

BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

1st June 2023

Taw View, Barnstaple

<p>1) Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Present: Mel Austen (MA), Plymouth University, Chair Andy Bell (AB) NDBF Kay Willmott (KW) NDBF Eirene Williams (EW), AONB Pru Maskell (PM) Devon County Council Tim Jones (TJ) Foundation chairman Trustee NDBF Martin Slocombe (MS) Energy 361 Phil Byers (PB) BCoC Kate Hind (KH) Devon County Council Robert Down (RD) NDBF Trustee & Coastwise Ed Jenner (EJ) NDBF Mark Wallace (MW) Beaford Selaine Saxby (SS) (MP for North Devon) David Hoare Selaine Saxby's secretary</p> <p>By Zoom Ian Roland (IR), TDC Bill Blythe (BB) Petroc Hattie Severinsen (NFU) Ewan Wallis (EW) DWT</p> <p>Apologies: Michael Winter Mike Moser Andrew Butler Sophie Herd Andrew Butler (NFU)</p> <p>Thanks to all who were attending the meeting and for all reports submitted. MA announced a potential conflict of interest with her new roles: Board member, Natural England Representing NE on Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Resigned as independent member of Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Land, Nature, and Adapted Systems Advisory Group (LNAS AG) member - a sub-group of Defra's Green Technical Advisory Group (GTAG).</p>
<p>2) Minutes of last meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that the meeting minutes were a true representation of the matters discussed.

<p>3) Matters arising</p>	<p>Institute of Directors recommendations for BF CIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TJ – corporate engagement in underway with Andrew Searle <p>Interview Stage for CEO for CIC</p> <p>Four candidates have made the short list three men, one woman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews to be held with a member of the partnership, MA suggested a woman from the partnership. First interviews (all 4) will be via zoom the final interview (final 2 candidates) face to face. EW asked if a job description was available, it was confirmed yes, TJ happy to provide. <p>Compliance</p> <p>Now 95% compliant the I of D report exposed some uncomfortable truths but all now up to date.</p> <p>CEO will finalise last 5% of governance structures – critical issues to address – financial status and equity market.</p> <p>CEO will recruit new members to the foundation board TJ to stay on for continuity</p> <p>MA suggested recirculating the paper on guidance.</p> <p>Marine Programme</p> <p>3C's funding paid for the NDMAAS training with 2022/3 funding, waiting for decision from EA for future funding of post should be 2 years funding needed to guide projects forward. Decision should have been in May '23</p> <p>SS – happy to nudge ministers</p> <p>AB – good candidates waiting, really need to recruit soon.</p> <p>CRF Programme Follow up</p> <p>AB small pots of money from aquaculture and tourism</p> <p>IR- Middledock – progressing planning is being worked on at the moment</p> <p>TJ – Middledock is attracting a lot of market interest and the shipyard is flourishing with more opportunities for Harland and Wolf</p> <p>MS – H & W have had green audit of the site and are looking at renewables.</p> <p>BR &OECD 30 x 30 UK proposal needs to be completed by DEFRA but not there yet Scotland and Wales are in the consultation stage</p> <p>Beaford Flourishing Cultures</p> <p>MW – Arts council Funding £1million for Beaford, Queens and landmark Theatres, Barnstaple Museum, the Plough and Burton, giving regular funding.</p> <p>Trophy Project – NDC cultural regeneration of Barnstaple – won £3million £1.8 capital funding for Bridge Chambers refurbishment – County Court to become a cultural, environmental hub, with performing arts (Petroc), Beaford and Biosphere under one roof. Refurbishment should be complete early 24-25.</p> <p>BB - This hub, would provide closer links to Barnstaple Town, waiting approval of the board and looking into safeguarding issues which may arise.</p> <p>ELMS Test & Trials</p> <p>Contract starts on the 1st June – modelling blended finance</p> <p>HS – offered help to recruit extra farmers to the trial.</p>
<p>4) Torridge & North Devon Local Plan Update (IR)</p>	<p>The Strategic Plan covers 2018-31 and the 5 year review Oct 23.</p> <p>End of 2020 update concluded that the Plan is fit for purpose broadly with opportunities to push forward the existing plan.</p> <p>TJ – is this plan in alignment with the neighbourhood plan?</p> <p>IR – happy to work with communities depending on their ambitions and issues, but it needs to be driven by the community. Biosphere needs to get to meetings to raise profile.</p> <p>AB – Biosphere could work with partners to show how it can help with the review.</p>

