



# SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



## The Minutes Book

Volume (25)

# 2020 - 2021



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## **The Minutes Volume**

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**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

Mr. Owain Wyn (Chairman) (Welsh Government)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Elinor Gwynn, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Ms B. Hughes, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

**In attendance**

Mr. Nick Selwyn, Mr. Euros Lake and Ms. Philippa Dixon – Wales Audit Office.

**Apology**

Cllr. Judith Humphreys.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

- (i) The Chairman advised that although a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website, the meeting was not open to the public. He reported that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and also advised that following the decision to delay the Authority's Annual General Meeting, which should have taken place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, further discussions on the appointment of members to various Committees, would take place at the Members' Working Group on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.
- (ii) The Chairman welcomed Mr. Tim Jones, the newly appointed Welsh Government Member, to his first Authority meeting and also congratulated Ms. Tracey Evans on her re-appointment to the Authority for a further term of 4 years.
- (iii) The Chairman was pleased to welcome Mr. Brian Angell and Mr. Dafydd Edwards, who were both continuing to recover following recent illnesses, to the meeting.
- (iv) Covid-19  
The Chairman did not wish to repeat the detailed update provided by the Chief Executive at the recent Working Group meeting but gave an outline of the main points:-
  - Regulations: *Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) 2020*, have allowed the Authority to take steps to close car parks and restrict access to Snowdon, Ogwen, Cadair Idris, Aran Benllyn and Aran Fawddwy, which represents 11% of the area of the Snowdonia National Park. The regulations will remain in place until 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

A recent review by officers did not extend the present restrictions at Llyn Tegid, which remains open to people who can reach it.

- the English National Parks have no such legislation and the recent relaxation of the rules in England had caused problems for the National Parks in the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and the Lake District.
- The Chairman thanked the staff from all three Welsh National Parks for their work. The media campaign had been effective with only a few incidents reported, mainly outside National Park boundaries. A joint statement would be issued by the Welsh National Park Authorities before the next Bank Holiday weekend.
- The Chairman thanked Members for volunteering and supporting their local communities and thanked the Authority's staff for their work.
- The Chairman referred to the First Minister's statement for "Unlocking our society and economy: continuing the conversation" released on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and outlined the main points as follows:-
  - we can only move forward with care
  - the choices were limited for easing the current restrictions, so difficult decisions need to be made
  - a traffic light system will define how restrictions on various aspects of life can begin to be eased and will outline steps on how to relax the restrictions from red, to amber to green.
  - the traffic light system will be based on different categories, which will include seeing family and friends, reopening schools and childcare, working or running a business, playing sport games and relaxing.
  - decisions will be made on a step by step basis subject to evidence that the virus was being managed.
  - Welsh Government will be developing further advice in the next 10 days in consultation with partners, although the Welsh National Park Authorities were not included in these discussions at present.
  - further guidance on agriculture and woodlands will be considered in due course.
- the Chairman confirmed that the First Minister would be releasing his next statement on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- the Chairman invited Members' views on two questions before he presents a discussion paper to Members on the challenges of Covid-19 for Eryri.

Question 1 – what, in your opinion, will be the likely changes in attitude, behaviour, and activities of people, whether they live in or are visiting, the Snowdonia National Park and the challenges this presents in the context of the climate crisis?

Question 2 – how can the Authority respond to the long term implications of the "New Normal" when:-

- fulfilling our statutory purposes and duty.
- conserving and enhancing our nine special qualities.
- reviewing our corporate aims and priorities and ways of working.
- the Chairman will circulate the discussion paper by the end of the week, to facilitate either online discussions or comments by email, in order to prepare a report to the next meeting of the Members' Working Group on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.
- the Chairman welcomed the paper circulated by Neil Martinson which had raised a number of questions and issues for lifting the restrictions.

He advised that the Chief Executive would be circulating an update for members, staff and the community on the implications of the Welsh Government paper “Unlocking our Society and Economy” to address some, if not most, of these questions. The Chairman advised that the Welsh National Park Authorities had little or no influence on the timetable and that Members should focus their attention on longer term questions.

Members noted the Chairman’s report and discussed the following in detail:-

- a Member stated that according to Statutory Instruments, National Park Authorities were authorised to make the decision on when to lift the restrictions. He asked the Director of Corporate Services to clarify this matter. Also, as this was clearly not business as usual, current processes, including how the Authority communicates, will need to change to deal with situations that will emerge over the coming months and years.
- in response, the Director of Corporate Services clarified the Regulations which state that the restrictions should stay in place until such time as the Authority feels they are no longer necessary. Any future decision taken by the Authority to lift restrictions, would be in consultation with Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government.
- a Member asked whether staff were working on an internal post Covid-19 recovery plan and whether Members would be asked for their input? Many organisations had individual recovery plans and the Authority needed to be prepared for future statements from the Welsh Government.
- the Chief Executive, in response, explained that there were many levels to the Authority’s Recovery Plan. The Authority was proceeding on a regional basis and there was also a technical risk assessment procedure in place for officers to meet on a weekly basis to consider the evidence. The Chief Executive advised that Natural Resources Wales, who have a statutory role in advising the Welsh Government on access to the countryside, were also preparing a document, a copy of which will be circulated to Members when available.
- a Member suggested that a clear process should be established to ensure that Member input to the Chairman’s discussion paper is linked to the work undertaken by staff, who were looking at recovery in their own specialist areas, in order to draw all sources of evidence together. The Chairman, in response, asked Members to focus on the long term, the “new normal”, which will provide the opportunity to feed in the expertise of staff. The Chief Executive agreed, but was concerned that advice could change at any time, as had happened to the National Parks in England, and that currently officers were working on practical issues in the short term, whilst continuing to accumulate all the necessary information for the future.
- a Member asked whether the Police Authorities were involved in discussions with regard to lifting restrictions, and also asked about a timescale for the Authority to put in place its priorities for the future whilst noting that a delay could cause the Authority to lose momentum in achieving a directional shift. In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that it was vital that the North Wales Police Authority and the Authority’s contacts in Public Health Wales were involved in any decisions to lift restrictions and the Chairman advised that the timescale was linked to Members responding to his discussion paper by 15<sup>th</sup> June in order to present a report to Members’ Working Group on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.

## 3. **Review of Involvement – Snowdonia National Park Authority**

Submitted – A report by the Audit Wales.

Reported – The Chairman welcomed Nick Selwyn, Philippa Dixon and Euros Lake, of Audit Wales, to the meeting. Mr. Selwyn provided Members with a brief introduction to the report and advised that Audit Wales were charged with reviewing how public bodies in Wales give consideration to the long-term impact of their decisions on their communities, as required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The Review of Involvement focusses on how the Authority shapes its priorities based on local communication, which was a challenging demand, but overall, Audit Wales findings concluded that the Authority had established an effective partnership-led approach when developing Cynllun Eryri and was well placed to build on this going forward.

Euros Lake, presented findings on areas where the Authority could improve and drew Members' attention to some key areas:-

- the overall findings were positive but going forward the Authority would need to address financial and capacity challenges.
- the Authority had met the challenge of involvement by allowing partners to take the lead in the production of Cynllun Eryri and the consultation matrix developed to identify and prioritise key stakeholders and interested parties had been a success. However, the Authority still needed to improve its communication with the wider public, which could be locally, nationally or internationally and involve the full range of potential users and stakeholders.
- para. 24 of the report outlines the challenges that short-term project work creates for staff undertaking involvement activity and that the Authority runs the risk of losing its corporate identity by becoming too project led.
- another challenge for the Authority was how to sustain its current performance.

Nick Selwyn summarised that:-

- the impact of austerity remains a significant challenge, alongside changing legislation and the ability to plan long term due to the short-term nature of Welsh Government funding and allocation of additional monies close to the year end.
- staff capacity issues, and succession planning to address recruitment difficulties, were being addressed by the Authority by investing in and developing its staff and was a positive way forward.
- the Authority's successes in gaining project funding was also to be commended.
- the Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) provides a framework for the Authority to move forward and strengthen its golden thread despite external risks and challenges.
- Audit Wales, rather than listing proposals for improvement, have produced a self-assessment form for the Authority's staff and members to use to evaluate current performance and identify how to improve and ensure that involvement is mainstreamed and sustainable.

Members and officers considered the report and made the following observations:-

- Members discussed social media and the speed at which the technology was changing. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Authority has a social media strategy and the Head of Engagement would be able to provide further details on how the Authority makes use of it.
- a Member thanked Audit Wales for their objective assessment and positive report which had also given rise to a number of challenges for the Authority to further improve and gain an understanding of what constitutes good participation. One of the actions in the self-assessment matrix table on page 15 states “we have a mature and trusting relationship with all our stakeholders”. How can the Authority ensure that everyone, both internally and externally, understands this concept and would Audit Wales be able to provide examples of organisations who had succeeded in improving their involvement?
- in response, Nick Selwyn advised that a recent publication presented to the Welsh Government by The Future Generations Commissioner, provided extensive information on organisations identified as engaging well with stakeholders. The Chairman recommended that this should be included when the Authority considers its “new normal”.
- Proposals for Improvement (para. 28) – a Member felt the self-assessment matrix was very challenging and asked whether it could be scheduled into a Members’ Workshop to assist longer term planning for the future.

**RESOLVED to welcome the report by the Wales Audit Office.**

**4. Financial Impact of COVID-19 on the Snowdonia National Park Authority**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer to inform Members of the possible effect of the crisis on the Authority’s 2020/21 budget, to facilitate responsible governance.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented his report and gave a Power Point presentation.

The Chief Finance Officer stated that as a result of “lockdown” the Authority’s Information Centres, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Yr Ysgwrn and the car parks were now closed to the public. These represented the Authority’s main income generating sources and estimates had been prepared of the possible financial impact of the crisis on the Authority, per quarter, in 2020/21. In the first quarter, the net effect would be a potential loss of approximately £500k and if the lockdown were to continue until the end of September, the deficit would be closer to £1 million. If it lasted until the end of the financial year, taking account of seasonal reduction in income, the Authority may face a potential loss of approximately £1.3 million. As a percentage, the net loss being faced by the Authority was approx. 20% of the overall budget, compared to Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council, who face losses of around 10%. He advised that the Chairman and officers were seeking additional funds from Welsh Government although, whilst there were some positive signals, no assurances that they would contribute towards the funding gap had been given. The Chief Finance Officer stated that if no additional grant was received from the Welsh Government, the Authority had uncommitted reserves of approx. £800k available in the first instance, but once this had been committed there would be a need to consider future cuts to services and priorities.

Members were also provided with details of the current Furlough scheme, which applies to 37 of the Authority's staff, and allows the Authority to reclaim up to 80% of rested staff's employment costs from HMRC whilst staff receive 100% of their salaries. However, the scheme covers only 3% of the pension costs, which reduces the actual contribution to 67%. The headline figure of 80% will be reduced to 60% at the end of June, which means that the Authority will have to bear even more of the cost.

The Chief Executive advised that the Welsh National Park Authorities have a good working relationship with the current Welsh Government staff, and whilst he was hopeful that some losses could be reclaimed, he was not in a position to confirm anything at this time.

The Chair of Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board raised concerns that the "New Normal" was unlikely to be good news for Plas Tan y Bwlch, and that the current Business Plan would not apply for some time, if at all. There was a need to look at future options for the Centre, and the Chief Executive agreed there were difficult decisions ahead which will be taken in consultation with Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board.

The Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee asked the Chief Executive to pass on Members' appreciation to the Authority's staff for their work. He also noted that the staff retention scheme was not sustainable over the long term, and asked whether the Authority had sought the support of the Trade Unions to put pressure on the Government? The Chief Executive confirmed there had been consultation with the Trade Unions but advised that as the furlough scheme is reduced, the business case weakens and the Authority's position will not improve unless compensation for the loss of income is guaranteed.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report and the anticipated funding gap resulting from the Covid-19 crisis in 2020/21.**
- 2. to support all efforts by the Chairman and Officers to secure appropriate funding options from the Welsh Government.**

### **5. Annual Governance Statement 2019/20**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care to approve the Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and asked Members to note that:-

Broadcasting Committees (page 47): the first line of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph will be amended to read "As part of the Chairman's governance review, and following earlier discussions at the Members Working Group, Members agreed at the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 not to proceed with broadcasting committees".

The Head of Administration and Customer Care advised that she would also update the following:-



Para. 6. Significant Governance Issues:

1. (page 48) if possible, to include the Annual Improvement Report 2019/20 when it is received from the Wales Audit Office.
2. (page 49) to add a paragraph on Examination under the Well-being of Future Generation Act 2015 to reflect the Wales Audit Office's report presented to the Authority today.
3. (page 50) the Risk Profile will be amended to reflect the current situation as the report refers to the risks reported to the Authority on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Arising thereon, Members made the following observations:-

- a Member asked whether in future, the report could be strengthened in the way it responds to the headline principle of good governance. There was a need to tie in the strategic context when responding to the headings.
- in response, officers explained that this was an annual statement, but agreed that these were areas that would be looked at for future reports.
- Members noted that although it had been agreed that the Authority would not be broadcasting its Committees at the present time, officers were continuing to consider all available options.
- as a matter of interest, a Member advised that Conwy County Borough Council had recently live-streamed their Planning Committee on Zoom. It may have been a different version of the software, but officers agreed to discuss this with their counterparts at Conwy County Borough Council.

**RESOLVED**

1. **to note the report.**
2. **subject to including the amendments as outlined, to approve the Annual Governance Statement incorporating the Snowdonia National Park Authority's Statement on Internal Control for the 2019/20 financial year.**

6. **Calendar of Meetings 2020/21**

Submitted – A timetable of meetings for the period 2020/2021.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services presented the timetable of meetings 2020/21 for adoption, with a caveat that under present circumstances some changes to the meeting schedule may become necessary.

**RESOLVED to approve the timetable for 2020/21 which may be subject to further amendment.**

7. **Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and confirmed that the Independent Remuneration Panel had not changed any aspect of the draft report, previously presented to the Performance & Resources Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019, insofar as it related to the National Park Authorities.

**RESOLVED to note the report and accept the recommendations, as submitted.**

**The meeting ended at 15.25**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2020**

Mr. Owain Wyn (Chairman) (Welsh Government)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Elinor Gwynn, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

**In attendance**

Mr. Matthew Edwards, Mr. Alan Hughes – Audit Wales.

**Apology**

Councillor Freya Bentham.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman, on behalf of Members, sympathised with Councillor John Pughe Roberts, whose partner was very seriously ill.
- (2) The Chairman conveyed best wishes to Councillor Freya Bentham who was expecting a baby very soon.
- (3) The Chairman advised, that although today's meeting had been scheduled in the calendar of meetings, it was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-
  - a Notice of the Meeting had been published, and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
  - the meeting was not open to the public.
  - the meeting was being recorded only to assist in verifying the minutes.
- (4) The Chairman reminded Members of the main rules of debate:-
  - Members were asked to keep their comments short and to the point.
  - Members should make every effort to speak once only on any particular agenda item, except with the Chairman's consent.
- (5) The Chairman outlined the main points of the First Minister's recent review (28<sup>th</sup> May 2020).
  - the 'R' rate remains too close to 1, which limits the ability to make many changes.
  - there were some minor changes to outdoor activities e.g. meeting members of other households and "staying local" rather than "staying home".
  - an early signal was given to non-essential retailers to make use of the next three weeks to begin the process of preparing to re-open.
  - relaxation of access to some areas was likely and Natural Resources Wales had published guidance on how this could happen.

- (6) The Chairman advised that he had circulated his discussion paper, “Snowdonia and the New Normality” to Members, and he would be grateful to receive any submissions by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The paper asked 3 specific questions and Members were encouraged to focus on the impact of Covid-19 on the Authority’s 3 long term plans, Cynllun Eryri, Eryri Local Development Plan and the Corporate Plan.
- (7) Members were told that the Chief Executive and his staff were continuing to plan and respond to the rapidly changing situation alongside key partners.
- (8) The Authority’s staff (planning, conservation, forestry and agriculture) had now re-commenced site visits etc.
- (9) All of the Carneddau project staff had now been appointed, with the last of these taking up their posts on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.
- (10) Members, at the special Authority Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, were advised that an application for financial support had been submitted to the Welsh Government on behalf of the 3 Welsh National Park Authorities, seeking compensation for loss of commercial income. The Chief Executive had now been advised that the application (for the first quarter) had not been supported. The Chairman asked the Chief Executive to provide further details on the setback.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the bid had not been approved as it had not met the £1 million threshold for the quarter. At a recent meeting with officers from the Welsh Government the Chief Executive was asked why the Authority had not furloughed more staff and what money saving measures had been put in place. The Chief Executive advised that the Authority had furloughed 37 staff and had identified £800k of savings by closing down the commercial element of its business. He confirmed that further bids were now being prepared and a meeting had been arranged between the Chairs and Chief Executives of the 3 Welsh National Park Authorities and the Deputy Minister, who was aware of the seriousness of the situation. Members noted that the Welsh Government had already spent £2 billion in response to Covid-19 and that future funding would be limited. The Chief Executive explained that he had reminded Welsh Government officers that the Authority’s baseline budget was already -5% less than it should be and they had agreed to review the matter.

The Chief Executive also stated that the published guidance by Natural Resources Wales to allow access to the countryside was not available in the Welsh language until tomorrow, and that Members would be provided with copies of the document once it became available.

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the application for financial support had not been wholly refused and that further discussions were underway. He reiterated that as a percentage, the net loss of income faced by the Authority was approx. 20% of the overall budget compared to Local Authorities, who face losses of around 10%. Local Authorities have now been awarded £78m which will meet approx. 60% of their losses. Should the National Park Authorities receive a similar amount, this would certainly ease the financial burden.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive recommended that as there were no assurances that the Authority would be compensated for loss of income, a meeting of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board would be convened. He explained that the Authority generates income from five main areas, the Planning Service, Information Centres, Car Parks, Yr Ysgwrn and Plas Tan y Bwlch, and as the first three areas were expected to recover in time and Yr Ysgwrn had a different staffing model, and could make savings by not employing seasonal staff, it had now become apparent that urgent decisions would need to be made on how to proceed at Plas Tan y Bwlch.

Members were disappointed that the amount of funding required to support the National Park Authorities was not forthcoming as it would be a relatively small amount for the Welsh Government.

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2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of personal interest were made in respect of any item.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them (electronically) as a true record.

4. **2020 Audit Plan**

Submitted – The Audit Wales 2020 Audit Plan.

Reported – The Chairman welcomed Mr. Matthew Edwards and Mr. Alan Hughes from Audit Wales to the meeting to present their report.

Mr. Matthew Edwards addressed the meeting and advised that the Wales Audit Office had been rebranded, and in future would be known as Audit Wales. He advised that the 2020 Audit Plan made reference to the impact of Covid-19 throughout.

