting should be held between NE, CCC and the Partnership Chairman to agree the relationship of the AONB Unit with the new unified council
- A sub group of the Partnership will oversee any further changes to the Partnership structure outlined in the paper. (The sub group was agreed at the May Officer Group meeting)
- Further developments will be reported to the next Partnership meeting.

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

3.2 Wind turbines and the Cornwall AONB

As a consequence of the need for greater renewable energy there continues to be a great deal of interest in developing wind farms in Cornwall. The Cornwall AONB Partnership considered that a Position Statement might be needed to highlight the concerns surrounding the adverse impact of these developments upon the landscape of the AONB. Recent decisions to approve wind farm developments within the AONB on the Lizard and just outside the AONB at Morwenstow highlighted the need for something other than a Position Statement, that could address the need for other tools that can be applied to help determine the impact of the wind farms upon the AONB landscape.

It was agreed that the consideration of the impact of wind farm proposals upon the AONB merited the application of resources by the AONB Unit. This should also include an explanation of the circumstances in which wind turbines would be acceptable within the AONB.

Partners were reminded of the criteria based approach that AONB officers apply to applications for small wind turbines which has resulted in a number of applications for domestic scale turbines being supported by the AONB Partnership.

Key issues highlighted in discussion were the limited opportunities for training for planning officers and planning committee members on landscape character assessment and cumulative impact assessment and the lack of a strategic county wide approach to the siting of large wind farm developments.

➤ It was agreed that:

- Responding to wind farm applications should be a priority for the AONB Unit
- Opportunities to develop training for planners and planning committee members on landscape assessment and the importance of the AONB should be pursued.
- The AONB Partnership should encourage the adoption of a strategic approach to wind farm development in the county as a whole
- The AONB Unit should promote the work that it has done to support the development of renewable energy generation in the AONB.

AONB Unit

AONB Unit

4 Items for information/discussion

4.1 Marine Bill and coastal access

The Marine Bill and coastal access was raised during the morning site visit. John Mortimer of CLA provided an update to those attending the afternoon meeting. He

concluded that the bill has consequences for landowners. The current proposals include the widening of paths to improve access and also incorporate an excessive 'spreading' area, both of which have an impact on privately owned land. The landowners have no right of appeal and will receive no compensation for the increased use of their land for access.

4.2 RDPE & the Cornwall AONB

Community Strand – the applications process has now closed and 4 LAG bids have been submitted from Cornwall to the RDA. Successful bids will be notified in September. The concern over Bodmin Moor being split has been overcome and one bid for East Cornwall has been submitted. A local representative for the AONB on Bodmin Moor may be obtained as a result.

Sustainable Tourism – there has been no progress to date. A regional meeting will be held in July to look at the spending themes. There is still substantial progress to be made on this strand.

4.3 Cornwall AONB Conference Report

68 people registered for the event with 58 delegates attending on the day. Presentations from the AONB Unit were followed by speakers talking about the future of Bodmin Moor. The speakers included John Waldon of the South West Uplands Federation who considered Bodmin Moor in the context of the upland areas of the South West, including Exmoor and Dartmoor; Rupert Hanbury-Tennison who gave a landowner's perspective and Jane Uglow who talked about the Caradon Hill Project that has received Heritage Lottery Funding. A locally produced lunch was followed by a walk from Minions to look at land management issues, consider the future of the Heritage Centre and admire the landscape of the AONB.

The Partnership Manager advised that the Conference had been very successful and the feedback received via the feedback forms very encouraging.

5. NAAONB / SWPLF

No matters were discussed.

6. Any Other Business

Cornwall Today – copies of the most recent AONB article were circulated for information.

SDF Review – The Powerpoint presentation produced by Colette Holden will be circulated with the minutes.

7. Date and Time of next meeting

Cornwall AONB Officer Group Meeting – Wednesday 3rd September 2008
Cornwall AONB Partnership Meeting – Thursday 18th September 2008

All Partners