	MA – Biosphere needs to be part of this process it's important.
5) Periodic Review	<p>Supported by ITEM 5 PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT Suggested the increase of core areas to be more representative. Perception is that Biosphere is just Braunton Burrows Other Biospheres have different cores, this model could make communities understand and engage better with the biosphere. KH – how do National Parks buy in to this? TJ - NP CEO's are very positive and supportive MA – What are buffers? AB-already designated areas, providing support opportunities and UNESCO see expansion. Need to have clear legal and policy status. MA – Sustainable Earth institute – graduate/under grad could support the work. Timetable Sept '24 EW – why would we do this? AB – connecting people to more core areas, engaging families & schools throughout the Biosphere. PB – helpful with the local plan process</p> <p>MA – BROAD SUPPORT WITH ISSUES THAT NEED ADDRESSING EXTRA DESIGNATION COULD NEED SENSITIVE HANDLING – CORE SHOULD BE REVIEWED</p>
6) Partnership Structure & Meetings	<p>Supporting documents: Nick McKinnel CV, Partner proposal from Kingsley School Review of membership and meetings. Derrick Spear</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very Reverend Nick McKinnel After discussion of what Rev Nick Mckinnel would do to benefit the Biosphere it was agreed that he would be a good community link AB suggested accepting him for 2 years onto the partnership and invite him to the next meeting to tell us how he is going to be an asset. MA - AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING – Rev Nick McKinnel 2. Kingsley School – How do you reach out beyond private school. It was agreed that it would be good to get a state school representative as well, to have diversity in the school sector, perhaps taking state schools for specific links. The Earth Centre can give opportunities to all schools and the youth parliament members come to a Partnership meeting. Trying to get state schools involved in from their leadership teams and curriculum development, MA – TO INVITE KINGSLEY SCHOOL TO JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP WITH DEVELOPING LINKS WITH LOCAL STATE SCHOOLS 3. Review of structure & style – After discussion of the length of meetings and content it was agreed that 'deep dive workshops would be a good way to efficiently discuss specific topics which don't need full partnership debate, between partnership meetings. Shortening meetings was a suggestion and more frequent, with more reporting. The minutes and reports to be available earlier. MW, MA and AB to look at how active members are and discuss appropriate changes. Advertise gaps in representation e.g., Renewable energy and education to be filled. <p>MA - LOOK AT SHORTENING THE MEETING TIME - PARTNERS TO SAY WHAT DEEP DIVE WORKSHOPS THEY'D LIKE TO SEE. PARTNERSHIP WILL THEN PROPOSE WORKSHOPS</p>

	<p>- MORE REPORTING OF WRITTEN UPDATES TO BE CURCULATED WITH MINUTES WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLIER</p> <p>4. Derrick Spear Derrick Spear didn't stand for election at the local election in June 23, but has always been a supporter and a strong attendee of meetings. We would like to give a vote of thanks for his work with the Partnership. Agreed a vote of thanks to Derrick. Andrew Bulter has also moved on within the NFU. Andrew has been a very good person on the partnership and a vote of thanks should also be sent to him.</p>
	Break
Updates	
a) Nature Improvement Group	Report submitted – no time for discussion at meeting
b) Catchment Group	
c) DRIP and collaboration potential in the little Dart	Report submitted – no time for discussion at meeting
d) CRITTER	Report submitted – no time for discussion at meeting
e) Green Economy	no time for discussion at meeting
f) Forestry Group	Report submitted – no time for discussion at meeting
g) Community group/ Plastic Free Consortium	no time for discussion at meeting
h) Climate group	no time for discussion at meeting
i) Marine Group	Already covered
j) Research Group	
7) AOB & DONM	Date of next meeting Tuesday 26 th September venue to be Petroc, Barnstaple

Acromyns used in minutes:

CRF – Community Renewal Fund
UoE – University of Exeter
DCC local Nature Reserves Strategy (LNR)
DRIP – Devon Resilience Innovation Project
WEZ - Woodland Enterprise zone
DWT - Devon Wildlife Trust
ELMS – Environmental Land Management Schemes
IoD – Institute of Directors
NDMAAS – North Devon Marine Awareness Accreditation Scheme