Mr. Alan Hughes presented the 2020 Audit Plan and the Audit of Financial Statements in detail. He confirmed there were no factors which were specific to the Snowdonia National Park Authority and that the statements applied to all public bodies.

The Head of Finance confirmed that a notice had been placed on the Authority's website advising of the delay in completing the 2019/20 statement of accounts due to Covid-19 which he anticipated would be finalised by the end of the month.

The Chief Executive expressed his disappointment that performance audit work, scheduled for this year, had been suspended. The National Park Authorities, as early adopters of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, had agreed that the performance Audit Programme 2020 should focus on evaluating performance in line with the sustainable development "Five Ways of Working" element. Reviewing "Resilience of Service" was not what the Authority, as a fee paying customer, had agreed in 2018. The level of fees was further discussed and Audit Wales stated that the fee had remained the same as it was previously - there was no profit element, and it was challenging to accomplish the work at this price.

The Chief Finance Officer provided Members with further details of the McCloud judgement which had required a review of public sector pensions. He confirmed it was no longer a concern as it was already built into Actuaries' figures.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Authority, thanked Matthew Edwards and Alan Hughes for attending to present the 2020 Audit Plan. The Chairman also thanked the Authority's Head of Finance and his team for their work.

**RESOLVED to note the contents of the 2020 Audit Plan.**

**5. Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2019/20**

This item was deferred and will be presented to the next meeting of the Authority for approval.

**6. Corporate Plan 2020/21**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services together with a copy of the Corporate Plan 2020/21, for adoption.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and Corporate Plan 2020/21 and advised that the report was normally submitted to Members before the end of April each year, but was being presented later this year due to Covid-19.

The Director of Corporate Services provided background and advised that, although the Authority's core well-being objectives remained unchanged, the Covid-19 pandemic had resulted in the need to make changes to service priorities and some of the well-being objectives and corresponding activities, which he outlined to Members in detail.

Members considered the Corporate Plan 2020/21 and made the following observations:-

- in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority was required to adopt the Corporate Plan on an annual basis.
- a Member emphasised that the Plan should strike a balance between protecting its staff and the public, with the benefits of being able to go outdoors to make safe use of the National Park for the future. The Director of Corporate Services explained that making reference in the Corporate Plan to the aim of protecting staff and residents, recreational users and the NHS against the spread of Covid-19 was intended to reflect that this was not business as usual and that a different approach was needed. The need to work with key partners to manage the area to deal with Covid-19 was now included as part of the Plan for the future.
- a Member said the Authority needs to be mindful of tensions that have developed in communities across the National Park when easing out of lockdown.
- the Authority's response to the virus was commended by Members, and the challenge now was to plan carefully for a new future and not just to reflect the old order. Where there are challenges there are also opportunities and biodiversity was one area which had benefitted.
- the Chief Executive stated that Members will be given the opportunity to present their aspirations and advise officers on their priorities for the future at the next meeting of the Members' Working Group when they consider the Chairman's discussion paper "Eryri and the New Normality".

- the Chief Executive reassured Members that work to attract external funding was not a new objective and was already being done, but agreed that this was an area which needs to be revisited in the future.
- a Member raised a general point relating to sourcing of new income streams which tied in with how the National Park Authority markets itself. He felt that individual members of staff undertaking marketing work was poor practice and the Authority should adopt a single marketing framework.
- the Chief Executive reminded Members that the Authority also needs to meet the challenges presented by Brexit.
- the Chief Executive agreed that the new objectives and service priorities being developed should better reflect the Welsh Government's objectives for designated landscapes.
- Members were asked to note that the draft Improvement and Well-being Objectives and the draft Corporate Plan would be adopted by the "Authority" and not by a "Committee" as stated in the Welsh report.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. to adopt the draft Improvement and Well-being Objectives, as submitted.**
- 2. to adopt the Corporate Plan 2020/21 and approve its publication.**

### **7. Corporate Work Programme 2020/21**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to present the Authority's Corporate Work Programme for 2020-21.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and Corporate Work Programme which outlines the projects, initiatives and specific actions that will be undertaken in order to fulfil the Authority's Improvement and Well-being Objectives and Service Priorities. The Director of Corporate Services reminded Members that they had agreed to extend the current objectives with some revisions being made to the work programme to mitigate the implications of Covid-19 on the Authority's work.

Members considered the Corporate Work Programme 2020/21 in detail and made the following observations:-

- a Member advised upon some local opportunities available which contribute to health and wellbeing such as "Go Gwynedd Girls" who encourage physical activity for girls, and that "Gloywi Iaith" courses were also available locally to enhance the use of the Welsh language.
- a Member noted that the Authority's volunteering approach was similar to its marketing approach, where there seemed to be a range of different ways for volunteers to interact with the Authority – a more integrated approach should be taken with a single point of entry for every form of volunteering.
- on the same point, a Member reported that Natural Resources Wales had suffered the same difficulties but had since created a successful one-way contact system which could also be of benefit to the Authority. It was suggested that officers could discuss this further with NRW.
- a Member asked whether the Authority had considered what it would no longer be able to deliver?

- whilst noting it was going to be a difficult year for scrutiny and for delivery, a Member asked whether the Corporate Work Programme could, in future, be more specific, as there was a great variation in how work was described, and also, that Members should receive a copy of the draft Corporate Work Programme much earlier in the year to get a better feel for annual work programmes and how resources are allocated.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to formally adopt the Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2020-21.**

### **8. Annual Report on Actual Treasury Management Activity 2019/20**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer detailing the Authority’s Treasury Management activity during 2019/2020, for information.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and confirmed that the Authority’s funds and investments continued to be secure.

Arising thereon, a Member asked for clarification on the authorisation process should borrowing need to take place. The Chief Finance Officer outlined the procedure, which was approved by the Authority at its meeting in February 2020 when limits were adopted. Currently, there was no expectation that the Authority would need to borrow, but if Covid-19 continued and the Welsh Government do not provide additional funding, then a report would be presented to the Authority either in July or September to advise of any borrowing intentions.

## **RESOLVED to note the report, for information.**

### **9. The Authority’s Risk Profile**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to update Members on the Authority’s Risk Profile taking into consideration the effect of COVID-19, and to remove one completed risk from the register.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the risk register and outlined the main changes.

Members and officers discussed the following in detail:-

- Risk Ref 2 - Income Generation Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch) the risk remained High but the score had now been increased further as a result of closing the Centre due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Members were advised that arrangements were in place for the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, and a report with recommended options for the future would be presented to either the Performance and Resources Committee or the Authority on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The Chair of Plas Tan y Bwlch Board asked whether Consultants had been engaged to prepare a Business Plan for Plas Tan y Bwlch with the aim of breaking even at the end of two years. He felt this was no longer feasible bearing in mind the effect of the pandemic on accommodation, education and the learning sectors.

In response, the Director of Corporate Services advised that Consultants had not been appointed and that the Board would be provided with detailed information on the 1<sup>st</sup> July to consider options for Plas Tan y Bwlch over the next 6 months, 12 months and 2 years. A report, with recommendations, would then be presented to either the Performance and Resources Committee or the Authority on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Arising thereon, Members noted that the problems faced by Yr Ysgwrn were easier to manage because the staff burden could be reduced in the short term, but still felt that in future, Yr Ysgwrn, the Information Centres and the Planning Service should be included on the risk register as their income streams were also going to be reduced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Risk Ref 3 – Income Generation Target (Car Parks). Members noted that the risk has risen from Low to High as all car parks remain closed following the Covid-19 lockdown measures implemented by the UK and Welsh Governments.
- Risk Ref 7 – Carneddau Landscape Partnership. A Member noted concerns that the risk was shown as reduced whilst the main aim of the partnership was to connect local people with the landscape. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that this had been looked at from a financial perspective only and that the interpretation and engagement element had not been included as a risk. He agreed to discuss the matter further with officers.
- Risk Ref 14 – The Effect of Covid-19 on the Authority’s Work. In response to a concern from a Member, the Chief Executive advised that measures were in place to support the well-being and resilience of the Authority’s staff. He stated that Microsoft Team meetings and one to one meetings were being held regularly, What’s App groups had been established, and officers have telephone conversations with external staff. The Authority provides a free counselling service (Medra), allows more flexible working arrangements, and staff have social interaction and provide support for each other.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to remove the “completed” risk relating to completion of the Partnership Agreement for the LIFE Celtic Rainforests project from the Register.**
- 3. subject to including Yr Ysgwrn, Tourist Information Centres and the Planning Service on the register, to approve the Authority’s Risk Profile, as submitted.**

#### **10. Members’ Working Group Reports**

Submitted – Reports of the Members’ Working Group meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.



Arising thereon,  
Minutes dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

4. Well-being Objectives

The Chief Executive stated that he would provide Members with a copy of the reports prepared by Grant Peisley and Abigail Tweed, and also the report prepared by Dafydd Thomas. Additionally, the Chief Executive will present a short report to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> July to identify 5 or 6 areas which can be put forward for consultation.

Members could then further consider well-being objectives towards the end of the year, subject to having a clearer understanding of the Authority's position with regard to Brexit and Covid-19.

**RESOLVED to note the reports.**

11. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted – An oral update on recent meetings of organisations which Members have attended as representatives of the Authority.

Mr. Owain Wyn - Europarc Webinar

The Chairman had recently joined an Europarc Webinar and encouraged Members to participate in similar events, as development opportunities were now limited.

**The meeting ended at 11.45**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

Mr. Owain Wyn (Chairman) (Welsh Government)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

**Apologies**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Judith Humphreys, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Elinor Gwynn.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman advised, that today's meeting was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-
  - a Notice of the Special Meeting had been published, and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
  - the meeting was not open to the public.
  - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.
  
- (2) The Chairman reminded Members of the main rules of debate:-
  - Members were asked to keep their comments short and to the point.
  - Members should make every effort to speak once only on any particular agenda item, except with the Chairman's consent.
  
- (3) The Chairman outlined the main points of the First Minister's recent review (10<sup>th</sup> July 2020).
  - the 'R' rate remains under 1 and was continuing to fall.
  - restrictions for staying local and opening of outdoor facilities were eased on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
  - self-contained accommodation, without shared facilities, were allowed to reopen from 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
  - the hospitality sector (pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes) were able to open outdoors, and indoor visitor attractions, with the exception of those operating underground, were allowed to open from 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
  - museums, galleries etc., and remaining tourist accommodation, which were closed because of the additional risks of shared facilities, will open from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Indoor hospitality, that can operate in a coronavirus-safe way was being considered for reopening from the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020.

- (4) The Chairman provided an outline of the issues discussed with Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government, with the National Parks Wales (NPW) Executive held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020:-
- updates on the experiences of relaxing the restrictions over the weekend.
  - funding requests from the National Parks to compensate for the loss of commercial income was accepted in principle for the 1<sup>st</sup> financial quarter, subject to a formal application.
  - NPW gave notice of intention to contribute to the Recovery Plan.
  - the Chairman gave details of discussions held by SNPA members at their recent Working Group meeting and mentioned some of the ideas put forward by Members in response to the new normal.
- (5) The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 states that the Chairman, in consultation with the “Proper” Officer, should determine the date and time of the AGM, which must be held before the end of 2020. The Chairman advised that his 8 year term as a Welsh Government Member was ending on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021, and unless circumstances of Covid-19 changed significantly from now until the AGM, he formally gave notice that he would not be standing for re-election as Chair and asked Members to consider who they would like to propose as his successor. The Chairman then gave formal notice that the Annual General Meeting would be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.
- (6) The Chairman reported that following discussions with the Monitoring Officer (Proper Officer), it had been concluded that the Annual General Meeting could be held remotely without the need to change the Authority’s Standing Orders. The concern had been the need to hold a secret ballot for appointments to the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair, and whether two meetings of the Authority would be required to amend the Standing Orders.

The Monitoring Officer outlined the new procedure for electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Authority:-

- he advised that Members would receive a letter explaining the process, together with a nomination form, to be returned to the Chief Executive no later than 5 p.m. on the day prior to the Annual General Meeting.
  - relevant Members would then be contacted and advised of their nomination, to give them the opportunity to prepare a short address should they decide to take up the invitation.
  - once candidates for the Authority Chair had delivered their address, the meeting would be adjourned (for 15 minutes), and all Members would be asked to e.mail the Monitoring Officer, to register the name of their preferred candidate.
  - the meeting would then be re-convened and the Monitoring Officer would announce the successful candidate.
  - the process would duly be repeated to elect a Vice-Chairman.
- (7) The Chairman reported that the Europarc Federation Conference, due to be held from 27 to 30 October 2020, at Seewinkel National Park, Austria had now been postponed.

An online Conference was being arranged to take place remotely on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September based on the theme “What skills and capacity do Protected Areas need to implement the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy in the post Covid-19 world?”. The Chairman suggested that one Member and one member of staff could participate, as there were two spaces available for Snowdonia, and if any Member was interested, they should contact the Chief Executive as soon as possible.

- (8) The Designated Landscapes Seminar due to be held in the Brecon Beacons National Park in October, had also been postponed.
- (9) Members were reminded to send any comments on the proposals to amend the Cynllun Eryri Action Plan to Angela Jones, Partnerships Manager, before the end of the month.
- (10) Finally, the Chairman took the opportunity to thank the staff for their work in monitoring the areas closed to the public, the re-opening, and the excellent public engagement and communication work undertaken over the past few weeks. The Chairman also thanked those volunteers who had assisted with the work on Snowdon over the weekend.

#

## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of personal interest were made in respect of any item.

## 3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them (electronically) as a true record.

## 4. **Revenue and Capital Outturn 2019/20**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer comparing, at service area level, the Authority’s budgeted revenue and capital spending plans for 2019/2020 and the actual outturn expenditure for the year.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report detailing the virements, transfers and carry-forwards of revenue and capital budgets, for formal approval. He advised that, although the Authority’s financial position for 2020/21 remained unclear, the National Park Authorities had received confirmation that the Welsh Government would reimburse an element of the loss in commercial income for the first quarter, which hopefully would make the anticipated gap in the funding manageable.

The Chief Finance Officer stated that it was not ideal for the Authority to carry-over such a substantial amount (para. 3.2) but assured Members that the report and appendices provided an accurate account of the Authority’s financial position. In response to a previous suggestion by a Member, the Chief Finance Officer did not agree that an internal audit report was necessary, given that the Welsh Government’s grant procedures were outside the Authority’s control.

Members considered the report in detail and made the following observations:-

- a Member asked the Chief Finance Officer:-
  - to clarify how many of the transfers were underspends from different projects?

- why a number of vacant posts had not been filled, and
- the Authority had a significant amount of money that would help the local economy if it was used effectively.
- the Chief Finance Officer advised that detailed figures for individual projects were outlined in Appendix 3, page 35 of the report, and that if any Member required further details in this regard, they should contact the relevant Director of Service.
- the Chief Executive advised that there were several reasons why some of the vacant posts were not filled, one reason being in anticipation of a reduction of -5% in the Authority's budget.
- in light of the unprecedented situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, and the significant loss of income for the Authority, Members agreed that the surplus of £350,882 should be added to the Authority's reserves.
- with regard to the current number of staff on the furlough scheme, the Chief Executive expected most of the staff to have returned to their posts by the end of August, apart from staff at Plas Tan y Bwlch.

## **RESOLVED**

1. **to note the contents of the outturn report and approve the virements in the revenue and capital budgets outlined in part 3 (as detailed in appendix 1).**
  2. **to approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves (£3,294,522 net movement) as outlined in the table under paragraph 3.2.**
  3. **to note the final position of directorates and services with regard to budgetary control (paragraphs 3.3 to 3.7 and appendix 2).**
  4. **to approve the allocation of slippage and commitments (£354,166) in appendix 4.**
  5. **to approve the allocation of the balance of additional income and underspend from the 2019/20 financial year (£350,882) to increase the Authority's General Balances (paragraph 4.2).**
  6. **to approve the Capital Financing Statement (part 5).**
  7. **to retrospectively approve the £100,000 budget virements (paragraph 6.3)**
5. **Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) 2020 Regulations**  
Submitted – An information report by the Chief Executive on how the Authority undertook its responsibilities in relation to the Regulations.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report in detail and advised that the Regulations were now in place until early January 2021. He stated that, in his opinion, the 5-mile travel limit had been the most effective tool in protecting Snowdonia, and the Chief Executive conveyed his thanks to the North Wales Police for their work in enforcing the restrictions.

Members and officers further discussed the use of toilet facilities around Snowdon and Llyn Tegid and officers also confirmed that litter capacity had been increased to prevent potential issues. Currently, visitor numbers were fairly low due to the weather and officers were continuing to monitor patterns of behaviour.

Arising thereon, a Member asked that the minutes record the Authority's gratitude to the First Minister for his firm and calm response to the pandemic, a stance taken with independence of mind.

Members also conveyed their appreciation to the North Wales Police Authority for their invaluable assistance and to the Authority's staff for working tirelessly throughout the crisis.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

6. **Strategic and Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Plan 2021-26**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive for members to consider and approve strategic/wellbeing objectives for the purpose of an informal consultation.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and appendices and advised upon the slight delay to the timeline. Members were asked to agree the three outcome areas, outlined in the report, as a basis for informal consultation over the summer period. The Members' Working Group would then consider the consultation outcomes on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and the Chief Executive asked Members to delegate authority to the Performance and Resources Committee to approve the priorities and objectives at their meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, prior to formal consultation with stakeholders.

Members considered the report and made the following comments:-

- the report reflected what had been discussed, and the addition of point 2.1.3 was supported by Members.
- a Member asked whether there was an overlap between the Chair's "New Normal" report and the new strategic and wellbeing objectives and Corporate Plan 2021-26. The Chairman advised that his report focused on the New Normal in terms of the 3 key Authority documents. Arising thereon, the Chief Executive stated that the Strategic and Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Plan 2021-26 focused on how the Authority sets its priorities and spends its funds, whilst the outcome of the discussions on the Chairman's New Normal had focused on more strategic issues such as the Marsden report, tourism tax etc.

**RESOLVED**

1. to note the contents of the report and Member involvement to date.
2. to receive the minutes of the task and finish group dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (appendix 2).
3. to approve the 3 outcome areas as identified in paragraph 1.7 of the report.
4. to approve the outcomes as the basis of informal consultation with stakeholders over the summer period.
5. to also seek views of stakeholders as to what success looks like on such matters.
6. to delegate authority to the Performance and Resources Committee to agree the priorities and objectives at their meeting in November, prior to formal consultation with stakeholders.

7. **Members' Working Group Report**

Submitted – Report of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

8. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted – An oral update on recent meetings of organisations which Members had attended as representatives of the Authority.

Ms. Tracey Evans advised that she had recently chaired two meetings between the Snowdonia National Park and the Outdoor Sector. Officers from the Engagement Section had provided an update on their work and on the success of the volunteering scheme, which had been outstanding. The meetings had strengthened the relationship between the National Park and the Outdoor Sector and feedback had been very positive.

