



BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes

**27th March 2019
Winkleigh Village Hall**

Members Present:

Michael Winter (Chairman)
 Mark Wallace (Vice Chairman & Beaford Arts)
 Andrew Austen (NDC)
 Richard Paton (Forestry Commission)
 Robert Down (Coastwise)
 Lisa Schneidau (DWT)
 Cllr. Rodney Cann (NDC)
 Kirstie Pritchard (DCC)
 Mike Moser (Nature Improvement Group)
 Jo Traill-Thomson (Natural England)
 Andrew Butler (NFU)
 Brett Grosvenor (Environment Agency)
 Tim Jones (Biosphere Foundation)
 Eirene Williams (AONB)
 Emma Richardson (Devon Wildlife Trust)

BR Team Present:

Andy Bell
 Jane Hart
 Gigha Klinkenberg

Guests

Item	Issues	Action agreed
<p>1. Chairman's welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>The Chairman made introductions, welcomed Partners. He thanked the partnership for being very supportive and said that although we have been through challenging times, the Biosphere is in a far better place than we might have been. He highlighted the fact that the partnership needed to know what's happening in the Biosphere by partners acting in its name. He requested that all partners observed the courtesy to keep at least the chairman and the coordinator informed in advance.</p> <p>Apologies: Jenny Carey-Wood, Phil Byers, Jo Traill-Thompson, Mike Moser, Cllr. Kenn James.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed with 1 amendment.</p>	

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<p>3. Matters arising</p>	<p>Plastic Free North Devon – the proposal to seek funding for a coordinator was successful. 2k NDC 2k TDC 500 BR 500 AONB Dominic Acland has been appointed as the fundraising coordinator for public-facing aspects and he is aiming to submit several bids by the end of June. Heritage Lottery Fund are happy for Pledge for Nature to put in a bid for funding. We will need match funding and will be launching a Crowdfunder for this.</p> <p>DWT along with Royal Society of Wildlife Trust are launching a Wilder Devon and MM is talking about collaboration. MM to meet with Dominic Acland and Wilder Devon. Glover review on protected landscapes ongoing.</p> <p>Beaford Talks Andy Bell has given a number of talks for Beaford Arts, all of which have been sold out.</p> <p>EuroMAB 2019 Andy and Adeline will be attending the EuroMAB Conference in Dublin next week.</p>	<p>MM to meet with Wilder Devona and the Plastic free campaign to discuss best collaboration/co-ordination</p>
<p>4. Update from working group chairs</p>	<p>Community Group Health and well-being - The AONB and Biosphere are working together to bid to the HLF for a 'Connecting to Nature' facilitator - to get people into the countryside for improved health. The project will target 3 groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have been ill • carers who need a break • people who ask suffered a stroke <p>This has BR Partnership support</p> <p>The month of May is 'Naturally Healthy Month'. NHM events will be listed on the local nature partnership site. Active Devon has a small pot of money for outdoor spaces (£250) The probation service can also take prisoners out on license as a social prescription a special interest groups ensuring there is a pan Devon intuitive.</p>	

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	<p>Nature Improvement Group LS the nature improvement group have significant concerns on biodiversity not integrated throughout the Natural Capital Investment strategy. than you a NI a group plan the capacity is a challenge they plan more agreements with more detail.</p> <p>Linked to the Pledge for Nature – it is also the Year of Green Action (YOGA) and the LNP Green Plan. Local nature partnership is 2019 is the year of green action to link in with the national programme. Campaigns will run for a period of time and Partners can offer rewards to incentivise people to pledge.</p> <p>The NIG has also been involved in the development of the New agri-environment trials (See Pioneer)</p> <p>Catchment partnership: Has not met for some time. Next meeting will be April/May. DWT still awaiting the results of the WEG application. WRT and BR have confirmation of WEG for Soils Alliance and woods for Water respectively. DWT remains optimistic.</p> <p>The Culm NFM (Interreg) project projected to restore 260 hectares of grassland via a whole range of activities for a full time PhD will be reported back natural flood management in Kenwith Valley and have identified intervention areas for coastal natural flood management. It needs more design. Year one will be raised floodplain in areas.</p> <p>BR Team using natural capital evaluation to measure and evaluate. 29,000 cubic metres of water to be stored in Combe Martin. For the cost benefit to fund the engineering, we need 4 times the area to make the finance work. It's good methodology so the Environment Agency want to expand the idea.</p> <p>Woodland Enterprise Group The Woodland WEG 330,000 over 2 years to deliver the project. North Devon, Cornwall, E Devon can spend from February. We will revise the Woodland trust contract for PAWS advice and restoration. Andy and Mark P took part in a conference called Biosphere Future Forrest in Sweden. It will model what it will look like in 100 years. A Horizon2020 application is going to be made with several European BR partners to support adaptation and mitigation in BR forests. Swedish University of</p>	

