

BIOSPHERE RESERVE PARTNERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

19th January 2023

Landkey Village Hall

<p>1) Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Present: Tim Pratt (TP) Taw & Torridge Estuary Forum Mel Austen (MA), Plymouth University, Chair Andy Bell (AB) NDBF Nicola Corrigan (NC), NDBF Kay Willmott (KW) NDBF Eirene Williams (EW), AONB Ian Roland (IR), TDC Mike Moser, MM outgoing chair NIWG Martin Batt MB incoming chair NIWG Tim Jones (TJ) Trustee NDBF Martin Slocombe (MS) Energy 361 Phil Byers (PB) BCoC Robert Down (RD) Trustee Bill Blythe (BB) Petroc</p> <p>By Zoom Unable to attend due to poor internet connection Emma Richardson - DWT Brett Grosvenor - EA Derrick Spear - Councillor Kate Hind - DCC Sarah Jordan -NDBF</p> <p>Apologies: Michael Winter Chris Fuller (TDC) Andrew Butler (NFU) Mark Wallis (Beaford) Pru Maskell Mark Prior Selaine Saxby Chris Goodall</p> <p>Thanks to all those who tried to join by Zoom which was not possible due to the poor internet link.</p>
<p>2) Minutes of last meeting</p>	<p>EW asked that any acronyms be noted at the end of each the report to allow people to be able to decipher the reports more easily. MA agreed PB suggested a note of all acronyms to be added to the agenda in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was asked for people present to declare an interest in any of the items being discussed in the meeting today. • MA asked for it to be minuted that University of Plymouth could have a conflict of interest for delivery in CRF.
<p>3) Matters arising</p>	<p>Institute of Directors recommendations for BF CIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations of the biosphere have been agreed and accepted • Recruitment of CEO will lie with establishment of a core funding group as programme mechanism. • Overview from this committee.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation has taken the IoD report in hand Latham Watkins pro bono • CIC will be wound up and any assets passed over to new company, branding values = scheme of delegation which sets parameters and sanctioned by NDBF • The charity scheme of delegation – if CIC steps over these the authority will be the CEO • Recruitment process for the Trading Arm. CEO funded for 2 years by fund raising • Smart Biosphere (SB) and Natural Capital Marketplace (NCM) CEO to drive commercial arm and have more commercial business acumen. • Funding SB and NCM through projects – shared prosperity fund with Torrridge District Council Satellite App catapult – remote soil sensors and satellite communications. • Expressions of interest and investment through the impact fund and investing in people. • TJ – South West Water (SWW) and SB could be a fee generator through finance management – • Finance Director has been appointed. Waiting to <p>Periodic Review – Long term interns – French Student from Toulouse University hoping to assist with biosphere periodic review Biosphere MA students positions in Biosphere reserves for a German University.</p> <p>International Biosphere Day Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play from Beaford.org about Climate Change • NDDC – Hedge laying day • Posts from local supporters on social media • Pledge for Nature workshops with Torrington Bluecoat School and the Plough Arts Centre <p>Enterprise Zones – Package in process as a proposal</p>
4) Community Renewal Fund Outcomes and what next?	<p>AB updated the group on the CRF outcomes accompanied by the Item 4 Community Renewal Fund Summary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Consultants are reporting, but report is not available for this meeting. The conclusions of the project are that it was a good exercise but due to the fast set up, with contracting things out recording wasn't sufficient for the reporting stages. We have had to retrospectively collect data evidence on attendance especially in the skills & wellbeing projects. • There were problems with VAT which involved negotiating with HMRC these have all been resolved. • Middledock – levelling up fund projects have been announced today which will have a sound economic benefit and was greatly helped by the feasibility studies held as part of the CRF project. £15.6 million for marine maritime centre HE/research • Clean marine propulsion – hydrogen with opportunities with Harland and Woolf and the University of Exeter employment/apprenticeship programme as partners. Therefore, huge dividends on a broad range of marine research and development. CRF was certainly influential in validation of these projects. <p>TJ this will be important for recovering employment with apprentice positions and both direct and indirect businesses benefiting. BB – Petroc and UoE, boosting low level skills provision IR Benefits of collaboration have been proven by this exercise. CRF implies we must do more feasibility studies and applications for further funding streams. DLUC want to see the positive effects on employment targets with 1000 jobs created. Working with the right partners such as Petroc with skills and engagement with +1000 16-18 year olds leaving education each year, the more skills and opportunities there available for people the more chance there is of keeping people in the area.</p>