**RESOLVED to thank the Member and note the report.**

9. **Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents**

**Plas Tan y Bwlch Options**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Authority approval for the exemption of the subsequent report.

**RESOLVED that the “Plas Tan y Bwlch Options” report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined.**

10. **Plas Tan y Bwlch Options**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to enter into formal consultation on future options for Plas Tan y Bwlch.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report, and outlined the main points. He provided Members with the background and reported on the recent deliberations of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. He had been asked by the Board to provide clarification on two key questions. Firstly, he confirmed that the Authority, subject to formal approval of the application, would be able to recoup some loss of income from the Welsh Government for the 1<sup>st</sup> financial quarter. Secondly, if the Authority decides to proceed with the grant-funded project to redevelop and upgrade the Centre, provided the grant is broadly used for National Park purposes, it was unlikely there would be any clawback from the Welsh Government at some future date.

Members considered the report and discussed the following comments and suggestions in detail:-

- to consider new business models and that a decision on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch should not be taken today.
- all options should be considered in parallel, e.g. working in partnership, long term leasing, establishing the market value, looking at competitors, sponsorship etc.
- to avoid any uncertainty for staff, the Authority should start the process of formal consultation with staff and Trade Unions on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.
- that managing Plas Tan y Bwlch as a wedding venue or bed and breakfast facility does not meet statutory purposes, and the Authority had never fully established what value Plas provided in terms of education.

- the benefits of its location, the gardens, the trees and history of the house were all positives and concerns were raised that a decision was being taken during the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- many businesses receive an element of subsidy and Plas Tan y Bwlch should be supported and maintained in the short term.
- relocating staff from Penrhyndeudraeth to Plas Tan y Bwlch and repurposing the H.Q. building. Plas Tan y Bwlch was an iconic house and a valuable local resource.
- there were many reasons why the Authority had been unable to run the Centre on a commercially viable basis, such as a lack of entrepreneurship, promises made and not met, not having the necessary skills, and over the years there had been considerable use of officer time to try to improve the business.
- hostel businesses were severely affected by the pandemic and creating a bunkhouse at the Centre was not currently feasible.
- to consider redeploying staff to different roles in the Authority to try and save jobs.
- Members were advised on the outcome of the tender process and that listed building consent had now been granted.
- the Chief Executive thanked Members for their input. He supported the decision to maintain a simple business model until the Authority had more information, and to undertake some of the redevelopment work. Ideas from staff would be fed into any future proposals.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report and recommendations by the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board.**
- 2. in view of the number of staff who could potentially be affected, that the Authority should start the process of formal consultation with staff and Trade Unions on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.**
- 3. that the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board, together with the Chairs and Vice Chair of the Authority, consider alternative business models over the next three months (including working with other organisations), to assess how many posts can be saved.**
- 4. that the Authority should further consider the matter at its meeting in September, unless a special Authority meeting is called prior to that date.**
- 5. in the meantime, to agree in principle, that the proposed improvements, previously sanctioned by the Authority, should proceed, in order to place the centre in the best possible position to continue with some form of alternative business model or for partnering with others. This is subject to a decision by the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board together with the Chairs and Vice Chairman on which elements of the re-development should proceed.**

**The meeting ended at 13.55**



**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Hannah Bentham, Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Mrs. Jo Worrall, Ms. Helen Pye, Ms. Angela Jones, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

**Apology**

Mr. Neil Martinson.

As the AGM was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Authority.

1. **Chairman**

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones for Chairman.

**Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones was elected Chairman of the Authority.**

The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

2. **Vice-Chairman**

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing four Members for Vice-Chairman, one of whom had withdrawn his nomination. Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes and Mr. Owain Wyn were invited to address the meeting.

Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd and Annwen Hughes both congratulated Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones on his appointment as Chairman and took up the invitation to address the meeting, introduce themselves to Members and provide details of their background, experience and aspirations.

Mr. Owain Wyn advised the meeting that he also wished to withdraw his nomination and took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones on his appointment to the Chair. He stated that it had been a privilege to serve as an Authority Member for the past 7 years and as Chairman for the last 3 years. He also paid tribute to the Chief Executive and all the Authority's staff and asserted that he was available to assist and support the new Chairman at any time.

**Councillor Annwen Hughes was elected Vice-Chair of the Authority.**

The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

### 3. **Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) the Chairman thanked Members for their support and took the opportunity to thank the former Chairman, Mr. Owain Wyn for his dedication and commitment to the Authority's work during his time in the Chair. Councillor Jones, as a Member of the Authority, and Vice Chairman for the past year, assured Members that he would carry out the duties of Chairman to the best of his abilities and that he was well aware of the importance of the role at this very challenging time.
- (2) Conferences and Seminars  
Members were advised that due to Covid-19, the Europarc Conference had been held remotely and was attended by Mr. Brian Angell and Mr. Tim Jones. In addition, the Designated Landscapes Seminar and the National Parks Conference had both been cancelled and were to be re-convened, hopefully, in 2021.
- (3) The Chief Executive advised that two additional capital contributions of £830k and £710k had been received and provided a brief outline of how the new money had been allocated. He confirmed that a detailed report on allocation of all grants would be presented to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- (4) The Chairman confirmed that the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government, Hannah Blythyn AM, had advised upon the appointment of Mrs. Sarah Hattle as a Member of the Snowdonia National Park Authority for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- (5) the Chairman referred with sadness to the recent death of the prominent artist and sculptor, Mr. John Meirion Morris.
- (6) Members were advised that the Chairs and Chief Executives of National Parks Wales would be meeting with the Deputy Minister for Housing & Local Government on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.
- (7) the Chairman had recently listened to a very interesting article by Helen Pye, the Authority's Head of Engagement on "Voices of Ceridwen" and would send a link to Members, for information.

### 4. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

### 5. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of personal interest were made in respect of any item.

### 6. **Membership of the Authority**

Submitted - The Chief Executive's report on current membership of the Authority.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and asked Members to confirm that their contact information was correct.

Arising thereon:-

1. it was agreed that the Information Systems Technician would contact all Members individually to offer them assistance in activating their corporate email address.
2. Councillor Freya Bentham would provide the Members' Services Officer with her new home address.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

7. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

**Matters for Information arising from the minutes**

Item No. 4 – Revenue and Capital Outturn 2019/20

As a reminder, the Chief Finance Officer asked Members to note that the Authority had already considered and approved the transfers to and from earmarked reserves at their meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020. (As resolved on page 9 of the minutes).

8 (1) **Notice of Motion**

Submitted – A Notice of Motion by Councillor Elwyn Edwards recommending that the Authority should endorse his statement as submitted.

Members considered the statement in detail and made the following observations:-

- Members welcomed the statement and fully supported its content.
- Members thanked the Chief Executive for his leadership and response to the Covid-19 pandemic and applauded the work, understanding and commitment of all the Authority's staff over a very difficult period.
- Members also thanked the former Chairman for his work during this time.
- Members thanked Councillor Elwyn Edwards for the Notice of Motion.
- the Chief Executive expressed his appreciation to Members on behalf of all the Authority staff, and stated that everyone had learnt a great deal from the experience.

**RESOLVED to endorse the statement, as submitted.**

8 (2) **Notice of Motion**

Submitted – A Notice of Motion by Councillor John Pughe Roberts asking what steps the Authority intends to take, before the Easter holiday in 2021, to alleviate concerns raised by residents who live and work in the National Park, in regard to dealing with parking, camping, campervans and caravans on roadsides, and the litter that is left behind by illegal campers. Councillor Roberts recommended that the matter should be considered by the Members' Working Group.

Members and officers discussed the motion and made the following observations:-

- the Chief Executive advised that each area of the National Park was different and that problems encountered in the North were very different to those faced in the South.
- it was agreed that the Authority would need to work with its partners to address these issues. This was also a planning policy issue for the future.
- the Chief Executive would further discuss the matter with Councillor Roberts and officers would prepare reports to be presented to the Members' Working Group for Member scrutiny and input.
- a Member felt it should be considered as part of the sustainable tourism approach recently supported at a meeting of the Working Group.

**RESOLVED that a report be presented to a meeting of the Members' Working Group to be held early in December 2020.**

9. **Action Log**

Submitted – A log of strategic actions arising from decisions taken during meetings of the Authority, for information and action.

Authority Meeting 25.09.19

Action Item 7 – Committee Vacancies

These actions were now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Authority Meeting 03.06.20

Action Item 9 – The Authority’s Risk Profile

These actions were now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

**RESOLVED to note the Action Log and remove the actions as outlined.**

10. **Audit of Snowdonia National Park Authority 2020-21 Improvement Plan**

Submitted – A report by the Auditor General for Wales, for information.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report on behalf of Audit Wales.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

11. **Appointment of Members to serve on Committees, Panels, Working Groups and External Representation**

Submitted - A report by the Chief Executive to appoint Members to serve on the following Committees, Panels, Working Groups and External Representation.

Arising thereon, Members were advised that all the Committees, Working Groups etc., were vacant and the names of previous memberships were included for information only. Members were also asked, where possible, to try to keep to the constitution of the Authority itself (2:1).

**RESOLVED**

1. **to appoint Members as follows:-**

(1) **COMMITTEES**

i) **Planning and Access Committee - All Authority Members**

ii) **Performance and Resources Committee - All Authority Members**

iii) **Standards Committee (Term of Office established by the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001)**

**Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Philip Capper; Vacancy.**

(One Vacancy remains for the new Welsh Government Member)

**+ 3 Independent Members**

(2) **PANELS**

i) **Single Status Grading Appeals Panel**

**3 Members + 2 substitute Members to be drawn from the Standards Committee membership by the Standards Committee**

**(3) WORKING GROUPS**

- i) **Members' Working Group** - All Authority Members
- ii) **Local Joint Working Group**  
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Judith Humphreys, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Vacancy.  
(One Vacancy remains for the new Welsh Government Member)
- iii) **Yr Ysgwrn Management Board**  
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Powell Roberts; Mr. Owain Wyn.
- iv) **Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**  
Councillor Judith Humphreys; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones.

**(4) AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

- i) **Celyn, Tegid and Tryweryn Advisory Conference**  
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Gethin Glyn Williams;  
Mr. Brian Angell.
- ii) **Fforwm Eryri**  
Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones (Chairman)  
Councillor Annwen Hughes (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Mr. Brian Angell.
- iii) **Local Access Forums**  
**South:** Councillor John Pughe Roberts  
**North:** Mr. Tim Jones
- iv) **Eryri Equality Forum**  
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd

**(5) TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

- i) **Compliance**  
To be disbanded as recommended by the Authority at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- ii) **Centres**  
Councillors Philip Capper, Alwyn Gruffydd, Wyn Ellis Jones,  
John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams.
- iii) **Assets Sub-Group**  
Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Gethin Glyn Williams;  
Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Tracey Evans, Mr. Owain Wyn.  
(In Reserve: Mr. Tim Jones)

- (iv) **Learning Strategy**  
Councillors Alwyn Griffiths, Judith Humphreys;  
Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Neil Martinson, Vacancy.  
(One Vacancy remains for the new Welsh Government Member)
  - (v) **Communication**  
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd;  
Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Neil Martinson, Vacancy.  
(One Vacancy remains for the new Welsh Government Member)
  - (vi) **Europarc Youth Manifesto Group**  
Councillors Judith Humphreys, John Pughe Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans.
  - (vii) **Website Focus Group**  
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Neil Martinson,  
Mr. Tim Jones.
  - (viii) **Traffic Management Task and Finish Group**  
Councillors Edgar Owen, John Pughe Roberts; Ms Tracey Evans.
  - (ix) **Carbon Account Task and Finish Group**  
Councillor John Pughe Roberts; Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Owain Wyn.
  - (x) **Corporate Plan 2021-2026 Task and Finish Group**  
Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Philip Capper; Mr. Owain Wyn.
- (6) OTHER BODIES
- i) **Trawsfynydd Stakeholder Group**  
Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts
  - ii) **Joint Council for Wales**  
Mr. Owain Wyn
  - iii) **National Trust, Beddgelert Local Liaison Committee**  
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
  - iv) **Campaign for National Parks**  
(The 3 Welsh National Park Authorities are represented by a Member of the Authority which holds the National Parks Wales Secretariat, currently Pembrokeshire Coast National Park)
  - v) **The Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes**  
Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones
  - vi) **Welsh Local Government Association Council**  
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
  - vii) **Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau (SAC)**  
Councillor Freya Hannah Bentham (In Reserve: Cllr. Annwen Hughes)

- viii) **Snowdonia Green Key Initiative Executive Group**  
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
- ix) **Aggregates Regional Technical Statement Members' Group**  
**Mr. Owain Wyn (Reserve Member: Ms Tracey Evans)**  
Arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management agreed to ascertain the current position.
- x) **Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum**  
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
- xi) **Dyfi Biosphere Partnership**  
**Mr. Owain Wyn (In Reserve: Mr. Tim Jones)**
- xii) **Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference**  
**Councillor Freya Hannah Bentham (In Reserve: Cllr. Annwen Hughes)**  
Arising thereon, a Member asked whether the Authority could, in future, consider options for job sharing to support Members who have child/care needs.

12. **Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer for Members to note the contents of the draft Statement of Accounts and the arrangement of the period for inspection by members of the public.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report in detail. He advised upon some minor amendments since Members considered the report in July 2020 and confirmed that the Annual Statement of Accounts would be presented for final approval to a special meeting of the Authority on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Members and officers discussed the report and raised the following matters:-

- to note the confusion of some Members with regard to the Authority's reserves in that it is not "in reserve" but money that has already been earmarked for specific projects.
- a Member raised concerns that access to end of year additional funding in the form of one-off grants from the Welsh Government made it difficult for the Authority to plan ahead. The Chief Executive advised that he would present a report with a summary of all grant-funded projects to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Members will also be asked to highlight their priority areas in anticipation of further grant funding opportunities in the future.

**RESOLVED to note the contents of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts, for information.**

13. **Budget Update**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer to inform members of significant virements. The report also provided Members with an update on progress against the revenue and capital budgets and projected final position for the financial year.

Reported - The Head of Finance presented the report and provided members with further information on the detailed figures.

Members and officers discussed the report in detail and made the following observations:-

- the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that income losses incurred during the first quarter of the pandemic would be reimbursed and was hopeful that the Authority would be compensated up until the end of the year.
- in response to a question, the Head of Finance confirmed that the Welsh Government Grants for Information Technology for Planning, and for Energy Efficiency have already been spent and this was an adjustment to the net budget.
- a Member asked for more information on the Authority's potential liability with regard to Ash Die Back disease. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that Health and Safety issues were being prioritised and agreed to provide the Member with a more detailed update.
- the Chief Executive advised that the type of Ash Die Back disease discovered was not as severe as was first anticipated and that a further report would be presented to a future meeting, for information.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to confirm the proposed action, namely the allocation of monies from reserves (table in para. 3.1).**

#### **14. Annual Report and Improvement Plan 2019-2020**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to adopt the Annual Report and Improvement Plan and approve its publication by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the Annual Report and Improvement Plan. He apologised that some sections of the Welsh report were not translated and this would be corrected prior to publication.

Members and officers discussed the following:-

- why only 75% of the Authority's staff had been appraised over the past 12 months (page 44 of the report). Officers confirmed that work was underway to address the problem with the relevant Heads of Services.
- Members were asked to consider how they would like to re-engage with their personal development for the future. Some Members were not fully aware of how a public authority operated and in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that Member role descriptions were available and that a copy would be provided to the Member as a reminder.

**RESOLVED subject to correcting the Welsh report as outlined, to adopt the Annual Report and Improvement Plan for 2019-2020 and approve its publication by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.**

#### **15. Cynllun Eryri – The New National Park Partnership Management Plan**

Submitted – A report by the Partnerships Manager to adopt the final draft of the new National Park Management Plan 2020-2025.

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report in detail and thanked Members for their valuable input during preparation of the Plan.



Members thanked the Partnerships Manager for her work and for the many opportunities to contribute and comment throughout development of the Management Plan. The Chief Executive advised that once the Management Plan is adopted it would provide the Authority with a more inclusive direction. The new Corporate Plan will adopt much of what is in the document and will be used to work with bodies such as the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and the Local Councils.

**RESOLVED**

1. to note the progress made to date on the production of the Plan.
2. to adopt Cynllun Eryri as the new National Park Management Plan for 2020-25.

16. **Update to Terms of Reference: Fforwm Eryri**

Submitted – A report by the Partnerships Manager to approve revised Terms of Reference for Fforwm Eryri.

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report, which Members considered in detail. Arising thereon, Members were asked to note that the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and the Partnerships Manager, as officers, would attend the meetings but they were not members of the Fforwm as was listed in Annex 1: List of Members. This should be amended to record that the membership was five Members of the Authority.

**RESOLVED subject to noting the amendment as outlined above, to approve the Terms of Reference of Fforwm Eryri as submitted, to reflect its current operation.**

17. **Members' Working Group Report**

Submitted – Report of the Members' Working Group held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

18. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted – An oral update on recent meetings of organisations which Members have attended as representatives of the Authority.

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd

Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum

- had recently attended a 'virtual' meeting and although Hitachi had announced that they were suspending work on the Wylfa Newydd Project, the Forum was still hopeful and waiting the release of the energy white paper.

**RESOLVED to thank the Member and note the report.**

19. **Update on Plas Tan y Bwlch**

Submitted – An update report by the Director of Corporate Services seeking Member approval for a Special Authority Meeting in October to consider options for Plas Tan y Bwlch.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report, and outlined the main points in detail. He provided Members with the background and reported on the recent deliberations of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, where

the Board resolved to recommend to the Authority that the redevelopment work should not go ahead at present, and that subsequently the works had been put on hold. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority Chairman and the Vice Chairman were present at the meeting when the Board arrived at its recommendation.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Board considered a business case for opening the centre as a bed and breakfast type accommodation. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Centre had now opened, and that between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> September had realised an income of £9k over that period, confirming the demand for such a facility. At this meeting, the Board also resolved to recommend that a Special Authority Meeting be convened in October to consider the accuracy of the business model, the range of risks in terms of financial implications, staff restructuring, and in the event of a complete lockdown the loss of business due to Covid-19. The date proposed for the Special Authority meeting was Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, which will be confirmed by the Member Services Officer.

Members considered the report and discussed the following:-

- to note that the reason for not proceeding with the redevelopment work at present was due to the continuing uncertainty with Covid 19.
- a Member felt that Plas Tan y Bwlch was an iconic house and a valuable resource in the local community, and that it should remain in the Authority's ownership.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to agree that the redevelopment work should not proceed at present.**
- 2. that a report be presented to a Special Authority Meeting in October for Members to further consider options for Plas Tan y Bwlch. The report to include a range of scenarios as to occupancy as well as options for Plas Tan y Bwlch in the event of a further full lockdown.**

**The meeting ended at 14.35**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones (Conwy) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Mrs. Jo Worrall, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

**Apologies**

Councillor Judith Humphreys.

Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Director of Planning and Land Management.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman advised that Ministerial responsibility for the National Parks had recently transferred from Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government, to Lesley Griffiths MS, the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs.
- (2) Members were advised that whilst the Authority's Main Office, Information Centres, Plas Tan y Bwlch and Yr Ysgwrn would be closed to the public over the two-week firebreak period from 23<sup>rd</sup> October to the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Authority's car parks and toilets would remain open during this time. #
- (3) The Chairman congratulated the Carneddau Partnership team on the recent successful virtual launch of the Carneddau Partnership project.
- (4) The Chairman welcomed Sarah Hattle, the newly appointed Welsh Government Member, to her first Authority meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of personal interest were made in respect of any item.

**3. Notice of Motion**

Submitted – A Notice of Motion by Mr. Neil Martinson for Covid-19 recovery and mitigation measures.

Arising thereon, the Authority's former Chairman advised that he had refused to present the Notice of Motion as an urgent matter at September's AGM as it had not met the required criteria, and asked Mr. Martinson, through the Chair, to withdraw his motion as the Authority was facing a further period of lockdown and would be considering the Corporate Plan and the Authority's Reserves over the next month.

Mr. Martinson stated he did not wish to withdraw his Motion due to the degree of planning required for the Authority to deliver what was considered necessary over the next 12 months in order to address the increasing levels of unemployment and poverty in the area. Whilst recognising that the National Park Authority has a relatively small role to play, the matter should be considered very seriously.

The Motion was proposed and seconded and Mr. Martinson presented his motion for members to consider:-

- 1) how to mitigate the transport pressures experienced early in the pandemic.
- 2) the need to reprioritise some of the £3 million in Authority reserves.
- 3) to package a spending programme to optimise opportunities to address increasing levels of unemployment, increasing universal credit claims in the area, and the rise in youth unemployment. He asked the Authority to adopt a spending programme to accelerate environmental improvements and provide local training and apprenticeships, to review procurement and create environmental packages to deliver the objectives of the National Park. A small amount could make a difference and should be urgently considered in time to prepare for Easter 2021.

At the conclusion of the presentation, a Member moved, without comment, a motion to proceed to the next item of business. The motion was seconded.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services (Monitoring Officer) advised Members on the Authority's Standing Orders in that the Chairman should permit the mover of the original motion to reply and should then put to the vote the motion to proceed to the next business. If the motion is carried, the original motion shall lapse.

Mr. Martinson replied as follows:-

- that the Authority was not facing up to the issues confronting the National Park or to the problems faced by the people who live there.
- Members had witnessed what had happened with tourist numbers earlier in the year, for example in the Ogwen Valley there were cars being towed away, the provision of only one bus a day and no park and ride service.
- it would take 6 months to address such issues and it was important to discuss these matters.

Members then voted on the motion to proceed to the next business, and the motion was carried.

#### 4. **Membership of the Standards Committee**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to report on the membership of the Standards Committee.

Reported – Members were advised that Mrs Sharon Warnes' term as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee was due for renewal. Members felt that Mrs. Warnes was a respected Member of the Committee and should be offered a second term and arising thereon, noted that the Welsh Government vacancy on the Standards Committee would be filled at the next meeting of the Authority on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**RESOLVED to re-appoint Mrs. Sharon Warnes as an independent member of the Standards Committee for a further term, until 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

5. **Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents**  
**Business Case for continuing with B & B type accommodation at Plas Tan y Bwlch.**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Authority approval for the exemption of the subsequent report.

**RESOLVED that the “Business Case for continuing with B & B type accommodation at Plas Tan y Bwlch” report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined.**

6. **Business Case for continuing with B & B type accommodation at Plas Tan y Bwlch**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to consider options on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report, and outlined the main points. He noted that the recent announcement by the Chancellor to extend the furlough scheme would benefit Plas Tan y Bwlch and also advised that informal discussions had taken place with two organisations, YHA and Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog, who had both shown an interest in working in partnership with the Authority. However, he confirmed that a wider search for partners would continue and Members would be advised on progress.

Members considered the report and discussed the following in detail:-

- Members were in support of the recommended way forward and thanked the Director of Corporate Services for his comprehensive report.
- a Member asked if any of the current managers within the Authority could take up the management responsibility at Plas in the short term. The Director of Corporate Services advised that this had already been considered but there had been no interest shown. He further advised that the intention was to significantly reduce the responsibilities so that a current member of staff could potentially step into the role at a much-reduced salary in comparison to that of the former Head of Business.
- a Member felt that Plas Tan y Bwlch was in a position to address wellbeing and mental health issues, which may arise following the Covid crisis. Plas Tan y Bwlch was a valuable local resource and some of the £3million in reserves should be used in some way to support it. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the intention had been to invest in Plas Tan y Bwlch but as a result of the pandemic, it was no longer viable to run a business which mainly catered for schoolchildren and older adults.
- the Chief Executive stressed there was no intention to dispose of Plas only to provide stability over the next few years.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that Gwynedd Council were leading on a bid to secure UNESCO World Heritage Site status for “The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales” and that Plas Tan y Bwlch would be at the heart of the application with its connection to the slate industry. Councillor Edgar Owen, as Chairman of Gwynedd Council, confirmed that the First Minister supported the bid and he was hopeful that it be would achieved by November 2021 which would result in more visits to Plas Tan y Bwlch.

- a Member noted concerns that running a tourism business did not fit in with the role of a National Park Authority. He agreed that the Authority needed to retain the asset and protect both its national and local heritage as an interim step, but there was a need to revisit and come to a decision as to how this asset helps to deliver National Park purposes and strategies.
- the success of the business in September had shown there was potential for running the Centre as a B&B in the short term, but concerns were noted that decisions on staff re-structuring were being taken during the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. Another concern was that working with partners might not allow the Authority to use the Centre in a way to present its work to the public.
- some Members felt that 'slotting in' a current member of staff to manage the Centre would be a mistake. The role of Manager was crucial to the success of Plas and employing the right person was vital – someone with commercial experience and skills as the Centre had never been commercially viable. Members also discussed the option of buying in expertise externally.
- a Member suggested officers should also consider looking for commercial partnerships, such as Sitwell, owned by private equity, who have capital to invest, which may be the best way to save existing jobs, create new jobs, and retain the asset in a sustainable way.
- Members resolved that officers should continue the dialogue with a range of possible future partners.
- the Chief Finance Officer agreed with the recommendations and advised that transferring the business to another body was not a straightforward task and would take time. This was an interim plan to reduce costs and protect the asset in the meantime.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to continue operating Plas Tan y Bwlch as a B&B type business in the short to medium term.**
- 2. to proceed with staff restructuring as outlined in the report with the provision for a managerial role.**
- 3. that the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board reports on progress to each meeting of the Performance and Resources committee to ensure that all Members of the Authority are appraised of developments.**
- 4. to continue the dialogue with a range of possible future partners.**
- 5. to employ a part time gardener to maintain the gardens.**

**The meeting ended at 11.25**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones (Conwy) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Mr. Emyr Roberts, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey;

**In attendance**

Matthew Edwards, Audit Wales;

1. **Apologies**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Elfed Powell Roberts.  
Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Director of Planning and Land Management.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of personal interest were made in respect of any item.

3. **Statement of Accounts 2019/20**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer for Members to:-

- i) receive and note the “ISA 260” report presented by Audit Wales
- ii) approve the post-audit Statement of Accounts, and
- iii) authorise the Chairman and the Chief Finance Officer to certify the Final Letter of Representation.

Arising thereon, the Chairman reminded Members that a report on the “Review of Reserves” would be presented to the next meeting of the Members’ Working Group or to the Authority meeting in December 2020, at which time Members would have the opportunity to consider the allocation of reserves in detail.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report, the Statement of Accounts and the Final Letter of Representation. He advised that the Authority had received an unqualified audit opinion, as outlined in paragraph 10 of the Audit of Accounts Report.

Members considered the reports and made the following observations:-

- officers were asked to correct a typographical error in the Statement of Accounts (English report) on page 7, paragraph 9, which should read £8,039K.

- officers were asked to confirm, under para. 17 of the Audit of Accounts Report, which lists areas for improvement, what actions were being put in place to address these issues for the future and the proposed timescale. In response, the Head of Finance agreed that working practices had been affected by the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the additional complication of recent staff changes and limited availability of support to check the financial statements before releasing to Audit Wales. The Head of Finance stated he was confident the situation would improve over the next 12 months, adding that more time than usual had been spent addressing issues at Plas Tan y Bwlch. As the business model for Plas had now been simplified, this would not be the case in future. He also stated that he was happy to continue with two fixed asset registers, which on a practical basis, he felt worked adequately.

Mr. Matthew Edwards, Audit Wales, apologised for the delay in joining the meeting owing to connectivity problems. He proceeded to present the Audit of Accounts report and advise upon key issues. He confirmed that the Auditor General would be presenting the Authority with an unqualified audit report and thanked the Authority's finance team for their assistance and co-operation under very difficult circumstances this year due to Covid-19 and the need for social distancing. He drew Members' attention to Note 36 of the financial statements, which referred to the effects of Covid-19 on the Authority's pooled property pension fund valuations, and advised that modifications had not been made in respect of this in the final accounts, although he suspected the effect would be substantial. Mr. Edwards also confirmed that Audit Wales would work with the Head of Finance over the coming months to develop clearer working papers and clarify audit requirements going forward.

The Chief Finance Officer thanked Mr. Edwards for his report and for Audit Wales' assistance during the audit. With regard to the pooled property pension fund valuation, he advised that almost all pension funds have property investments and since trading resumed in September, the value of the funds were back to where they were in March 2020.

In response to a question on the significance of not merging the two Fixed Asset Registers, Mr. Edwards confirmed that this matter had been included in last year's audit report, and whilst it did not present a risk in itself, in his opinion, maintaining two separate asset registers was unusual and in order to drive efficiencies this should be addressed.

Arising thereon, Members agreed following Audit Wales' offer to work with the Authority/Head of Finance to develop clearer working papers and clarify audit requirements, that a report should be presented to the Authority, or to the Assets Sub-Group, to provide Members with the opportunity to monitor progress.

The Chairman thanked Matthew Edwards for attending the meeting to present the report.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. to receive and note the "ISA260" report presented by Audit Wales.**
- 2. to approve the Authority's post-audit Statement of Accounts for 2019/20.**
- 3. to authorise the Chairman and the Chief Finance Officer, to certify the Letter of Representation.**



- 4. that officers should work with Audit Wales to develop clearer working papers and clarify audit requirements and that the Chief Finance Officer/Head of Finance should present a report to a future meeting for Members to monitor progress.**

**The meeting ended at 9.40**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones (Conwy) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillor Philip Capper;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Mrs. Eilw Owen, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

**Apology**

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman advised that the meeting was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-
  - a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
  - the meeting was not open to the public.
  - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.
- (2) The Chairman commented upon the successful launch of Cynllun Eryri and thanked all those involved for their work. He also advised on the launch of the new ambassador scheme, celebrating the National Park's Special Qualities, and that a report will be presented to Members in due course.
- (3) The Chairman reported that, following the Parking and Transport Review of Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen areas, staff were continuing to make good progress with the work.
- (4) The Chairman advised upon recent meetings attended: with the Chairs of National Parks UK, with Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government, and the annual meeting with the Country Landowners Association.
- (5) The Chief Executive provided a brief summary of current corporate business and the Chairman confirmed that in future, the Authority Agenda would include an oral update from the Chief Executive on corporate matters.

**2. Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of personal interest were made in respect of any item.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as true records.

5. **Matters for Information arising from the minutes**

Item No. 3 (2) – Conferences and Seminars

Mr. Tim Jones advised that he had been unable to attend the entire Europarc (remote) Conference, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Item No. 14 – Annual Report and Improvement Plan 2019-2020

Members were advised that Member role descriptions were available on the Authority website.

Arising thereon, officers agreed to ascertain whether the decision taken by the Performance and Resources Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, had resolved to invite all Members to attend the Traffic Management Task and Finish Group. The Chief Executive advised that the newly established Governance Group, which would be convened early in the new year, would consider issues such as live webcasting and timetable of meetings, protocol for drafting minutes, committee membership etc.

6 (1) **Notice of Motion**

Submitted – A Notice of Motion by Councillor Elwyn Edwards recommending that the Authority should call on the Welsh Government to change planning rules to address the extremely damaging housing situation that exists in the National Park and throughout Wales. Arising thereon, the Chair of the Planning and Access Committee thanked the Policy Officer for providing him with the information on holiday homes, which was previously circulated to Members.

Members and officers considered the statement and discussed the following in detail:-

- the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that upcoming meetings between the WLGA and Welsh Government might provide an opportunity to influence discussions.
- whether the motion would make a difference and assist young people to obtain mortgages. A member stated that the Authority had failed to meet its own affordable housing target and had approved only one application over the last 12 months. In addition, the Planning and Access Committee had recently refused applications for affordable homes on policy grounds. In response, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the specific application referred to in Dinas Mawddwy was for an open market dwelling and not an affordable home.
- the Authority should use its powers to stimulate employment opportunities, possibly outside of the tourism sector.
- officers were asked to ascertain the average salary levels in the Snowdonia National Park, which was suggested to be less than £20k in Meirion/Dwyfor, and was one of the lowest in Europe.
- the unwillingness of mortgage companies to provide loans to young people, including the Principality Building Society, which was based in Wales.

- Members noted that rural villages might benefit from a recent appeal decision, which had refused an application to convert a barn into holiday accommodation on the grounds there was already a high percentage of holiday homes in the area.
- a Member asked whether allowing people who could afford to pay a commuted sum to secure approvals should be considered a human rights issue.
- the Authority should learn from areas such as Newquay in Cornwall, where new builds were restricted to local persons, and Exmoor National Park, who were looking at sustainable economic development proposals for local people.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management agreed there was potential for the planning system to control change of use from a dwelling to holiday accommodation but as this was not currently possible it would need to be changed at a national level. The Director of Planning and Land Management also advised that the Localism Act did not apply in Wales. Whilst there were opportunities to create new policies similar to planning obligations used in the past - to allow homes for a local person who lived or worked within a certain radius of the proposed development - this again would be subject to a change in national policies.
- council tax issues in relation to second homes and holiday homes were discussed in detail and it was agreed this was an area which could benefit from better planning control.
- a Member, whilst generally supportive, asked whether it would be useful to further discuss this matter further and come to an evidence based decision as Gwynedd Council were presenting a report on this subject to their Scrutiny Committee and to the Cabinet in the very near future.
- Members thanked Councillor Elwyn Edwards for the Notice of Motion and supported its contents.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. subject to confirming the average annual salary in the Snowdonia National Park, to approve the Motion, as submitted.**
- 2. to bring the matter to the attention of Julie James, MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government.**

### **6 (2) Notice of Motion**

Submitted – A Notice of Motion by Councillor John Pughe Roberts proposing that:-  
 “As the Sandford Principle puts Biodiversity first, ahead of people, language etc., to ask the Welsh Government to change this to putting language and indigenous people first and biodiversity second”.

Members and officers considered the Motion in detail and made the following observations:-

- the Chief Executive provided Members with background to:-
  - the Sandford Principle, established to avoid any conflicts between the first and second purposes of the National Park, where the first purpose had primacy.
  - the Edwards Report 1991: “Fit for the Future”
  - the Environment Act 1995, which established National Parks did not reference the Sandford Principle.
  - that the Snowdonia National Park Authority never had cause to rely on this principle as balanced decisions had been made over the years when such issues arose.
  - the Marsden Report 2015: “Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales”.

- the Member who presented the motion stated that he was happy for 'biodiversity' and 'the language and people' to have equal status.
- some Members felt the motion did not improve upon what was already safeguarded as part of National Park purposes and were against giving more status to one over the other.
- some Members took issue with the phrase "indigenous people" as the National Parks belong to everybody.
- Members further discussed and agreed to amend the statement as follows:-  
"To propose that the Authority asks the Welsh Government to amend Welsh National Parks purposes to include the recommendations of the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales (Marsden report) and to include purposes that promote people's well-being and the sustainable forms of economic and social development of our communities as well as protecting and enhancing the special qualities of our landscapes and biodiversity".

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. to endorse the amended statement as outlined.**
- 2. to bring the matter to the attention of Leslie Griffiths, MS, Minister for the Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs.**

## **7. Action Log**

Submitted – A log of strategic actions arising from decisions taken during meetings of the Authority, for information and action.

### Authority Meeting 10.04.19

#### Action Item 12 – Europarc Youth Manifesto

A Member asked for this action to be progressed as a matter of urgency.

### Authority Meeting 22.05.19

#### Action Item 4 – Annual Governance Statement

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

### Authority Meeting 25.09.19

#### Action Item 8 – Budget Update (Property Section)

Officers advised that a meeting of the Assets Sub Group was being convened in early January 2021.

#### Action Item 10 – Working Group Reports (Project Management Toolkit)

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

### Authority Meeting 11.12.19

#### Action Item 14 – Meetings of other Organisations

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

### Authority Meeting 23.09.20

#### Action Item 8 (2) – Notice of Motion by Councillor John Pughe Roberts

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

#### Action Item 11 – Appointment of Members to serve on Committees, Panels, Working Groups and External Representation

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

#### Action Item 19 – Update on Plas Tan y Bwlch

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Authority Meeting 23.10.20

Action Item 6 – Business Case for continuing with B & B type accommodation at Plas Tan y Bwlch

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

**RESOLVED to note the Action Log and remove the actions as outlined.**

8. **Committee Vacancies**

Submitted – A Report by the Director of Corporate Services to appoint Members to further vacancies on the Authority's Committees, Panels and Working Groups for the forthcoming year.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background.

**RESOLVED to appoint Members to the vacancies as follows:**

- (i) **Standards Committee – Sarah Hattle**
- (ii) **Local Joint working Group – Sarah Hattle**
- (iii) **Task and Finish Groups**
  - (a) **Learning Strategy – Sarah Hattle**
  - (b) **Communication – Tim Jones**

9. **Treasury Management – Interim Report 2020/21**

Submitted – An oral report by the Chief Finance Officer, for information.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented an oral report on Treasury Management and advised there were no major changes to report since the last update. He confirmed that the Authority's funds and investments continued to be secure and that there had been no defaults by any counterparty (bank) where the Authority had deposited cash, and that those counterparties' credit ratings currently remained healthy. He further advised that the continuing low interest rates meant the Authority would not achieve its target of £23k in 2020/21 and the interest earned would be nearer £13k. He confirmed that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 would be presented to the Authority meeting in February 2021.

