



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CHILTERNES CONSERVATION BOARD HELD ON
THURSDAY 23rd June 2016 at Chinnor Community Pavilion OX39 4PU commencing at 10.21 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 David Nimmo Smith
Cllr Ian Reay
Cllr Nick Rose
Cllr Alan Walters M.B.E.

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
Oxfordshire County Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Chiltern District Council
South Buckinghamshire District Council

Appointed by the Secretary of State

Colin Courtney	Secretary of State
Alison Doggett	Secretary of State
Gill Gowing	Secretary of State
John Nicholls	Secretary of State
Ray Payne	Secretary of State
Helen Tuffs	Secretary of State
Elizabeth Wilson	Secretary of State

Elected by Parish Councils

Cllr Alison Balfour-Lynn	Hertfordshire
Cllr Susan Biggs	Oxfordshire
Cllr George Case	Buckinghamshire
Cllr John Griffin	Oxfordshire
Cllr Tony Penn	Buckinghamshire

CCB Officers

Kath Daly	Countryside Officer
Sue Holden	CCB Chief Officer
Chris Smith	CCB Finance Officer

Other:

Deirdre Hansen	Clerk to the Board
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16/17. Item 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ken Janes Central Bedfordshire Council and Ian Waller Secretary of State appointee.

Absent: Cllr Andrew Southam, Cllr Michael Stonnell

16/17. Item 2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

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

The minutes of the meeting held 24th March 2016 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

10.22 Cllr Tony Penn joined the meeting.

16/17. Item 4. Matters Arising

The Chief Officer reported that

1. Re the Electrification of the Great Western Main line, Network Rail are testing alternative gantries. Network Rail have also agreed to pay the CCB's officer time working on this project.
2. She had been invited by the Chiltern Society to attend their Executive Committee meeting and we will have a joint board members meeting in August.

16/17. Item 5. Public Question time

No public present.

16/17. Item 6. Board Review

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

The Chief Officer also reported that

1. The new magazine "Outstanding Chilterns" replaced "Chalk and Trees". It is an annual publication and can reach out to the tourism industry. It was noted that the horse-riding fraternity had not been included in this edition.

10.29 Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown joined the meeting

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

The Chief Officer would ask the Information and Interpretation and Access Officers to discuss including horse-riding in literature with the Hertfordshire Parish Council member.

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

16/17. Item 7. Statement of accounts and Annual Return 2015/16

The Finance Officer presented the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Audit Return for the Finance Year 2015-16. The yearend position showed an overall net surplus of £ 2,428.

The pension liability, a figure not defined by the Board and outside its control, had been reduced.

The Annual Governance Statement was considered and the Statement of Accounts was examined. The Board members took the opportunity to pose questions which were answered by the Finance Officer.

- 1. The Board APPROVED the Annual Governance Statement for 2015-16, as set out in section 1 of the Annual Return.**

2. The Board APPROVED the Statement of Accounts and the Accounting Statements for 2015-16, as set out in section 2 of the Annual Return.

16/17. Item 8. Governance Review

Following the recommendations arising from the Management Review the Chairman reported that Ray Payne is looking into the Governance of the Board.

The Conservation Board for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was established by statutory instrument 2004 no 1778 under part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Ray Payne asked members to look at the governance arrangements and to bring any anomalies to his attention. He intends to bring a provisional paper to the Board Meeting in February 2017.

The Chief Officer also informed the Board that DEFRA is looking at the Conservation Board model for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty due to two requests for AONB's to become Boards.

1. The Board NOTED that a Governance Review is taking place.

16/17. Item 9 Landscape Partnerships

The Countryside Officer gave a presentation on the recent Landscape Partnership stage 1 bid that the Board had made to HLF. The process is a 2 stage process, if stage 1 is successful the second stage bid will be made 18 months later. We should hear October 2016 if the stage 1 phase has been successful.

The Chilterns AONB is under pressure from a wide range of sources especially development pressures. It has been shown that there is a need for bigger, better and joined up action at landscape scale to conserve and restore characteristic features. Far greater engagement with local communities and many more custodians of the landscape for the future are needed. The Chilterns Landscape Partnership Scheme engages more than 30 partners, is a £2.8m project, covering 260km² and delivery is over 5 years.

A number of possible areas relating to urban regions going outside the AONB were put forward for consideration to evolve into a rolling programme of projects. The suggestions were welcomed and the members took the opportunity to ask questions covering resources, partnerships, threats, opportunities, engagement, access and involvement.

The Chief Officer commended the work that the Countryside Officer and the team had done in submitting a substantial and ambitious bid to HLF and engaging numerous partners. The Countryside Officer was thanked for her excellent presentation.

Progress will be reported at future Board meetings.

1. The Board NOTED the presentation and the work that had been done.

16/17. Item 10 Celebrating Chilterns Walking

The Strategic Access Officer gave a presentation on the LEADER bid of £50,750 she had submitted for a Celebration of Walking in the Chilterns.

It is proposed to hold Chilterns Walking Festivals. A 3-year programme of 6 festivals of 15 days each involving different walks and activities.

90% of visitors who come and walk in the Chilterns are day visitors.

The aims of the project are to attract more visitors and staying visitors, increase visitor spend and accommodation occupancy, extend the visitor season, increase opportunities to learn about the Chilterns, strengthen the Chilterns brand, raised the Chilterns profile, encourage business collaboration and ensure the project is self-financing after 3 years.

If the project is successful a project manager will be appointed to run the programme.

Members provided views and advice.

The Strategic Access Officer was commended for her work.

1. The Board NOTED the presentation.

16/17. Item 11 Future meeting dates:

Board meetings: 13th October 2016,
8th February 2017
21st June (+AGM) 2017
25th October 2017

Executive Committee: 8th September 2016
8th December 2016
27th April 2017
13th September 2017
24th January 2018

16/17. Item 12 Any other Business

1. Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown mentioned that he is a member of the Princes Risborough Steering Group looking at the development of approx. 2500 houses in Princes Risborough. Although Princes Risborough itself is not in the AONB, it is surrounded by AONB. It was considered useful if he could provide a report to the Planning Committee.
2. Cllr Hugh McCarthy notified the Board of the substantial costs of planning applications decisions being challenged, carrying these costs is not sustainable for councils.
3. Thanks were also expressed to the Planning Officer and Advisor for their help to Local Authorities on new developments and putting the AONB causes forward.

16/17. Item 13 Exclusion of the public to consider a report on proposed restructuring.

It was proposed and seconded that the public be excluded from the meeting.

1. **The Board RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting to consider a report on the proposed restructuring of the Board.**
2. **The Board NOTED the process, timetable and delegated authority.**
3. **The Board NOTED the request to input to the consultation by 27th June 2016.**

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