	<p>Local Skills Improvement Plan – group needs to be involved – transferable marine and renewables and NCM and opportunities that creates for brokerage and investment to benefit locally.</p> <p>MA – carbon offsetting has been highlighted in the press again today, and reiterates the need for need trustworthy people with robust projects to pass gold standard</p> <p>AB – NDBP will vet all who work with projects. Information needs to be shared.</p> <p>Community engagement – very strong – Rev Nick McKinnel new trustee to NDBP and knows North Devon well and has been welcomed due to his strong community ties and engagement. He will also be High Sheriff from March 23 for a year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION – to all 8 projects to set partners and timelines- MA should these lists be shared with people to be able to express interests in different projects?</p> <p>EW- The engagements for Nature on Prescription (NoP)</p> <p>AB – data was collected on the engagement but omitted the employment status.</p>
<p>5) Marine Programme of work and MWG</p>	<p>Supported by ITEM 5 MARINE PROGRAMME COORDINATION REPORT</p> <p>With several emerging activities in the marine sector highlighted by the CRF programme, delivery on the Marine Recovery Plan and EA – We are hoping to secure 3C’s funding of £15,000 for three years. Plans are being made to recruit a Marine Programme Co-ordinator. In the first year there are funds within the Foundation for marine planning and management of £20,000 which could ensure a full-time post for the first year, more chance of the post being filled with full time hours. The foundation can now set up PAYE for potential applicants which may increase interest in the post.</p> <p>BB – Offered his assistance with the recruitment process.</p> <p>RD – Marine pioneer – recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projects considered for a Job specification would be a lot for one person • Should more funding be sort for more posts? • What will yield the greatest benefit • Marine Working Group? <p>What skills will the post holder require? Short term – generate and regeneration groups</p> <p>Next stage may need a different skill set specialising in different aspects</p> <p>AB – Aquaculture, Academics, 200+ stakeholders</p> <p>TJ Floating Offshore Windfarm (FOW) – 25 bidders including X-links for the cable landfall which will all need managing, an action list needs to be made to get the appointment right.</p> <p>MA There are so many opportunities in marine with the secured funding success at Appledore encouraging more interest. There could be scope for part time and full-time posts.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION approve appointment of Marine Co-ordinator</p>
<p>6) Convention on Biological Diversity COP15</p>	<p>Supported by POLICY BRIEF ORIENTATION ENG document</p> <p>This will not impose extra restrictions on top of Environmental Conservation Measures (ECM’s) for protected sites.</p> <p>DEFRA are delivering long term conservation benefits. Therefore, we were doing better than locally and internationally.</p> <p>Other biospheres need to decide if they want to be OECM (Other effective area-based conservation measures) DEFRA are keen on it.</p> <p>Biosphere reserve had to reflect changes in policy</p> <p>Is the committee happy with AB continuing to focus Marine are 35% protected DEFRA concentrating on the landside. COP 30% of the planet criteria in table 1.</p> <p>It will give social legitimacy to County Council and District Councils</p> <p>BB- any planning or restrictions?</p> <p>AB No District Councils work with local policy and plan, changes would be</p>

	<p>made through the council. It would encourage different approaches such as Natural Flood Management NFM Bottom-up influence will shape policy and maybe change national policy. No additional restrictions through the biosphere but through the planning process. RD – Do we need to apply? AB -DEFRA – screening program in relation to UNESCO policy brief. 3 stages – no/maybe with further development/yes Individual reserves can apply Could be Nature Reserves (NR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Parks Benefits – look carefully before agreeing Landowners and Farmers need to go forward and get more involved to achieve real benefits. IR – is it a pilot? AB - long term – are we tied in for a long period of time? DEFRA Enhancing actions that have been achieved IR – how committed – going through the testing process- then we need to decide MM – is there funding for testing? AB No MA verifiable evidence for DEFRA – still a resource will we get any benefits or funds?</p>
<p>7) Governance Links with other strategic bodies</p>	<p>Refresh on how the BR is represented and the links to other strategic bodies in the area. AB – North Devon Futures board – Climate change Group option to make sure there are different bodies involved. Sean Macney chair with TDC/NDDC TJ – LEAPS – county deals – levelling up - Great South West initiative – Regional Development – Key stakeholders covering as many bases as possible. BB – ND Futures – Express a conflict of interest – Chairperson No co-ordinated democratic group A body that could legitimately give a voice to North Devon – the group can ensure future plans meet the needs of North Devon County Council Representatives of DCC, Southwest Business Corporation (SWBC), the Biosphere, MP's etc meet every 3 months and with five subgroups Business economic skills – Peter Morish Climate Change – Donna Sibley Children and Young People – Tarka Learning Health and inequality -One North Devon Community and Place - Marie Gould (NDVS) – Chair Board vision for North Devon 2050 AB could be climate change group chair – if Biosphere needs one to – Action Plan – reflect issues e.g., housing, biodiversity Chair on the board G E Group include in biodiversity join with this Community/NR/Research</p> <p>Reduced the number of strategic meetings – Both councils have agreed it as an outfit MM- Link between biodiversity and Climate AB – West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) Claire Kemp Water & Climate, Biodiversity What is the role of partnership? What we've been doing. Planning – our + theirs Climate change – join more actively Nature Recovery Keen to join in programs – source MM – could include Mid Devon too. TJ – WDBC is difficult to get into and good to make connections. Strategic networks</p>