Arising thereon, a Member asked officers to consider whether the Authority should borrow for its own purpose rather than seeking grants to respond to Welsh Government requirements. The Chief Finance Officer advised that this matter could be further discussed at the Authority's meeting in February.

**RESOLVED to note the report, for information.**

10. **Base Revenue Budget 2021/22**

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer's report for Members to note the Base Budget as estimated for 2021/22 and projected funding position, and to review the level of the Authority's general balances and specific reserves.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and background and Members made the following observations:-

- a Member raised concerns with regard to the balance of £190k in the Section 106 Reserve, which contributes towards affordable housing and which was subject to a time restriction for spending the monies.

The Director of Planning and Land Management agreed to provide Members with an update on Affordable Housing Commuted Sums Expenditure.

- following a proposal to amalgamate the Specific Risk Reserve, the Staff Resilience Reserve, the Commercial Risk Reserve and the General Revenue Reserve. Members resolved not to support the proposal as this reporting framework had been recommended by Members some two years previously.
- the Chief Finance Officer noted that the Working Group on 2<sup>nd</sup> December had agreed it would be reasonable to reconsider the reserves when details of the Welsh Government Settlement for 2021/22 was known.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report and the planned baseline budget for 2021/22 as outlined.**
- 2. to approve the use of the Specific Risks Reserve to finance the estimated deficit for 2021/22 as outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the report.**
- 3. to approve the levels of the Authority's reserves.**

#### **11. 2020/21 Budget Update**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of the revised budgets for 2020/21 and report on significant virements. The report also provided Members with an update on progress against revenue and capital budgets and the projected final position for the financial year.

Reported - The Head of Finance presented the report, summarising the revised revenue and capital budgets for the first seven months of the financial year, and provided further information on the detailed figures.

Arising thereon, following a request from a Member, the Head of Finance agreed to forward details on the use of monies transferred into the 2020/21 budget from the Authority reserves prior to presenting a report to the Authority in February 2021.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Finance Officer and his staff for their work.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the contents of the report.**
- 2. to confirm the use of the specific risks reserve to meet the deficit of £228,600, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report.**
- 3. to await details of the monies transferred into the 2020/21 budget from Authority reserves.**

#### **12. Consultation Documents relating to Corporate Joint Committees:**

- 1) Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees (CJC's)**
- 2) The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021: Regulations establishing the procedure for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans and Associated Matters.**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management to allow Members to comment on the draft response prepared by officers from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority on behalf of the three National Park Authorities of Wales relating to the two Welsh Government consultation documents.

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report and background and introduced Eiliw Owen, Principal Planning Officer (Policy) to the meeting. Members were advised that their observations would be forwarded to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for inclusion in the draft response, which will be submitted to the Welsh Government by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the first consultation sought Members' views on the draft regulations, referred to as the Establishment Regulations for the CJC's, and the second consultation, was more procedural in nature and proposed that the production of Strategic Development Plans by the CJC's should follow the same process as the existing Local Development Plans.

The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that officers in Brecon were concerned that the North Wales CJC would not have the power to implement National Park purposes and would depend on Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 which places the duty on other bodies to have regard to the purposes for which National Parks were designated.

The Director of Planning and Land Management outlined his concerns on the second consultation paper, which were in addition to those already included in the draft response prepared by Brecon Beacons:-

- the new regional body was another layer of government being established at a time when resources were limited. This could also include the availability of planning staff, who may be seconded from Local Authorities and as Members were aware, the Authority already has capacity and recruitment issues.
- the Regulations were scheduled to be in place by early summer, with the first meetings of the regional bodies to be held in September. Work on the Strategic Plan for North Wales would also commence at this time.
- the relationship between the Strategic Development Plan and the Local Development Plans was unclear.
- the timetable for reviewing the Local Development Plan and establishing the Strategic Development Plan was very ambitious.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management did not object to establishing Regional Development Plans but felt the National Parks should have some influence on their content.

Members considered the draft consultation response in detail and made the following observations and additional points for inclusion:-

- the Chairman stated that at a recent meeting between himself, the Chief Executive and Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government, the Minister had acknowledged their concerns and agreed that National Park interests should be safeguarded.
- as the Welsh Government were determined to proceed with CJC's, a Member felt that the tone of the response should be more constructive. The principle had already been established and there was now a need to work together to respond to the details.
- a Member felt that National Park Authorities should be members of the Corporate Joint Committees or should at least be allowed to endorse the content of Strategic Development Plans.



- Consultation Question 15 – the penultimate paragraph should include that the National Park Authorities should also retain their existing function of preparing Local Development Plans.
- para. 3.3 of the second consultation – the guidance should include reference to the duration of the SDP.
- with regard to the preferred strategy a Member felt it should be made clear that the Local Development Plan retains the right to decide on the scale of any developments.
- the National Parks should have sight of the delivery agreement mentioned in paragraph 4.7.
- paragraph 4.13 – the Deposit Plans should also include a sustainability appraisal and language impact assessment as is proposed within the preferred strategy.
- minor typographical errors were pointed out.
- a Member noted his concerns that the role and importance of National Parks would be diminished over time and subsumed within a regional context as has happened to AONB's who have lost their influence within Local Authorities. The Member suggested that both documents should be strengthened by outlining the legislative basis for the existence of the National Parks both in Wales and in the United Kingdom as a whole. Their primary purpose and the planning emphasis were in danger of being lost in the way the document was drafted and National Park purposes should be robustly defended. The National perspective and duty should also be strengthened in the consultation response as the Member felt that details of SDP and LDP principles was secondary.
- a Member felt that this overriding document undermined local democracy. In terms of regional co-operation, there was nothing similar between Gwynedd and Flintshire and this new regime was contrary to local accountability.
- Members agreed that National Park Purposes should not to be lost and should be included within the document. This also provided an opportunity to look at what was happening in Scotland and could be a positive way for the National Parks to look towards the future.
- the Chief Executive advised that whilst the Minister had shown support for the National Parks, it was not included here, and although the CJC's had a duty 'to have regard' to the purposes for which National Parks were designated (Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995) this may not be strong enough. For this reason, the Welsh Government should be reminded of the importance of the Edwards report, which outlines the strategic importance of the Planning role within Wales' National Parks.
- the Chief Finance Officer raised a question on the financial perspective and as it was not clear whether the charge on constituent Authorities would include National Park Authorities, he asked officers to include that the proposed funding timetable and procedure was impractical.
- a Member asked that the word "veto" be removed from the consultation response.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to authorise the Director of Planning and Land Management to forward Members' comments for inclusion in the draft response being prepared by Brecon Beacons NPA.**

**3. that a copy of the Authority's response should be circulated to Members, for information/comment.**

**13. Working Group Reports**

Submitted – The reports of the Members' Working Group meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

**RESOLVED to note the reports.**

**14. Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted – Oral reports on recent meetings of organisations, which Members had attended as representatives of the Authority.

Mr. Owain Wyn – Joint Council for Wales

- a Forum where Local Authority Employers in Wales and the relevant Trade Unions meet to discuss workforce issues of mutual concern and interest.
- there were 95 delegates at the October meeting and discussions focussed on:-
  - o Local Authority staffing levels
  - o Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic
  - o Health and Safety
  - o Local Government Measure update
  - o Local Government finance update
  - o Pay levels for 2021/22
  - o Ethical employment in supply chains – code of practice

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd – Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum

- there was nothing to report since Hitachi's announcement suspending work on the Wylfa Newydd Project, although Members who were in support of nuclear energy were still hopeful following the Chancellor's aim for the UK to become Carbon Neutral by 2050. Members were continuing to look for sponsors.
- the energy white paper was still awaited, as was an announcement on Nuclear power, which was due on the last day of the year.
- discussions were continuing on underground turbines and wind turbines and the small turbines project at Trawsfynydd was still waiting for the technology to be developed.

**RESOLVED to thank the Members, and note the reports.**

**15. Minutes**

The following minutes were submitted for information:-

- (1) Minutes of National Parks Wales Executive Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- (2) Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- (3) Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**16. Europarc Conference 2020**

Submitted – Oral reports on the recent Europarc Conference 2020, which Members had attended (virtually) as representatives of the Authority.

Mr. Brian Angell advised that there were over 200 delegates at the Conference and that the organisers had been able to deliver a very successful conference despite the restrictions.

The Conference had focussed around the question “Our New Future: How ready are we?” with discussions on the new EU strategies on biodiversity and agriculture, the impacts of COVID-19 and what Protected Areas need to prepare themselves for the future.

Some of the highlights had been sustainable tourism in the context of Covid and the role of peri-urban parks, which had less status than AONB’s, and the suggestion that they had a role to play in response to the desire for green recreation for wellness purposes and whether we had a role to influence people who visit the National Parks from urban areas. Another topic was “communication” in relation to tensions that exist in the post COVID world and the changes arising from climate change, the biodiversity agenda and the need to communicate well with our local population to strengthen the positive benefits of living within a National Park.

Mr. Tim Jones, who had attended part of the Conference, had enjoyed a session led by Humberto Rosa from Italy who had spoken about connecting biodiversity to jobs and how they had been successful in creating more sustainable employment by doing this. Also, the eNatura 2000 App., specially designed to enable users to connect, discuss and learn in an innovative way, was launched at the Conference.

**RESOLVED to thank the Members, and note the reports.**

The Chairman thanked both staff and Members for their work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**The meeting ended at 13.10**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

Cynghorydd Wyn Ellis Jones (Chairman) (Conwy)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Mr. Emyr Roberts, Mrs. Naomi Jones, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

**Apologies**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Alwyn Gruffydd; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones. Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Director of Planning and Land Management.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman advised that the meeting was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-
  - a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
  - the meeting was not open to the public.
  - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes, but may be made available online at a later date.
- (2) Notice of Motion, Councillor Elwyn Edwards  
The Chairman confirmed that, as resolved by the Authority on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, a letter had been sent to Julie James MS., Minister for Housing and Local Government, requesting a review and change to current planning legislation to protect local communities from the current housing crisis. The response from the Minister, whilst acknowledging there was a problem, stated that Local Authorities already had significant flexibility to use a number of different Welsh Government schemes to address their local housing needs.
- (3) Notice of Motion, Councillor John Pughe Roberts  
The Chairman advised that the letter to Leslie Griffiths MS., Minister for the Environment, Energy and Rural affairs, requesting that National Park purposes should be amended, had only recently been sent following changes to Ministerial roles by the Welsh Government. The Minister's response was awaited.
- (4) Member Performance Assessments  
The Chairman informed the Welsh Government appointed Members of a notification he had received that performance assessments would now be undertaken on an annual basis, rather than every two years as was customary. The Chairman would contact the Members in due course.

- (5) The Chairman advised that following a request by some members of staff and in recognition of their effort, hard work and continued support throughout the past months, the Chairman and the Chief Executive were minded to award a discretionary day's leave for all staff on 1<sup>st</sup> March, St David's Day.
- (6) The Chairman advised that the Chief Executive of Brecon Beacons National Park would be retiring shortly and the process of appointing his successor was now underway.
- (7) The Chairman noted that it was customary for the NPUK Members Induction Course to be hosted by a different National Park each year. This year Snowdonia would be hosting a virtual induction course in March 2021.
- (8) The Chairman, on behalf of Members, extended a warm welcome to all new staff who had recently joined the Authority's workforce.

## 2. **Corporate Update**

Received – The Chief Executive provided an oral update on the following:-

### Covid 19

- all Authority car parks had been closed following a request from Gold Command and North Wales Police to assist with lockdown measures.
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority had closed Pen y Fan, but Snowdon remained open at this time.

### SLSP Grant Funding

- a proposed land purchase was not proceeding, and a meeting to update the Welsh Government on the position was being held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### Budget Update 2021/22

- the budget increase was welcomed and Members noted that a report on funding was to be presented to the Members' Working Group in March.

### Wellbeing Objectives

- the formal consultation had now been completed. The consultation response had been disappointing with only 8 responses received.

### Plas Tan y Bwlch

- Zara Roberts was recently appointed to the role of House Manager.

### Authority Website

- officers were in the process of interviewing companies who had tendered for the work of establishing a new website for the Authority.

### Projects

- Welsh Transport Projects
  - o **Online Community Workshops** were being held with the 4 community portals - Llanberis, Bethesda, Betws-y-Coed and Beddgelert. The public consultation closes on 7th March 2021.
  - o **Public transport management study** - work to define the network and operation of bus services and wider connections with the train service had started and a report would be presented in due course.
  - o **establish automatic pre-booking system for car parks** with the aim of having a system in place by April.
  - o **developing a monitoring system for traffic in the north of the Park** - work was underway.
  - o **identify cycle network proposals and cycle hire scheme in the north of the park** - work being commissioned.

- discussions were underway with officers from Gwynedd Council to re-establish the proposal for double yellow lines in the Pen y Pass area with the aim of creating a partnership to move this work forward.

#### Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Project

- the scheme had been granted a one year extension because of the impact of the pandemic on the work. Work was about to start on 'Wilkins' Newsagents' and work on 'Darllenfa Rydd' had also commenced. 'Bod Arran' was now complete and the roofing work on "Y Sosban" had been short-listed for a 'Pitched Roofing Award' to be announced in February.

#### SMS Projects

- Peat project - additional 12 months confirmed.
- Uwch Gwyrfai and Eden Projects finish at the end of March 2021.
- Dinas Mawddwy – awaiting receipt of contract from Welsh Government before commencing work.

#### New Appointments

- Northern and Southern Area Senior Wardens - Rhys Wheldon Roberts & David Prysor Jones
- LIFE Project Officers - Sabine Nouvet and David Jones

#### Audit Wales

A report on the Authority's Resilience was being presented to the Authority in April.

Arising thereon, Members and officers discussed the following:-

- Members were happy to support the day's leave on St. David's Day for all the Authority's staff to show appreciation for their work. Whilst it was within the Chief Executive's power to grant the additional day's leave, a Member requested that a further report should be presented for Members to consider whether to establish this on a permanent basis.
- The Chief Executive welcomed the offer by a Member to support officers at the online community workshops as part of the transport review.
- The Chief Executive confirmed that whilst the focus of the new cycle network was currently in the north of the National Park, the same principles could then be applied to other areas of the National Park.
- The Chief Executive stated that he had some concerns that presenting oral update reports could lead to the Agenda becoming unmanageable in future, and should be carefully monitored.

**RESOLVED to note the report and await a further report for Members to consider whether to establish the day's leave for all staff on St. David's Day on a permanent basis in future.**

### 3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

### 4. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.

### 5. **Minutes**

Subject to noting two corrections as follows:-

Minutes 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020: Item 14 – Meetings of other Organisations

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd – Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum

Final bullet point should read:-

“discussions were continuing on ‘*undersea*’ turbines and wind turbines and the ‘*Small Modular Reactor*’ project at Trawsfynydd was still waiting for the technology to be developed.

The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as true records.

6. **Matters for Information arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

7. **Action Log**

Submitted – A log of strategic actions arising from decisions taken during meetings of the Authority, for information and action.

Authority Meeting 25.04.18

Action Item 6 – Annual Improvement Report 2017/18

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Authority Meeting 15.07.20

Action Item 6 – Strategic and Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Plan 2021-26

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Action Item 10 – Plas Tan y Bwlch Options

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Authority Meeting 09.12.20

Action Item 6 (1) – Notice of Motion by Cllr. Elwyn Edwards

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Action Item 6 (2) – Notice of Motion by Cllr. John Pughe Roberts

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Action Item 12 – Consultation Documents relating to Corporate Joint Committees

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that work on the Europarc Youth Manifesto would be progressed as a priority.

**RESOLVED to note the Action Log and remove the actions as outlined.**

8. **Audit of Snowdonia National Park Authority’s Assessment of 2019-20 Performance**

Submitted – The Audit of Snowdonia National Park Authority’s assessment of 2019-20 performance, for information.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report on behalf of Audit Wales and advised that officers from Audit Wales were attending the next Authority meeting in April and would answer any questions from Members at that time. The Chief Executive anticipated this was the final performance assessment report by Audit Wales as the Local Government Measure had been dis-applied for the National Park Authorities after this year.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

9. **Authority Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities 2021/2022**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer requesting approval of the 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets and to raise levies on constituent authorities on the basis of the Welsh Government’s draft grant allocation figure for the Authority.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented his report and confirmed that the forecasted 10% increase in the grant settlement was expected to be confirmed in March 2021. The Chief Finance Officer advised that Members would be asked to consider proposals for allocating the anticipated surplus of £476,251, on a one off basis, at the next meeting of the Members’ Working Group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

Members considered the report and discussed:-

- the likelihood of the 10% increase in the core revenue budget remaining for future years.
- that if Members wanted to present ideas for allocating the surplus funding, they should present them to the Chief Executive within the next two weeks so that they can be fed into the process.
- the Chief Executive raised a note of caution in that the surplus may be needed to off-set loss of income for the Authority in 2021/22 and that officers had also been asked to submit outline proposals for use of the surplus.
- the increase in the final grant settlement was the result of a lot of hard work by the Authority’s staff and by Welsh Government officials who have shown an appreciation for the work carried out by the National Parks during the pandemic and was reflected in the increased funding.

**RESOLVED**

1. **to note the contents of the report.**
2. **to approve the 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets and to note the intention to discuss the revenue surplus of £476,251 together with the uncommitted capital sum at the Members Working Group meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.**
3. **to authorise levies to be raised on the two constituent councils to a total amount of £1,373,262 in accordance with paragraph 6.3 of the Chief Finance Officer’s report.**

10. **Capital Strategy 2021/22**

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer’s report to approve the Capital Strategy for 2021/22 and the recommendations relating to the Prudential Code.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report which Members considered in detail.

**RESOLVED**

1. **to note that there was no intention to borrow monies for capital purposes, but the limitations below were recommended on a prudent level as a precautionary measure in case of an emergency or need for expenditure at short notice.**
2. **to approve the present Authorised Borrowing Limit of £500,000 for 2021/22, and an Operational Boundary of £100,000.**
3. **that no limit be placed on the proportion of interest payable at a variable rate.**



4. to adopt the **Capital Borrowing Strategy for 2021/22** as outlined in para 3.3 of the report, and note the content relating to the Prudential Code (see tables under paras. 2.2, 3.3 and para. 7.1 of the report).
5. to adopt the **Investment Strategy for 2021/22** as outlined in paras. 3.5 to 3.14 of the report, and note the institutions listed in para 3.7.