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	<p>Agricultural Sciences (Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet) will lead the project.</p> <p>Other international collaborations EU forest institute and forest extension work have been attempted.</p> <p>Michael W Research Group We need to convene a group meeting. BCHT is full steam ahead with 3 researchers in Exeter. ‘Land between the Moors’ is going ahead but still needs a comb grassland chapter Beaford should be the publisher. Sweep currently doing the work through 2 districts. Health and Well-being Catchment and Coast.</p> <p>SWEEP and various other activities Interreg, BCHT - 3 at the University of Exeter – it will be a centre of positive research and 2 experts from business. We have managed to secure a £1m endowment which could fund a research fellow for 5 years plus two PhD students.</p> <p>A Biosphere book of papers to bring all the research together, Land between the Moors’ is an academic book but is reasonably priced (£10-15).</p> <p>Phil Byers - Green Economy We will be linking with Viridor and Barnstaple Chamber of Commerce for a training day to help businesses to understand waste reduction. Schools training in the morning and Businesses in the afternoon.</p> <p>Digital BR – PB met with North Devon Torridge District Councils and the Regional Manager of BT. Just waiting to finalise the resulting draft paper. It is a positive and exciting opportunity. Green economy: and communications paper to be tabled. LEP have funded for digital skills partnership – could be supported by the Digital Biosphere – Will use digital technologies to monitor change/progress/sustainability.</p>	<p>PB to circulate draft document</p> <p>Paper for the next partnership</p>

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<p>5. Update on Landscape Pioneer</p>	<p>Landscape pioneer - Jo Traill-Thompson couldn't make it today.</p> <p>Andy Bell, Jo Traill-Thompson and Michael winter met with Andrea Ledward from Defra, who leads on agriculture. They talked about 2 farms, beef and sheep plus dairy. The message from us is that farming is tough. Jo Trail-Thompson and BG have done sterling work on the land trials. We need a submission by April the 12th and to get good environmental Land Management we need a whole farm business plan.</p> <p>The new ELM trial is one year. The work done is impressive. The Country Landowners Association is not a member nor is the National Trust.</p> <p>Kirstie Pritchard's role involves different projects across North Devon the Biosphere would willingly participate. NELMS - we need to be clear on what we mean by natural capital. AB - a strong emphasis on natural capital being part of the farm business and then testing that approach using the public payment for public goods -</p> <p>Landscape Pioneer and Net Gain. The draft SPD for Net gain and planning will be available next week.</p> <p>Natural capital investment strategy. Trying to look at six case studies that bring benefits to habitats such as culm, woodland, coastal etc. The strategy will need a body to oversee the implementation. The BR partnership is the most obvious custodian. The NIG raised concerns that that Natural Capital does not address all biodiversity and concepts such as intrinsic value, are lost.</p> <p>Advisory group has agreed the document sets of habitats and ecosystems which include; Culm flood management but also carbon sequestration, woods and flood management. Water quality by addressing intensive grassland and coastal habitats for tourism. The draft strategy will be presented to potential investors in the autumn. People with strong views do need to comment. If it works, it will lead to investment. It is the ideal scenario, but all need to take from the document for their own plans.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>It was agreed that the strategy will sit alongside the other strategies and will be a tool to help deliver the overall BR strategy.</p> <p>Agreed; the NIG should develop a "biodiversity action plan" to ensure that the intrinsic values of biodiversity are not lost and can be acted on by the partnership.</p>