8)	Break
9) Updates	
a) Nature Improvement Group (Mike Moser/Jack Woolfenden)	<p>Accompanied by JW Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM last report before Martin Batt takes over and Mike wishes him good luck. Nature Recovery – Good progress with coasts/ towns & villages, not engaging landowners and managers which is a problem • Up and coming comms/social media campaign for nature recovery on a 3 to 4 week basis updating on 1st 2 years of the plan covering the next 2-3 months. • Challenges – ELMS • Big new partnerships projects – peatlands/grasslands/floodplains, providing baselines and progress <p>AB – Intern will help local Nature recovery strategy DCC local Nature Reserves Strategy (LNR) JW – Pledge for Nature (PfN) has funding until the summer What is the legacy for schools and communities? Nature Recovery Group wants to target communities A bid to HLF Climate Action Fund (CAF) nature focused – Nature Emergency MA think big – looking for £7-900,000 funding</p> <p>Biosphere Schools Network – primary in the biosphere – through children to families to communities – would have a good impact. MM – has been active in the BR has been chair of Partnership and then with the Nature Recovery Group since 2007, and he wants to remain involved where he can be of most added value. MA – Expressed thanks on behalf of the partnership for all the hard work and very grateful for the huge efforts you have put into all his work for the biosphere. MA – suggested that youth should be brought into the partnership, perhaps engaging the youth parliament. Micro biosphere reserve model being explored with two schools in the biosphere. MM – piloting and the moment at South Molton and Appledore and is providing exciting opportunities with all involved.</p> <p>AB – Jack Harty Earth Centre Manager at Kingsley School – whole school to be an exemplar centre. Youth parliament – secretariat to represent the partnership. TJ – Devon Youth Parliament chair is in Ilfracombe now. MM - target schools after those on the pilot for example getting involved in the Little Dart and Taw Valley schools would be another way to promote the biosphere engaging community groups with useful engagement. Building delivery partners Devon Wildlife Trust, National Trust and would link in with Taw Valley Farmers and DWT EW – money for what? MM – linking between communities and sustainable land management, In schools there are farmers who are parents which could help engaging the community with other partners help. EW – teachers? MM – teachers lead pilots to implement in school pushing forward. PfN are already working with West Buckland and Kingsley Schools, South Molton Primary and Appledore TJ - Mike has tried to get into the school community at a career advice level with some progress. Michael Morpurgo MS – 45 have approached about sustainability The energy crisis has focused people to look at cost reduction, in both the built and natural environment. MM – potential partners could include 361 TJ – Church of England Schools could be contacted by Nick Mckinnel (board member) Nick is the faith community representative – a letter of support with one from Michael Morpurgo</p>

	TJ – To contact Michael Morpurgo AB – to contact Nick McKinnel
b) Green Economy	MS - Lots happening in the group. 40 organisations now within the network see below: Merge of 361 Commercial with PFND Sustainable Business Resource Farming Carbon foot printing - DCC funded 20 surveys – 14 farms have signed up and 15 have expressed an interest. Decarbonise Devon - DCC funded – community energy groups with 8 regional surveyors funded until July 23. Petroc – 361 have run 3 workshops Low Carbon Devon Showcase (Plymouth) & SetSquared - workshops (Exeter) due to become a collaborative group after March 23. BBP are referring people for energy audits. Foot Ansty Solicitors are hosting a landlord's event North Devon & Torridge DCs Education - MATs covering 43 schools Libraries Unlimited - 47 Youth Clubs – 9 Devon & Plymouth Chamber Plymouth Ocean gate - workshops Independent - Harland Wolf looking at the sustainability of site
c) ELMS T & T phase 2	DEFRA are still keen for phase 2 concentrating on Natural Capital Marketplace (NMC) and blended finance The template agreement is with Michelmores at a fifth of the cost Kivells Test Blended finance – a fresh look at additionally which can only be paid for carbon or biodiversity Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) can't be applied for with woodland carbon code. A361 Offsets – funded tree planting 1.5 Ha of trees on land DCC solicitor – DCC couldn't buy BNG as an agreement was already in place ELMS – will address additionality Project should start in March 23 for 6-month period
d) Catchment Group	Partners for new fund – Tav valley to extend into the Little Dart Catchment and NDB are working with DWT on the bid at present NDB will be the facilitators for the group Partnership agrees – letter of support for MA happy to agree
e) Devon Woods/ Forestry Group	EW – Devon Woods project progress report from NK was very good WEZ reports from CRF providing data for an action plan for Nature Recovery and commercial potential. 50 surveys highlighted several woodlands were over stocked and with commercial opportunities.
f) DRIP and collaboration potential in the Little Dart catchment (SC/PM)	Accompanying report on DRIP progress
g) CRITTER	Accompanying paper on CRITTER progress report received on the farms engaged in the catchments and the estuary basin
h) Biosphere Business Partners (SJ)	Report submitted on progress of the project
i) Forestry Group (Mark Prior/Andy B)	Devon Woods and Woodlands for water. PAWS challenge fund and the WEZ work. Ran out of time item not discussed. ACTION: move to next meeting Paper received on project progress of Devon Woods.

j) Research Group (MW)	CRF research group. ACTION Item moved to next meeting
10) AOB & DONM	Date of Next meeting Thursday 1st June 13.00 – 16.00 Taw View Meeting rooms

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