11. **Mid-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2021/22 – 2024/25**

Submitted – A joint report by the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer, for information.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and advised that the MTFP was a working document, and although it was not a statutory requirement, it was recommended good practice by Audit Wales. Members were asked to retain a copy of the report, as paragraph 4 would provide a focus for discussions on the Capital and Revenue Budget 2021/22 report, being presented to the Members' Working Group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. The Chief Executive stated that he was hopeful that the Authority's financial position was established for the next four to five years.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- Members found the report to be both useful and interesting.
- Operating Principles – para. 5.2 – a Member asked, in the light of the Assets Sub Group's intention to recommend purchase of land, whether this principle should be amended. The Chief Executive explained that this was a working document that officers amend when circumstances change. He also advised that the Assets Sub-Group had produced a framework for future land purchases which would be presented to members in due course.
- a Member proposed that the Authority's own carbon reduction requirements be reflected in the operating principles more clearly for the future. The Director of Corporate Services advised that several initiatives were currently being worked on to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint and this would be included going forward.

**RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Mid Term Financial Plan as a working document.**

12. **Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report**

Submitted – The Annual Report to update Members on progress at Yr Ysgwrn.

Reported – The Head of Cultural Heritage presented the Annual Report and provided Members with further information on:-

- 2020-21 financial outcome which was anticipated to be a flat budget
- the Heritage Lottery Fund and overall success of the project
- steps taken as a result of the pandemic
- the digital activity programme for 2020
- staffing and volunteers
- SLPS grant funding which has provided a back-up heating system and infrastructure improvements
- setting realistic but ambitious targets to increase visitor numbers and income for the current calendar year
- organising activities and projects to engage with the local community to re-establish a good relationship

- 2021/22 Budget
- the positive response to virtual activities

Members welcomed the report and made the following observations:-

- Members thanked the Head of Cultural Heritage for the annual report and for the success of the team in attracting such large numbers to digital performances. Members asked that their appreciation be forwarded to all staff and volunteers at Yr Ysgwrn.
- to correct the English language report, para. 8.2, which mistakenly refers to “rates” on two separate occasions.
- the Head of Cultural Heritage welcomed the challenge that many organisations / museums had in turning digital capital into income. This would be part of future marketing work in attracting virtual audiences to the site.
- the Head of Cultural Heritage recognised the value of sharing experiences with other museums and the potential for collaboration. She confirmed that work as part of the Culture Resilience Fund had started with Gwynedd and Penmaenmawr Museum Services, and whilst it was difficult to plan ahead at this current time, this work would provide a good baseline.

**RESOLVED to note the contents of the Annual Report, for information.**

13. **Working Group Report**

Submitted – The report of the Members’ Working Group meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

Arising thereon, Members were advised that Gwynedd Council were now progressing the work on double yellow lines at Pen y Pass and Penygwryd following the traffic problems experienced during 2020. There were still some uncertainties with regard to the village of Rhyd Ddu, and although objections had been received, the Community Council were keen to see yellow lines to address safety issues.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Head of Engagement was currently working on proposals for legacy projects as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, to be presented to the Management Team in the first instance, and then to Members in due course.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

14. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Members had not attended external meetings as representatives of the Authority.

15. **Minutes**

Submitted - The minutes of the Celyn, Tegid and Tryweryn Advisory Conference held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019, for information.

Arising thereon, Members asked officers to:-

- ascertain whether the apology from Harold Davies, Llanelltyd Community Council, was valid.

- correct the Welsh minute to read that Mr. Huw Jones represented Undeb "*Amaethwyr*" Cymru.

**RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

**The meeting ended at 11.50**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Elinor Gwynn, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mr. Aled Lloyd, Mr. Richard Thomas, Ms. Sara Thomas, Mr. Geraint Evans, Ms. Gwen Aeron, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

**Apology**

Councillor Judith Humphreys.

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Welsh Government Member, Mr. Tim Jones, to his first meeting of the Planning and Access Committee and confirmed that Mr. Jones had been provided with planning training.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

**Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on current planning applications.

4.1 **Options for the Planning and Access Committee to Delegate Authority to the Director of Planning and Land Management to determine the following planning applications:**

- 1) **NP2/14/18D, Nant Cwmbran Isaf, Nasareth**
- 2) **NP2/16/451A, Land adjacent to Pen-y-Bryn, Penmorfa**
- 3) **NP5/72/128A, Bryn Ifan, Arenig**
- 4) **NP5/62/407, Maes y Garnedd, Cwm Nantcol**
- 5) **NP5/69/113H, Llanfendigaid Hall, Rhoslefain**

**Submitted** – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management with options for the Planning and Access Committee to decide whether to delegate authority to officers to determine the 5 applications referred to in the report.

Members were reminded that access issues were also matters that could be determined by the Planning and Access Committee.

**Reported** – The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report and advised that new Regulations, which came into effect at the end of April, allowed the Authority to hold ‘remote’ meetings. The timing of the Regulations meant that officers had been unable to resolve issues such as access for members of the public and public speaking etc., in time for today’s meeting. The 5 planning applications were being presented to the Planning and Access Committee with a brief summary, for Members to consider whether to delegate authority to officers to determine some, none, or all of the following:-

- 1) **NP2/14/18D, Nant Cwmbrafn Isaf, Nasareth** – Part retrospective application to retain two storey side extension and proposed demolition of rear one storey flat roof extension.  
**RESOLVED to refer the application to the Planning and Access Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, for determination.**
- 2) **NP2/16/451A, Land adjacent to Pen-y-Bryn, Penmorfa** – Outline application for the erection of two storey dwelling for local affordable need. Arising thereon, Members asked the Case Officer to ascertain whether there was evidence of local affordable need in the area, prior to the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.  
**RESOLVED to refer the application to the Planning and Access Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, for determination.**
- 3) **NP5/72/128A, Bryn Ifan, Arenig** – Alterations to a detached single storey traditional building with stone walls and a slate roof with its rear elevation fronting the adjacent minor road. The alterations comprise re-roofing with sheeting, minor extensions and the insertion of new openings.  
**RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Land Management to determine the application.**
- 4) **NP5/62/407, Maes y Garnedd, Cwm Nantcol** - Siting of 3 Shepherd’s Huts, associated access paths and installation of bio digester treatment plant.  
**RESOLVED to refer the application to the Planning and Access Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, for determination.**
- 5) **NP5/69/113H, Llanfendigaid Hall, Rhoslefain** – Introduction of 3 alternative holiday accommodation units. Arising thereon, a Member requested further information on the ecological impact of the proposal and questioned the merits of replacing the existing caravan and motorhome facilities on the site with holiday units, as there has been an increase in the number of motorhomes visiting the National Park. Further, a member asked for evidence and information on how the Authority intends to develop a strategic overview to cater for the increasing number of motorhomes visiting the National Park.  
**RESOLVED to refer the application to the Planning and Access Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, for determination.**

#### 4.2 **Snowdonia Visual Impact Provision – Planning Application**

**Submitted** – A report by the Principal Planning Officer, Development Management, to update members on the current position with regard to the process of determining the planning application for the Snowdonia Visual Impact Provision (VIP) for tunnel head-houses, access roads and construction compounds and to seek approval for the method of determination.

**RESOLVED** to revise the decision taken at the Planning & Access Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in that the Snowdonia National Park Authority's Planning and Access Committee will determine the section of the National Grid VIP application that lies within the National Park area, the remainder to be determined separately by Gwynedd Council.

**The meeting ended at 16.30**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Elinor Gwynn, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mr. Aled Lloyd, Ms. Sara Thomas, Mr. Geraint Evans, Ms. Gwen Aeron, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

**(1) Sympathy**

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, conveyed the Committee's deepest sympathy to Councillor John Pughe Roberts on the recent death of his partner.

**(2) Congratulations**

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Freya Bentham on the birth of her baby daughter.

**(3) The Chairman advised, that although today's meeting was scheduled in the calendar of meetings, it was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-**

- a Notice of the Meeting had been published, and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
- the meeting was not open to the general public.
- the meeting was being recorded and will be available on the Authority's website.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

Mr. Owain Wyn declared a personal interest in Item 6.3 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (a) (i) and 10 (2) (c) (iv) of the Code of Conduct for Members.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

Item 4.1 – Options for the planning and Access Committee to Delegate Authority to the Director of Planning and Land Management to determine the following planning applications

2) NP2/16/451A, Land adjacent to Pen-y-Bryn, Penmorfa

The Director of Planning and Land Management reported that the item was not included on today's agenda as officers were still awaiting the information on local affordable housing need.

4. **Inspection Panels**

**Submitted** – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management to avoid, where possible, the need to call Planning Committee Inspection Panels during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Reported** – The Director of Land Management presented his report and advised that Members would be provided with very detailed information on each application to allow them to reach an informed decision. Arising thereon, a member asked whether this was an over-reaction considering how infrequent Inspection Panels met and, as they were always held in the open air, both Members and officers would be able to keep to social distancing requirements.

**RESOLVED**

1. **to note the report and, where possible, agree to avoid the need to hold Inspection Panels.**
2. **in the event that the Planning and Access Committee required further clarification, as an alternative to holding an Inspection Panel, the Committee should:-**
  - (a) **agree on the specific issue that requires further scrutiny; and**
  - (b) **defer the decision, nominate 3 Members from either the Northern or Southern Area Inspection Panel, subject to the area of the application, to visit the site as individuals and report back on their findings on the specific issue which required further scrutiny.**
3. **these arrangements should remain in place during the Covid-19 pandemic and should be reviewed when the rules on social distancing are relaxed.**

5. **Inspection Panel Report**

**Submitted** – The report of the Northern Area Inspection Panel held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

NP2/14/18D

Part retrospective application to retain two storey side extension and proposed demolition of rear one storey flat roof extension, Nant Cwmbran Isaf, Nasareth.

**Reported** – The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that a further report had been submitted by the applicant in support of his application. The report, which was an assessment by an occupational therapist, had only been presented the day before the meeting, and in order to allow officers time to consider the additional information in full, the Director of Planning and Land Management recommended that the item should be deferred until the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. A copy of the report had been circulated to Members, for information.



Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services instructed Members on the confidential nature of the information.

**RESOLVED** to **defer** consideration until the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

6. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

**The meeting ended at 12.05**

## SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020

### Item No.

#### 6. Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management

- (1) NP2/14/18D – Part retrospective application to retain two storey side extension and proposed demolition of rear one storey flat roof extension, Nant Cwmbran Isaf, Nasareth.

**RESOLVED** to **defer** consideration until the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 for reasons outlined in the Planning Inspection Report (Item 5).

- (2) NP5/62/407 – Siting of 3 Shepherd's Huts, associated access paths and installation of bio digester treatment plant, Maes y Garnedd, Cwm Nantcol, Llanbedr.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and advised that condition 9 was no longer necessary, as the information had now been submitted. Members asked officers to include an advisory note to address bilingual signage requirements and additional external furniture. Members also noted concerns over car park capacity.

#### Public Speaking

Mr. Huw Jones (FUW), on behalf of the applicant, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Mr. Jones thanked the Planning and Access Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the applicant, who apologised for not being able to address the meeting herself. Schools had reopened for some pupils, and the applicant, who was a teacher, was now back at work.
- the planning officers were thanked for their assistance during preparation of the application.
- Mr. Jones expressed his admiration for the enterprise shown by the family, who were determined to find a way to broaden their income source in the light of an uncertain future. There was a real danger there would be less income from European sources in future with a reduction in support for upland farms. The application was an attempt to fill the income gap and see continuation of the farm for the next generation.
- the family had lived in the valley for at least 6 generations, and took an active role in their community. Their 3 children attend the local primary school and the family were proud to welcome people to the valley and share its history with tourists who come to the area. They want visitors to learn about the area and the history of the house, and intend to provide a folder outlining the history in each hut to enrich the experience.
- the aim was to secure a future for a young family who believe strongly in the sustainable management of the farm and the business.
- the applicants have put in a lot of work and effort in preparing the application and researching the market, and recent statistics say that 'glamping' was becoming more and more popular.

**RESOLVED** subject to removing condition no. 9, to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (3) NP5/77/336B – Land at Cilfor, Llandecwyn.

The following development is located within the boundaries of the Snowdonia National Park Local Planning Authority:-

- 1) Construction of Eastern tunnel head house (including the associated construction compound), sealing end compound and permanent access at Cilfor, and

2) A new sealing end compound on the eastern side of the Dwyryd Estuary to connect the underground cables to the overhead line.

The following development is located within the boundaries of Gwynedd Council Local Planning Authority:-

1) Construction of western tunnel head house (including associated construction compound) at Garth, Minffordd and creation of permanent access track.

The following development does not require formal planning permission.

These proposals would allow for the construction of an underground tunnel housing electricity cables and the removal of 10 existing pylons and associated overhead lines from across the Dwyryd Estuary.

The Case Officer confirmed there would be important biodiversity gains from approval of this Project and the National Park Ecologists were consulting with the National Grid. Members asked whether the National Grid could employ local labour where possible, whilst noting that much of the work was specialist in nature. The Case Officer reassured Members that the National Grid were keen to be good neighbours and that planning conditions would be used to regulate hours of work, and advisory notes would be established to regulate local purchasing strategies, local workforce sourcing and use of local accommodation etc.

#### Public Speaking

Mr. Chris Baines, behalf of the applicant, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Mr. Baines spoke in support of the application and advised Members that he had been involved with the National Grid's Visual Impact Provision project, known as VIP for the past 6 years.
- the Dwyryd Estuary was selected as one of only four projects of its kind, following rigorous assessment of more than 100 alternatives in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty across the whole of England and Wales.
- removal of the power lines will allow everyone to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the estuary and views to the Snowdon range.
- the project has been designed using an innovative stakeholder-led approach and all the conservation bodies fully support the project.
- the Snowdonia National Park Authority, Gwynedd Council, town and community councils and other local stakeholders have also been involved in the scheme's detailed development and welcome the way the National Grid has encouraged the process. In response to local consultation, National Grid have agreed to remove the pylons from the village of Penrhyndeudraeth as well as the estuary.
- the National Grid has put forward plans to minimise short-term disturbance.
- the project will bring an important boost to local business, both in the short term and in the future, as tourism is obviously a cornerstone of the local economy with Snowdonia's coastline being a key to year-round visitor income.
- it has been a privilege to help in delivering a project on such a transformational scale and if approved the scheme would be world class and will bring huge long term environmental, recreational, and economic benefits.

Councillor Gareth Thomas, on behalf of the Town Council, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Councillor Thomas thanked Members for the opportunity to address the Committee and declared his support for the application.
- the VIP Project would bring significant economic benefits to the area at a time when the local economy was likely to experience a significant recession following the COVID 19 pandemic.
- the Dwyryd estuary is one of the most beautiful in Wales but at present there was a distinct scar across the estuary and peninsula because of the existence of the pylons and overhead lines.
- local people were in support, and there were no community objections to the Project during the consultation.
- the project will enhance the area significantly for the benefit of local residents and also for the visitors and removing the pylons from Penrhyndeudraeth was very welcome.

**RESOLVED** to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation, subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 Agreement under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to ensure biodiversity gain.

- (4) NP5/69/113H – Siting of 1 pod and 2 shepherd's huts for use as holiday accommodation (re-submission), Llanfendigaid Hall, Rhoslefain.

**Reported** – The Case Officer, in response to a question, provided Members with details of the proposed waste disposal method which will be in situ before the development is started. Members noted their concerns that whilst the applicant was relinquishing some caravan plots to accommodate the proposal, there was no policy to address the increase in campervans and caravans within the National Park. Case Officer also advised that Condition 2 would need to be amended so the site plan reflected alternative parking arrangements.

Arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the Annual Monitoring Report in October would allow Members and Officers to take a broader view on campervans and caravans in the National Park and agreed that a strategy for the Authority should be prepared.

**RESOLVED** to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation, subject to a legal agreement to secure the removal of the exempted caravan and motorhome club site.

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mr. Aled Lloyd, Ms. Sara Thomas, Mr. Richard Thomas, Mr. Geraint Evans, Ms. Alys Tatum, Mr. Peter Rutherford, Mr. Sion Roberts, Ms. Elen Hughes, Ms. Gwen Aeron, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

**Apologies**

Councillors Wyn Ellis Jones, Elfed Powell Roberts.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd to the meeting following his recent illness, and wished him a full and speedy recovery.
- (2) The Chairman advised, that although today's meeting was scheduled in the calendar of meetings, it was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-
  - a Notice of the Meeting had been published, and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
  - the meeting was not open to the general public.
  - the meeting was being recorded and will be available on the Authority's website.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

Councillor John Pughe Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 4.6 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (c) (i) and 12 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members, and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

Mr. Owain Wyn declared a personal interest in Item 6.1 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (a) (i) and 10 (2) (c) (iv) of the Code of Conduct for Members.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

Item 1 (3) – Chairman’s Announcements

The Director of Planning and Land Management, in response to a request from a Member, would ensure that the recording of the Planning and Access Committee would be easily accessible on the Authority’s website.

4. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

**Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

5. **Update Reports**

**Submitted** – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

6.1 **Supplementary Planning Guidance (3): Planning and the Welsh Language – Update**

**Submitted** – A report by the Planning (Policy) Officer requesting approval to release the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance, with any necessary changes, for public consultation.

**Reported** – The Planning (Policy) Officer presented the report and background and advised that the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) had been updated to reflect the current position rather than to change its functionality and purpose.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- Members raised the issue of the Welsh language on signage and translation of Welsh place names. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that applicants were required to provide bi-lingual signage but did not think the planning system could insist that a private company gives priority to the Welsh in a bilingual sign.
- Officers agreed that this was a broad topic, and confirmed that a report on Welsh place names was being presented to the next meeting of the Members’ Working Group.
- a Member felt there was not enough emphasis in the guidance to support and improve the use of the Welsh language. The Welsh Government’s “Well-being of Future Generations Act” and “A million welsh speakers” strategy state that the Welsh language should “flourish”, which he felt was a change in their policy. A language assessment should also be necessary before an application is submitted as part of the consultation process, and concerns were raised that applicants were not suitably qualified to provide a Community and Linguistic Statement, as required by the guidance.
- a Member asked whether the planning policy process was the best way to achieve the Authority’s aims for the Welsh language and that it may be better to look at other mechanisms to address these concerns.
- concerns about the language were intensifying and should be conveyed to the Welsh Government.
- protecting the language should be a priority as 40% of houses in Gwynedd were now second homes.

- Members asked for the opportunity to discuss and strengthen the SPG in a working group prior to its release for public consultation.

**RESOLVED given the importance of this issue to Snowdonia, to convene a special meeting of the Members' Working Group, the date of which to be determined by officers.**

## 6.2 **Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning Obligations**

**Submitted** – A joint report by the Director of Planning and Land Management and the Trainee Policy Officer requesting approval to release the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), with any necessary changes, for public consultation.

**Reported** – The Trainee Policy Officer presented the report and the draft SPG. Arising thereon, Members raised a number of concerns with regard to the effectiveness of the Authority's affordable housing policies, the changing economy due to Covid-19, rising average house prices, and the Welsh language. The Trainee Policy Officer assured Members that their concerns were dealt with by individual SPG's which deal specifically with these topics. The Policy Officer further advised that the Planning Obligations SPG relates to an aspect of development that cannot be secured by imposing a planning condition, and is used mainly to ensure affordable housing is retained for those in need and to secure commuted sums associated with affordable housing.