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<p>6. Update on Marine Pioneer</p>	<p>AB - Marine pioneer: well resourced, support from WWF UK. Defra and Marine management organization has extended Natural Capital for the marine environment (Natural Capital plus). It's not just fisherman and fish. Chrissie now on 80% employed to deliver natural capital plan in something investment strategy.</p> <p>Fishermen-evidence ray species difference in Irish sea and East Coast so management measures are different. Marine/Science partnership to find out what species is Clovelly herring? Is it different from the rest of the channel and the Irish sea? Have we got the MCZ's in the right place? Films being produced now on Landscape and Marine Pioneers. A company called Green Ink have been contracted to do the Combs and very productive.</p> <p>Water quality is very dependent on catchment action and the marine group wished to emphasise that the benefits of improved water quality in the catchment has a benefit out to see too.</p>	<p>Agreed: BR Partnership should ensure the between land and marine should be made more obvious through the BR documentation and decision making.</p>
<p>7. Bird disturbance on the Taw Torridge estuary</p>	<p>A report has been prepared on the impact on over wintering birds and a presentation given to a group of stakeholders, but we need a wider distribution to influence the local plan. Could be at the next partnership that we invite the NIA group members. Dogs are a big problem the report has suggested rather than actions we need an action plan. What are we doing to protect high tide roosts and IG to look at this and what it means.</p>	<p>Agreed: Discuss the item fully for agreed action at the next partnership</p>
<p>8. Appointment of new chairman</p>	<p>Professor Mel Austin is head of Science Sea and Society could start in July August for a one two-year trial court management group are pleased with the high calibre candidate TJ she has a huge reputation and credibility is very high he supports this 100%, Mark Wallace proposed, and TJ seconded a formal vote was unanimous. And he says expressed his thanks to Michael winter for his knowledge as chairman the partnership is very grateful.</p>	<p>Confirmed and endorse the appointment of Prof Mel Austen as the new Chair person of the Partnership, commencing from the next meeting.</p>
<p>9. Light touch review of Partnership terms of reference#</p>	<p>Terms of reference: The Biosphere Partnership is to review and agree the terms. The Core Management Group have already agreed. The document presented was broadly agreed other than The North Devon AONB are not happy with annex 2.6 on page 14 the vice-chairman should be an ex officio position in the Foundation.</p>	<p>Adopted subject to amendments</p>

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	<p>No problem with the director of charity being vice chair Mark Wallace accept the point even be requested to remove automatic vice chairman of the foundation to remove the clause from the amendment.</p> <p>If the foundation decided to do something the partnership was not happy with – it could all be a bit muddled.</p> <p>If the new chairman of the partnership cannot chair we can call on management group can the vice chair?</p>	
<p>10. Foundation role and Natural Capital Trust/Finance Blue Print</p>	<p>Natural Capital Trust - Finance blueprint paragraph Sigma capital – Sirius capital and a strong emphasis on sustainability need to make sure we are well aligned with policy which could prove tricky with Brexit.</p> <p>Alignment with policy is essential;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra and BEIS industry Strategy and LEP Industry strategy. • Natural Capital and green finance policies <p>The EU program is currently on its spending target. There is a surplus in ERDF and program if we're going to attract funding.</p> <p>Water utility companies along with the Pennon Group have an ambition to plant 1 billion trees (nationally) equalling 55000 hectares if we can get the agenda right with the local utilities.</p> <p>There is a shared open agenda for the Foundation to help the partnership and its members to deliver for the benefit for the North Devon Biosphere area.</p> <p>Businesses want to know about the ownership. Who owns the assets? Why should they invest in environmental projects?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corporate social responsibility 2. Corporate Purpose 3. Need to protect their assets. If nothing is done about climate change a 10% loss in asset value can happen 4. Want a return on fiscal re-investment <p>Green bond - what rate of retention? 4% average. Leases or licenses of 25 years to allow payback. Possibly buying a few farms and owning assets.</p> <p>Report will be ready in about a month – it will be circulated to partnership. Which will highlight the Foundations view on how sustainable finance can be delivered.</p>	<p>TJ will circulate the report for next partnership.</p>

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<p>11. Process for BR strategy Mid-term review</p>	<p>Process for biosphere strategy mid-term review was shared by AB and JH. They will be in touch with the WG chairs to discuss the progress of the groups and the potential new indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals and the 25 YEP indicators.</p>	<p>AB and JH to contact WG chairs</p>
<p>12. Devon Climate Emergency; How will the BR act</p>	<p>Climate Emergency How would we respond to climate crisis? Cabinet agreed to decline emergency 80% 2030 and 2050 carbon neutral or earlier. We are now in a climate emergency! We need a Local Resilience Forum where each authority declares what they're going to do to reduce their emissions. The Biosphere is already doing a lot on climate change and has produced a sustainable energy plan on domestic energy. The first part of the review aims for improved efficiency and reduced use. Then to broaden the sector to land use and forestry Plant new seagrass and kelp beds. The Biosphere can be ready to address and work with local authorities which will set the bar higher than before. Climate Change can become an easy umbrella for action on a local scale and an easy to understand campaign. We need to be right at the forefront of this. A lot of work to do on land use and domestic institutions. Parish involvement is required to keep an eye on their communities - see sheet.</p>	<p>AB will seek resources to review the BR Energy Plan and liaise with DCC over the climate strategy.</p>
<p>13. AOB</p>	<p>EWilliams: AONB Management Plan effective from the end of April. Mark Wallace: led the partnership with a formal vote of thanks to Michael Winter.</p>	<p>Noted Unanimously agreed</p>
<p>Date of next meeting</p>	<p>July 11th 2019 Hallsannery, Bideford 1300 to 1700</p>	