



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CHILTERNES CONSERVATION BOARD HELD ON  
THURSDAY 13th October 2016 at Hastoe Village Hall, Church Lane, Hastoe, Herts HP23 6LU  
commencing at 10.05 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Appointed by Local Authorities**

Cllr David Barnard  
Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown  
Cllr Jacqui Burnett  
Cllr. David Collins  
Cllr Heather Kenison  
Cllr. Lynn Lloyd  
Cllr Hugh McCarthy  
Cllr Ian Reay  
Cllr Nick Rose

**Appointing Body**

North Hertfordshire District Council  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
Luton Borough Council  
Dacorum Borough Council  
Three Rivers District Council  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
Wycombe District Council  
Hertfordshire County Council  
Chiltern District Council

**Appointed by the Secretary of State**

Colin Courtney  
Alison Doggett  
Gill Gowing  
John Nicholls  
Helen Tuffs  
Ian Waller  
Elizabeth Wilson

Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of State

**Elected by Parish Councils**

Cllr Alison Balfour-Lynn  
Cllr John Griffin  
Cllr Tony Penn

Hertfordshire  
Oxfordshire  
Buckinghamshire

**CCB Officers**

Sue Holden  
Lucy Murfett  
Chris Smith  
Donna Webb

CCB Chief Officer  
CCB Planning Officer  
CCB Finance Officer  
CCB Admin Officer

**Other:**

Deirdre Hansen

Clerk to the Board

**16/17.14 Item 1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Susan Biggs, Oxfordshire Parish Councils Cllr David Nimmo-Smith Oxfordshire County Council, Cllr Alan Walters M.B.E. South Buckinghamshire District Council and Ray Payne, Secretary of State appointee.

Absent: Cllr George Case, Buckinghamshire Parish Councils and Cllr Ken Janes, Central Bedfordshire Council

#### **16/17. 15 Item 2 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **16/17. 16 Item 3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the AGM, the ordinary meeting and the closed meeting all held 23<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **16/17.17. Item 4. Matters Arising**

The Chief Officer reported that:

1. We should hear this month if the HLF landscape Partnership stage 1 bid has been successful.
2. The restructuring is progressing, but it has been a difficult time for staff. Two members of staff are leaving following the restructuring and the Finance Officer is retiring at the end of the year, this will be his last Board meeting. Annette Venters has been confirmed in the post of People and Society and interviews are taking place for the Development and Fundraising post. She thanked Helen Tuffs for her assistance with the interviews. A substantial number of applications have been received for the Communications post and interviews will be taking place next week.

#### **16/17. 18. Item 5. Public Question time**

No public present.

#### **16/17. 19. Item 6. Board Review**

Reports from the Executive Committee and the Planning Committee had been received.

The Chief Officer also reported that:

1. The LEADER application for the Chilterns Walking Festival has been approved. The bid had scored very highly and Annette Venters, who had compiled the bid, was commended and thanked.
2. The CCB is waiting on a reply from HS2 Ltd to the Boards requests, this response will indicate if the CCB will appear before the House of Lords Select Committee. The meeting briefly discussed the various amounts of mitigation offered by HS2.
3. There are 2 new vacancies for Board members, 1 a Local Authority and the other a Parish Council member's post. The recruitment process has been started.
4. The Planning Committee had been made aware of the failure to consult the CCB on the electrification of the West midlands and the Chilterns Lines. The Planning Officer has already been in contact with the rail companies and Network Rail on this omission.

Discussion took place on a variety of topics concerning this publication.

- 1. The Board NOTED the reports and the decisions made under delegated authority.**

**16/17. 20 Item 7. Planning and Development**

The Chief Officer gave a brief introduction to the increasing development threats to the Chilterns AONB, the principles at stake and the importance of a shared understanding. The model policy agreed by the Planning Committee required Board endorsement and a start should be made on a Position Statement on Development in the AONB.

Members asked questions, discussed widely the principles to be used to fulfil the CCB's statutory duties, the model policy to be promoted for the Chilterns AONB and the basis for preparation of a Position Statement on Development in the Chilterns AONB.

The Planning Officer gave a slide show presentation showing what the CCB is trying to protect and what its policies should be aimed at.

The Board has limited resources and should concentrate on key issues. A broad range of views were expressed on the importance of the setting of the AONB, the requirement to balance the need for more housing vs protecting the landscape, environmental issues and land (re-)usage.

The need to elevate the CCB's profile, ensuring it is positive and emphasising that the CCB takes a nuanced approach to planning is vital. The need to take a long-term view, a holistic view and a 'total impact' view in our position on development across the AONB is also vital. The equal status of an AONB with a National Park has to be clearly expressed and brought to the forefront with our partners. Local Authority members were asked to encourage Senior Planning Officers and possibly Chief Executives to meet with the CCB to ensure due regard and authority will be given to the AONB.

A model policy promoting consistency between the 13 different Local Authorities in the Chilterns AONB would be a helpful tool for all concerned. It was proposed and seconded to support the model policy v2 and supportive text subject to consideration of a minor amendment.

- 1. The Board discussed the principles which will ensure the Board fulfils its primary duties.**
- 2. The Board ENDORSED the second draft model policy and supporting text.**
- 3. The Board supported the preparation of a Position Statement on Development in the Chilterns AONB based on the principles proposed and discussion at this meeting.**

**16/17. 21. Item 8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Presentations:**

- The Chairman made a presentation to Chris Smith, the retiring Finance Officer. He had not only provided excellent financial advice and guidance to the Board and the Executive Committee, but had provided the Board with many superb photographs of the Chilterns. Chris had been with the Board since 2007. He thanked the Chairman and members for their support and friendship over the years.
- The Chairman made a presentation to Cathy Rose, Activities and Learning Officer, who has been with the Board for 16 years. He thanked her for her excellent work and wished her well in the future. Cathy mentioned the good work the CCB carries out and her enjoyment of the projects.
- The Chairman made a presentation to Claire Forest, Information and Interpretation Officer, who has been with the Board for 14 years. She was thanked for her commitment and hard work for all that she had been involved with. Claire has good memories of her time at the CCB and is looking forward to the future.

Future meeting dates:

Board meetings: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
21<sup>st</sup> June (+AGM) 2017  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Executive Committee: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

The Chairman..... Date.....