A Member asked for the following amendment to be included:-

- page 155, para 7.1 - to change the wording to "Where proposals are being considered, individuals will be *"required"* to enter into a planning obligation, rather than *"expected"* as stated in the report.

### **RESOLVED**

1. **to note the report.**
2. **subject to including the above amendment, to approve the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning Obligations for public consultation.**

## 7. **Membership of Local Access Forums**

**Submitted** – A report by the Head of Engagement and the Wellbeing and Access Manager outlining the recommended membership of the forums by the selection panel.

**Reported** – The Wellbeing and Access Manager presented the report and advised upon the process and the selection panel's recommendations. Two Members who were on the selection panel advised that they were very pleased with the ability of the candidates, although would like to see more applications from women and those with land use experience in future.

### **RESOLVED**

1. **to approve the recommendation of the selection panel for membership of the Northern Area Local Access Forum as outlined:-**

**Landowners**

**Mr. Richard Williams  
Mr. Edwin Noble  
Mr. Dafydd Gwyndaf  
Mr. Arthur Davies  
Mr. Eryl Pierce Roberts  
Mr. John Hardy  
Mrs. Fiona Davies**

**Users**

**Mr. David Firth  
Mr. Robin Parry  
Mrs. Kate Worthington  
Mr. Calum James Musket  
Mr. Tom Hutton  
Mrs. Hillary Davies  
Mr. Mark Jones**

**Disabilities Representative**

**Mr. John Gladston**

2. to approve the recommendation of the selection panel for membership of the Southern Area Local Access Forum as outlined:-

**Landowners**

**Mr. Alun Edwards  
Mr. Huw Roberts  
Mr. Hedd Pugh  
Mrs. Gaynor Davies  
Mr. Geraint Prys Rowlands  
Mr. Llion Pugh  
Mr. Alun Wyn Evans  
Mr. Robert Emlyn Roberts**

**Users**

**Mr. Aled Thomas  
Mr. Andrew Hall  
Mr. Eryl Jones Williams  
Mrs. Lesley Amison  
Mr. David Coleman  
Mr. Ashley Charlwood  
Mr. Alun Williams  
Ms. Janette Holmes**

**Disabilities Representative**

**Mr. Delwyn Evans**

8. **Delegated Decisions Submitted and Received** – List of applications determined in accordance with delegated authority.



Arising thereon, Members thanked officers for their work in determining such a large number of applications under difficult circumstances.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

9. **Planning Appeal**

**Submitted and Received** – copy of the following appeal decision:-

Appeal by Mr. Richard Deacon against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the renovation of dwelling and extension at Cil Cemmaes Grange, Brynchrug. LL36 9RG (Appeal dismissed).

**The meeting ended at 13.30**

## SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

### Item No.

#### 4. Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management

- (1) NP2/14/18D – Part retrospective application to retain two storey side extension and proposed demolition of rear one storey flat roof extension, Nant Cwmbran Isaf, Nasareth.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background and apologised that the Inspection Panel report was omitted from the Agenda. Members had been provided with copies separately and the Case Officer read out the Inspection Panel report to the meeting. Photographs of the development were also provided.

#### Public Speaking

Mr. Aaron Hughes, on behalf of the Community Council, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Mr. Hughes thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address the meeting on behalf of the family.
- he was aware that Councillors need to keep to guidance and that he was at the meeting to question and challenge officers.
- the applicant was very concerned that he had built the side extension in breach of his permission, and would have stopped if he had been advised to do so at the time.
- in addition, there had been no enforcement notice and there was a lack of communication with officers from the National Park.
- he had been concerned about his family, especially his mother, and had continued with the work for this reason.
- the extension was contrary to policy, but the original dwelling was very small for a family of 7.
- there have been no objections from the local community.
- the development was supported by one of Wales' leading architects who had in the past represented the Snowdonia National Park and who now questions how valid/current were National Park policies by today's standards?
- a former senior planning officer employed by the National Park for over 30 years has worked as an agent for the application and felt there were strong reasons to approve the application.
- a report by the Occupational Therapist had verified there was a need for the extension to provide the appropriate care for the applicant's mother. The report stated that she required up to 87m<sup>2</sup> of floor space and the extension was 27m<sup>2</sup> smaller than would normally be recommended.
- the purpose of the planning process was not to punish, rather to regulate and mitigate breaches of planning control.
- there was no planning breach here and to refuse the application would be an injustice to a local family.

**RESOLVED** to **refuse** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (2) NP2/16/451A – Outline application for affordable two storey dwelling, land adjacent to Pen-y-Bryn, Penmorfa.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background and advised that the outline application did not provide sufficient detail and information for Members to come to an informed decision at this time.

Arising thereon, Members and officers discussed the Authority's target for affordable homes, which currently was not being met.

It was agreed that officers and Members should further assess the position across the whole of the National Park in terms of meeting this target.

**RESOLVED** to **refuse** permission, as there was insufficient information for members to make a fully informed decision.

- (3) NP2/16/454A – Erection of agricultural building, slurry store and creation of vehicular access, land at Cefn Coch Isaf, Cwmystradllyn.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background. He confirmed that the Highways Authority had not submitted observations, and that condition 5 of the permission requires that the access be completed in full accordance with the plans. Case Officer advised that the site was not visible from the public right of way nor were there concerns in terms of visible intrusion in the landscape.

Arising thereon, the Planning Manager, in response to a concern from a Member, agreed to ensure that recent problems with the planning database were resolved, to allow access to supporting documents. The Director of Planning and Land Management also confirmed that paper copies were available in the headquarters in Penrhyndeudraeth for anyone who wished to view them and that they could be emailed to anyone upon request, if access to the building was restricted.

**RESOLVED** to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (4) NP5/73/425B – Engineering operation to accommodate a polytunnel measuring 10 metres x 5.5 metres, Plas Tan y Bwlch Nursery, Maentwrog.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background. Members were asked to note that it was the Snowdonia National Park Authority who had submitted the application and not the applicant details provided in the report.

**RESOLVED** to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (5) NP5/73/AD431 – Erection of 1.6m x 0.9m information panel, Hafod y Llyn Woodland, Rhyd.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background.

**RESOLVED** to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (6) NP5/74/482 – Construction of dwelling, land by The Cemetery, Dinas Mawddwy.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background. 3 additional letters of support were reported and a further statement by the applicant had been circulated to Members and summarised at the meeting. Case Officer advised that the application had been considered as an affordable dwelling under Development Policy 11 of the Eryri Local Development Plan. The applicants have since indicated that they were not willing to enter into a Section 106 Agreement, and the application was now being presented as an open market dwelling in the open countryside. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that this was an important principle and that the application would be “called-in” to the full Authority for determination should Members decide to approve the application. Officers and Members discussed, as an alternative option, whether the applicant would agree to the development being considered as a rural enterprise dwelling, which appeared in principle to be a viable option and be aligned with planning policy.

#### Public Speaking

Mr. Geraint Morgans, on behalf of the Community Council, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Mr. Morgans thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address the meeting.
- the applicants were a young, local couple, who want a family home on their farm holding.
- there had been no objections from the local community.
- there was an old building already on the site which made the development part of the built area of the village.
- the proposed development was only 150m<sup>2</sup>, which was only slightly more than the affordable measure.
- as the world was changing, the applicant's wife now needs room to work from home.
- the infrastructure and access were already there.
- the application site was within the 30mph speed limit.
- the location and design suited the village, which has a shortage of homes for its young people who frequently have to move away from their community.
- the Community Council fully support the proposal.
- the application was 200 yards from the local village school.

Mr. Evans, the applicant, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Mr. Evans thanked the Committee for the opportunity to discuss his application.
- the dwelling was necessary to run the family farm as well as to provide office space for the applicant's wife.
- the applicants' needs do not meet the National Park's affordability criteria.
- the proposal was regarded as being in the open countryside; rather it was attached to Dinas Mawddwy village.
- the application site was within the 30mph speed limit and benefited from street lighting and a pavement and was walking distance to the primary school.
- the applicant stated that their application was not for affordable housing, as their needs as a couple did not fall within the requirements of the policy, which requires the building to be no more than 100m<sup>2</sup>. He drew Members' attention to the fact that the original building offers a floor area of 115m<sup>2</sup>.
- the intention was to build a home, with no negative impact on the landscape, which has mains sewerage and water within 10 yards of the building. The design would also utilise a ground source heating system.
- the applicants have been raised in the National Park and have always supported the Park's conservation work. There would be minimal impact and landscape enhancement.
- it was an excellent place to raise a family and this application would meet the needs of a local professional couple.

**RESOLVED to defer** consideration until the next Planning Committee in order to explore potential for a rural enterprise development in accordance with planning policy.

## 5. **Update Reports**

- (1) Enforcement Notices, Listed Building Enforcement Notices served under delegated powers and List of Compliance Cases – **For Information**  
 Arising thereon, the Planning Manager introduced Alys Tatum, the newly appointed Compliance Officer to the meeting, and advised that work could now be progressed. The report would be updated by the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

(2) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**  
**RESOLVED to note the report.**

(3) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**

Arising thereon, the Planning Manager agreed to update the report by the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mrs. Jane Jones, Ms. Sara Thomas, Mr. Richard Thomas, Ms. Alys Tatum, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

**Apologies**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Elfed Powell Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams; Mr. Neil Martinson. Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Director of Planning and Land Management.

1. **Chairman**  
**Councillor Elwyn Edwards was elected Chairman of the Planning and Access Committee.**  
The Chairman thanked Members for their support.
2. **Vice-Chairman**  
**Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd was elected Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Access Committee.**  
Arising thereon, Members congratulated Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd on his election as Vice Chairman of Conwy County Borough Council.
3. **Chairman's Announcements**  
The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Welsh Government Member, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, to her first meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.
4. **Declaration of Interest**  
Councillor John Pughe Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7.2 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (c) (i) and 12 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members, and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.
5. **Minutes**  
Subject to noting that the minutes would be corrected to record that Councillor John Pughe Roberts had declared a personal "*and prejudicial*" interest in Item 4.6 on the Agenda, the minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

Item 3 – Minutes: Members agreed that it was reasonable to set a target of five days for the recording of the Planning and Access Committee meeting to be made available on the Authority's website.

6. **Appointment of Members to serve on the Planning and Access Committee Inspection Panels**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management to appoint Members onto the Authority’s Inspection Panels.

**RESOLVED to appoint Members as follows:-**

**Northern Area Inspection Panel**

(9 Members)

- 1) Cllr. Philip Capper
- 2) Cllr. Alwyn Gruffydd
- 3) Cllr. Wyn Ellis Jones
- 4) Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd
- 5) Cllr. Edgar Wyn Owen
- 6) Cllr. Judith Humphreys
- 7) Mr. Owain Wyn
- 8) Ms. Tracey Evans
- 9) Mr. Neil Martinson

**Southern Area Inspection Panel**

(9 Members)

- 1) Cllr. Freya Bentham
- 2) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards
- 3) Cllr. Annwen Hughes
- 4) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts
- 5) Cllr. John Pughe Roberts
- 6) Cllr. Gethin Glyn Williams
- 7) Mr. Brian Angell
- 8) Mrs. Sarah Hattle
- 9) Mr. Tim Jones

7. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

**Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

8. **Update Reports**

**Submitted** – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

9.1 **Annual Monitoring Report – Update**

**Submitted** – An update report by the Principal Planning Officer (Policy) to advise Members that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Welsh Government did not require Local Planning Authorities to submit an Annual Monitoring Report this year.

**Reported** – The Acting Planning Manager presented the update report and arising thereon, a Member asked, that in the light of the pandemic, whether some policies should be reviewed to address issues such as the use of shared facilities at caravan parks etc. The Acting Planning Manager advised that an Interim Report would be presented to the Members’ Working Group at the beginning of January 2021.

**RESOLVED to note the report, for information.**

9.2 **Update on the Annual Planning Performance Report**

**Submitted** – An update report by the Acting Planning Manager to advise Members that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Welsh Government did not require Local Planning Authorities to submit the Annual Planning Performance Report this year.

**Reported** – The Acting Planning Manager presented the report and confirmed that the Planning Service continued to collate the quarterly data, and that the information was reported to the Performance and Resources Committee.

The Acting Planning Manager took the opportunity to thank all the Planning Service staff for keeping the service going and for their work over the last few months under very difficult circumstances.

**RESOLVED to note the report, for information.**

9.3 **Policy 29: Alternative Holiday Accommodation**

**Submitted** – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management seeking authority to revert to the standard officer scheme of delegation for applications relating to Policy 29: Alternative Holiday Accommodation.

**Reported** – The Acting Planning Manager presented the report, which Members considered in detail.

**RESOLVED**

1. **that all applications relating to Development Policy 29: Alternative Holiday Accommodation be determined in accordance with the Authority's Planning Scheme of Delegation.**
2. **that officers should present a report to the October 2021 Planning and Access Committee to provide an assessment of all the schemes that have been completed to date.**

10. **Delegated Decisions**

**Submitted and Received** – List of applications determined in accordance with delegated authority.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

11. **Planning Appeals**

**Submitted and Received** – copies of the following appeal decisions:-

- (1) Appeal by Mr & Mrs O.M. Edwards against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the renovation of dwelling and extension at Rhiw Goch Bach, Harlech. LL46 2TN (Appeal dismissed insofar as it relates to the extension, and allowed for the remainder of the application).
- (2) Appeal by Mr Mark Cook against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of new garage on land adjacent to Plas Gower, Llangower. LL23 7BY (Appeal dismissed).

**The meeting ended at 11.45**



## SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2020

### Item No.

#### 7. Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management

- (1) NP4/29/500 – Installation of 25m lattice mast to support 3 x antenna and 2 x 600 dishes with overall height of 26.30m, 1 x ground based foul weather enclosure housing 3 x equipment cabinets, 1 x metre cabinet, 1 x satellite dish, 1 x generator and ancillary development. All housed within a secure compound on land at Moel Llechwedd Hafod, Cwm Penmachno.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background and read out comments from the Home Office that were received after the report was written. Members discussed the importance of having the infrastructure in place for use by the emergency services and the local community. Members also considered the need to protect the biodiversity of the area, and agreed that a 10-year temporary permission would allow time to mitigate any possible future impact on the landscape. Arising thereon, a Member felt that Natural Resources Wales should be reminded of their duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

#### Public Speaking

Mr. Paul Lapatrie, acting as agent for the Home Office, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- the Home Office leads the critical infrastructure programme for the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) with primary customers including the police, fire and rescue, and ambulance services.
- ESN will deliver a much improved and cost-effective service and replace the outdated Airwave system currently used.
- the majority of ESN will be built by EE. However, for “not spot” areas like Cwm Penmachno with no coverage at all, the government will build additional ESN sites and these will also be made available for sharing with UK mobile operators to provide commercial coverage, should the operators wish to do so.
- a summary of the key points were provided:-
  - the site was in the optimum location and alternative discounted options would not have provided the necessary ESN coverage to the target area.
  - previous discussions with local stakeholders had resulted in the agreed withdrawal of a previous application for a site some 450m to the south.
  - the proposed 25m lattice tower was the lowest height and least intrusive design available to provide the required coverage. A smaller structure would lead to more than one site being required and mast proliferation.
  - the proposed installation was carefully sited to minimise any potential impact on the landscape and the ‘special qualities’ of the National Park.
  - the potential impact from 2022 onwards, when trees are to be removed, have been fully considered and while the Home Office does not agree with all NRW’s conclusions, in mitigation, the Home Office reluctantly agree to a 10 year permission, if so granted, and accept the other proposed conditions as set out in the Case Officer’s report.
  - in conclusion, the Home Office believes the significant public benefits ESN will provide, far outweigh any potential minor harm to the surrounding area of having no emergency service provision at all, and therefore, respectfully, asks for approval of the proposals.

**RESOLVED** to grant permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (2) NP5/74/482 – Construction of dwelling, land by The Cemetery, Dinas Mawddwy.  
**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background and confirmed that a further statement from the applicant had been circulated to Members. Case Officer advised that the application under consideration was for an open-market dwelling in the open countryside. Members were also advised that without an occupancy restriction, the Authority would be unable to ensure that the dwelling would be available as affordable housing in the community for the future.

Arising thereon, Members discussed concerns with regard to the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the availability of finance. Officers were advised that Conwy County Borough Council had very recently dealt with a similar matter, and were in a position to provide officers with information on mortgage providers that were still willing to lend to customers tied to a legal obligation. The Acting Planning Manager advised that this matter would be brought to the attention of the Policy Section.

**RESOLVED to refuse** permission in accordance with the recommendation detailed in the committee report dated 02/09/2020 with an additional condition 3):-

- 1) the floor area of the proposed dwelling would exceed the maximum size of a two storey 3 bedroomed affordable unit as denoted in paragraph 8.8 of Supplementary Planning Guidance 4: Affordable Housing. The size of the dwelling therefore would be considered disproportionate with the needs of the intended household as required by Development Policy 11: Affordable Housing on Exception Sites of the adopted Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-31.
- 2) insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the applicants are in affordable housing need as required by Development Policy 11: Affordable Housing on Exception Sites of the adopted Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031.
- 3) by reason of the applicant being unwilling to enter into a Section 106 agreement to restrict the occupancy of the dwelling to a local person in need of housing as required by Development Policy 11: Affordable Housing on Exception Sites of the adopted Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-31.

## 8. **Update Reports**

- (1) Enforcement Notices, Listed Building Enforcement Notices served under delegated powers and List of Compliance Cases – **For Information**  
Arising thereon, Members were advised that the Acting Planning Manager and the newly appointed Compliance Officer were working to progress the outstanding matters and were happy to amend the format of the report to provide Members with more detail.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

- (2) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**  
**RESOLVED to note the report.**

- (3) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**  
**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillor Philip Capper;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mr. Aled Lloyd, Mrs. Iona Roberts, Mr. Richard Thomas, Ms. Alys Tatum, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

1. **Apologies**

Councillors Elfed Powell Roberts, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

**Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

5. **Update Reports**

**Submitted** – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

6. **Delegated Decisions**

**Submitted and Received** – List of applications determined in accordance with delegated authority.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

7. **Court of Appeal Decision: *Hillside Parks Ltd v Snowdonia National Park Authority***

**Submitted** – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management to provide Members with a summary of a recent decision taken by the Court of Appeal at Hillside, Aberdyfi.

**Reported** – The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that since writing the report, he had received notification that an appeal against the decision made by the Court of Appeal on the 4<sup>th</sup> November has been lodged with the Supreme Court. Consequently, as this was still an active case, the Director of Planning and Land Management did not wish to provide further details at this time.

**RESOLVED to note report, for information.**

**The meeting ended at 11.50**

## SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2020

### Item No.

#### 4. **Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

(1) NP3/10/121 – Erection of a pair of semi-detached two storey dwellings with associated access and car parking, land at Cae'r Felin, Abergwyngregyn.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background in detail.

#### Public Speaking

Hywel Thomas, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following objections:-

- Mr. Thomas thanked Members for the opportunity to comment on the application.
- Mr. Thomas had 35 years of experience in Development Control, and the application had raised a number of concerns. When the application was first registered, it was invalid and officers were advised of the need to ask for more information.
- there were no details of floor levels of the proposed houses in relation to existing land levels, nor a cross section showing the houses in relation to the adjoining properties, which are basic details needed to consider the application.
- Mr. Thomas had drawn officers' attention to a sewer running across the site, from Glandon to the main sewer on the east side of the site, immediately in front of the proposed houses. This was a material consideration, which had not been considered by either the Authority or Dwr Cymru.
- para. 3.13 of the report states there was justification for allowing the development contrary to National Policy on public interest grounds, and at the expense of the general presumption to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a Conservation Area.
- there was no evidence of need for an affordable house in the village and as such, this was not valid justification to contravene Planning Policy Wales.
- the car parking spaces and turning area were also out of character with the village and would involve creating a hard tarmac area that would be urban in character.
- the impact on amenities of neighbouring properties was unacceptable.
- although the development was within the development boundary this was not reason enough to approve the application to build approximately 7 metres away from the front elevation of the nearest houses.
- this would also mean overlooking of the rear garden of Glandon and the rear gardens of the new properties would be overlooked.
- in order to assess these concerns Mr. Thomas asked the committee to consider visiting the proposed site before making a decision.

#### **RESOLVED – Site Inspection.**

Arising thereon, the Director of Land Management reminded Members of the Planning and Access Committee's decision on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 that if the Planning and Access Committee required further clarification, and as an alternative to holding an Inspection Panel, the Committee should nominate 3 Members from either the Northern or Southern Area Inspection Panel, subject to the area of the application, to visit the site as individuals and report back on their findings on the specific issue which required further scrutiny. These arrangements were to remain in place during the Covid-19 pandemic and be reviewed when the rules on social distancing were relaxed.

**The following three Members of the Northern Area Inspection Panel were nominated to attend:-**

**Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd, Mr. Owain Wyn and Ms Tracey Evans.**

- (2) NP5/62/63G – Continuation of the established use of the site as a fallen stock store by the demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of new building measuring 13.5 x 9 metres (Repeat Application), Kennels, Pentre Gwynfyn, Llanbedr.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background in detail. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) had no objections in principle, however they had requested further information. Further information has now been received and forwarded to NRW.

Public Speaking

Sian James, addressed the Planning and Access Committee on behalf of Cyfeillion Cwm Nantcol, and asked Members to consider the following objections:-

- the application contained false information.
- it suggested the application was a development of the current usage, when in fact it represented a radical change in both scale and use.
- it did not acknowledge there were no extant permissions to store carcasses or incinerate stock on site or that the site had been closed for many years.
- to date 171 letters of objection have been submitted, including from the Snowdonia Society, the Baptist Corporation, Coed Cadw, and Save Our Rivers. The most important was the strength of feeling that had come from Cyfeillion members and the community locally, including community representatives that make up Llanbedr's Community Council who had also voted strongly against the application.
- re-presentation of the application without consultation, at a time when people were struggling to manage the demands of Covid 19, was a deeply callous act.
- it was startling that this application had come forward with no acknowledgement of the risks it presented to both human and animal health.
- Llanbedr and Pentre Gwynfryn were struggling badly with narrow roads, lack of parking and pavements, with life-changing accidents and it was bewildering that thousands of extra diesel journeys a year, going directly past the local primary school, was considered negligible. Traffic often idles for up to thirty minutes in the summer and to imagine dozens of daily journeys of stock trucks carrying decomposing carcasses sitting in those queues.
- the findings of the preliminary ecological survey were not accepted as the site was strategically placed in protected habitats and areas that should be preserved for the future and contribute directly to the health of the community. To place a potentially polluting industry in their midst was not only against the community's wishes, but also against the principle of sustainability laid down in Protecting the Health of Future Generations Act.
- a further concern was the impact of the proposal on Capel Salem, an important heritage asset. The idea that mourners might stand in its graveyard and be subject to the smell of decaying carcasses would be a failure to protect this community.
- Members were urged to accept the case officer's advice and reject the planning application.

Richard Carter, the Agent, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- the application site was the subject of a planning application NP5/62/63C that was determined in 2005 with exactly the same topic and quantity of public opposition as at that time.
- the application was considered in detail at determination, permission was granted, and as a result, the proposal site currently benefits from extant planning permission that permits the collection, storage and incineration of fallen stock.
- the permission was granted with no highway restricting conditions.
- the application is to demolish two sheds and erect a replacement, and represents a 16% reduction in operating floor space.
- the case officer's report in para. 3.5 stated that the development represented "a much larger storage capacity" which was incorrect and all subsequent references to an increase in scale were equally flawed.
- prior to awarding planning in 2005, the Fox Hunting Act had already come into force and the site operated a commercial service. At all times, when customer supply exceeded processing capacity, delivered carcasses were stored and transported from the site.
- the application was not "introducing" commercial development The officer's report states that the site is situated within open countryside on agricultural land, and was occupied by kennel buildings and a small incinerator. This was not correct as the planning permission in 2005 granted the erection of buildings to accommodate an incinerator, hide store and meat store, and not kennel buildings.
- the land was previously developed and has not been part of an agricultural holding for decades.
- Enfys Ecology have engaged with the SNPA and provided all the information as requested. The ecological report confirms enhancement measures agreed to create biodiversity net gain within the site on completion of the works. The site was virtually invisible from the road and additional screening was proposed.
- in the previous application, the case officer stated, "Whilst the site is within close proximity to a Listed Building, the proposed development would not have an adverse impact on the setting of the Listed Building."
- the applicant volunteered a condition to limit traffic. Gwynedd Highways commented that the development would not have an adverse effect on the road network.
- in summary, the application provided a reduction in scale, ecological gain, additional landscaping, improved environmental performance, no impact on the local setting and a voluntary traffic limit. This represented an enhancement to the National Park.

**RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Land Management to **refuse** permission in accordance with the recommendation excluding reason 5, if this was no longer required.

- (3) NP5/69/113H - Siting of 1 pod and 2 shepherd's huts for use as holiday accommodation (re-submission), Llanfendigaid Hall, Rhoslefain.  
**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and confirmed that suitably worded conditions would be sufficient to secure removal of the current touring caravan site, along with the removal of permitted development rights to prevent any future caravan sites being developed.  
**RESOLVED** to approve the application without the legal agreement subject to the recommended conditions as outlined in the Planning and Access Committee report dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

5. **Update Reports**

- (1) Enforcement Notices, Listed Building Enforcement Notices served under delegated powers and List of Compliance Cases – **For Information**

Arising thereon, Members discussed:-

- (i) how officers address continued breaches, possible sanctions, and enforcement processes and asked that a report be presented to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group.
- (ii) Officers were asked to urgently investigate that the proposed temporary repairs to the roof of Nannau Hall had been undertaken.
- (iii) the additional column to provide "Updates since last Committee meeting", whilst helpful, need to be kept up to date.

**RESOLVED to note the report and await a report to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group.**

- (2) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

- (3) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**

**RESOLVED to note the report.**



**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillor Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mr. Richard Thomas, Mrs. Sara Thomas, Mr. Sion Roberts, Mr. Geraint Evans, Mr. Rhydian Roberts, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

**Apologies**

Councillor Freya Bentham; Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Tim Jones. Jane Jones, Interim Planning Manager.

**1. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised, that today's meeting was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-

- a Notice of the Meeting had been published, and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
- the meeting was not open to the general public.
- the meeting was being recorded and will be available on the Authority's website.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Gethin Glyn Williams declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5.1 and 5.2 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (c) (i) and 12 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members, and left the meeting whilst the matters were being discussed.

Mr. Owain Wyn declared a personal interest in Item 7.1 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (a) (i) and 10 (2) (c) (iv) of the Code of Conduct for Members.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

**4. Inspection Panel Report**

**Submitted** – The report of the Northern Area Inspection Panel held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

Erection of a pair of semi-detached two storey dwellings with associated access and car parking, land at Cae'r Felin, Abergwyngregyn.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and confirmed that the landscaping scheme, referred to in condition 5, was now included on the sectional plan. Case Officer also agreed to encourage better design by asking for the external soil pipes to be internally located.

Mr. John Wyn Williams, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Mr. Williams was a friend of the family and was addressing the meeting on behalf of the applicant.
- the family, who were born in the area, have had a connection to the village for over 200 years.
- as local farmers they attend the chapel, support the Sunday school and as a family were mindful of their heritage.
- with reference to the affordability assessment, the methodology will always come up with the same answer, regardless of who undertakes the appraisal.
- Abergwyngregyn needs new homes for its young people.
- former council homes have all been sold privately and one was being rented as an AirBnb property.
- this was an application for two dwelling houses and both the properties would provide suitable family homes.
- Members were asked to come to a decision today as it had taken two years to reach this stage and the costs were already more than they needed to be.

**RESOLVED** subject to a Section 106 affordable local occupancy agreement on one of the dwellings and the removal of condition 5, to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation as set out in the Planning and Access Committee report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

5. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

**Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

6. **Update Reports**

**Submitted** – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

7. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

**Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on policy matters.

7.1 **Supplementary Planning Guidance (3): Planning and the Welsh Language**  
Submitted – A report by the Planning (Policy) Officer requesting approval to release the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance, with any necessary changes, for public consultation.

Reported – The Planning (Policy) Officer presented the report and background and confirmed that the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) had now been updated to reflect the amendments as recommended by the Members' Working Group.

In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management assured Members that all available options would be considered for carrying out the public consultation during the pandemic.

Members welcomed the report and thanked the Planning (Policy) Officer for his work.

**RESOLVED to approve the draft updated Supplementary Planning Guidance (3): Planning and the Welsh Language for public consultation.**

7.2 **Eryri Local Development Plan – Annual Monitoring Report for 2019-20**  
Submitted – A report by the Principal Planning Policy Officer to discuss and approve the Interim Annual Monitoring Report for 2019-20.

**Reported** – The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the monitoring report and provided Members with further details on the main findings.

Members considered the Monitoring report and discussed the following matters:-

- the challenge for creating sustainable employment opportunities.
- a Member asked whether the Annual Monitoring Report could, in future, include the actual number of jobs created in support of sustainable employment and that the information may be captured when planning permission was granted.
- the number of housing completions - which was below target.
- Members raised concerns on the effect of the pandemic on town centres and rural villages. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the 'retail survey' now known as the 'town centres survey' will form part of the policy team's work over the summer months. He confirmed that, to date, no employment surveys had been carried out in the National Park, and a Member suggested that officers should progress the matter by contacting both Conwy County Borough Council, who had commissioned 'Lichfield's Planning Consultants', and Gwynedd Council, to learn from their experiences.
- the policy team were looking at the implications of exiting from the European Union and the Coronavirus pandemic as part of the Eryri LDP monitoring work.
- Table 1 – Sustainability Appraisal Monitoring Framework  
7.4 (12) Conserve, promote and enhance Snowdonia's cultural heritage and the Welsh language – to remove the word "significant" from the following sentence "Any development which causes *significant* harm to the Welsh Language will be refused".
- the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the policy team's work programme will be presented to Members in April 2021 and would provide a further opportunity to discuss the policies.

- Members thanked officers for their work in preparing the report.

**RESOLVED to note the Annual Monitoring Report 2019-20, for information.**

8. **Tree Preservation Order (No. 77) 2020 – Pen y Cefn, Dolgellau**

**Submitted** – A report by the Tree and Woodland Officer to seek Members' approval for Confirmation of TPO No. 77.

**Reported** – The Tree and Woodland Officer presented the report and background in detail. Members were advised that responsibility for the Health and Safety of the trees remains with the landowner who would need the Authority's consent to fell endangered trees and carry out maintenance work.

Public Speaking

Mr. Robin Lewis addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following objections:-

- Mr. Lewis expressed his dismay at the difficulties he had experienced in getting information to Members.
- a summary of the main points were presented:-
  - o the TPO was contrary to guidelines
  - o there was no lack of trees and amenities on this site
  - o it was unorthodox to state, as a defence for serving the TPO, that the Water Board had powers to carry out any work and cut the trees without the consent of the Authority, in order to repair a leak in the water supply.
  - o it was difficult to understand why this risk was being taken at such a location.
  - o the saplings had already been felled before any TPO was served and Mr. Lewis asked whether it was legal to serve a TPO on trees that did not exist.
  - o the TPO has been served three times.
  - o there was never any intention to fell any of the large trees, two of which had already come down by themselves.
- Members were asked to consider a site visit before coming to a decision.

**RESOLVED to approve Tree Preservation Order No. 77 for confirmation.**

9. **Delegated Decisions**

**Submitted and Received** – List of applications determined in accordance with delegated authority.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**The meeting ended at 12.05**

## SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

### Item No.

#### 5. Report by the of Planning and Land Management

- (1) NP5/65/29E – Extension to existing agricultural building, Bryn Melyn Farm, Llanelltyd.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background.

**RESOLVED** to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (2) NP5/65/352B – Siting of 3 camping pods for short-term holiday use and associated works, Dwynant, Bontddu.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background. Members and officers discussed parking provision, which is shown on the drawings for up to 5 cars on an existing area of hardstanding to the rear of the associated dwelling.

**RESOLVED** to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (3) NP5/78/LB66M – Installation of a 4600L LPG tank underground to the South and between the Ty-bach and the existing attached purpose built plant housing heating system, all underground and associated connections on the East elevation, excavation for a level platform to support 2 x 100kw LPG purpose made Boiler Cube with 2 x protruding flues. A stone wall to be constructed to screen off the visual impact. Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background in detail. He advised that the application description should be amended to 2 x 2,200L LPG tanks, rather than the one 4,600L tank currently stated. In response to questions from Members, the Case Officer confirmed that this was the only application and that it would provide a back up for the existing heating system. The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that various heating systems had been assessed, and this was considered the best environmental option for this site.

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Director of Planning and Land Management to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation.

- (4) NP5/78/LB66N – Listed Building Consent for the installation of a 4600L LPG tank underground within the curtilage of Yr Ysgwrn, located to the South of the farmhouse between Ty-bach and the existing attached purpose built plant housing the present heating system, all underground and associated connections to the management system on the East elevation to the rear and excavation to form a level platform to support 2 x 100kw LPG purpose made Boiler Cube with 2 x protruding flues above eaves level into open air. A stone wall to be constructed to screen off the visual impact. Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd.

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Director of Planning and Land Management to **grant** permission in accordance with recommendation and to refer the application to the Welsh Government (CADW).

#### 6. Update Reports

- (1) Enforcement Notices, Listed Building Enforcement Notices served under delegated powers and List of Compliance Cases – **For Information**

Arising thereon, Members discussed:-

- (i) NP5/77/ENF115G – Lizzie's Barn, Llandecwyn, Talsarnau.

Members noted concerns that the file was being closed due to the length of time taken to address the issue, which did not reflect well on the Authority.

The Director of Planning and Land Management assured Members that this was a historic case and a unique situation that was unlikely to be repeated.

(ii) NP5/54/ENFLB33M – Nannau Hall, Llanfachreth.

Members asked for further details on the steps being taken to address the deteriorating condition of Nannau Hall. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that officers had written to the applicant seeking authority to undertake a condition assessment on site and that funding had been allocated for this work. Officers were aware of the urgency and hoped to start on this work in the next few weeks.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

(2) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

(3) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2021**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillor Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mr. Aled Lloyd, Mr. Richard Thomas, Ms. Alys Tatum, Mr. Sion Roberts, Ms. Elen Hughes, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

**Apologies**

Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones; Mrs. Sarah Hattle.

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised, that today's meeting was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-

- a Notice of the Meeting had been published, and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
- the meeting was not open to the general public.
- the meeting was being recorded and will be available on the Authority's website.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Annwen Hughes declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in item 4.2 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (a) (ix) (aa) and 12 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members, and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**

**Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

5. **Update Reports**

**Submitted** – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and compliance matters.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

6. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management Submitted** – Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on policy matters.

6.1 **Supplementary Planning Guidance (5): Planning Obligations Submitted** – A report by the Trainee (Policy) Officer to formally adopt the Supplementary Planning Guidance (5): Planning Obligations.

Reported – The Trainee Policy Officer presented the report and the Supplementary Planning Guidance. Members were advised that Appendix 1 outlined the proposed changes following consultation, and the updated SPG was appended in Appendix 2.

Members considered the report and a Member made the following observation:-

- he was satisfied that the guidance reflected recent emphasis by both the Welsh Government and the SNPA to maximise opportunities for ecological enhancements, and not just their protection, and welcomed the flexibility within the guidance.

**RESOLVED**

1. to note the contents of the Consultation Report and comments made during the Public Consultation.
2. subject to including the amendment as outlined above, to endorse the changes proposed and adopt the Supplementary Planning Guidance (5): Planning Obligations as a material planning consideration.

6.2 **Supplementary Planning Guidance: Telecommunications and Masts Submitted** – A report by the Planning (Policy) Officer requesting approval to release the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance, with any necessary changes, for public consultation.

Arising thereon, officers agreed to include a footnote in the paper version of the Welsh guidance alongside the link on page 113 para 1.15. Officers also noted that the link in the English guidance was currently not working.

**RESOLVED to approve the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance: Telecommunications and Masts for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks.**

7. **Delegated Decisions Submitted and Received** – List of applications determined in accordance with delegated authority.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**The meeting ended at 11.30**



## SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2021

### Item No.

#### 4. Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management

- (1) NP2/11/T457C – Single storey side extension and raised terrace to front, Gelli'r Ynn, Nantmor.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background. Members asked the Case Officer to seek a reduction to the size of the terrace to correspond with the extension, and to specify the facing for the retaining wall.

**RESOLVED** subject to reducing the size of the terrace and agreement on the facing for the retaining wall, to delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Land Management to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

- (2) NP5/77/265B – Change of use of part of agricultural building to re-locate guns and ammunition sales business granted under reference NP5/77/265A, Bryn Derw, Cilfor, Talsarnau.

**Reported** – Case Officer presented the report and background which Members considered in detail.

#### Public Speaking

Mr. Edmund Bailey, on behalf of the applicant, asked Members to consider the following:-

- the application was for a consented "rural enterprise" which currently employs 1 person, and with the committee's further support would employ another full-time local person to meet the increasing demand from farmers and licence holders.
- contrary to what Members may have read, the applicants were not seeking consent for the sale of outdoor clothing and equipment, and were not seeking consent to use the existing shop in addition to the property of which this application forms part.
- the applicants were only seeking a relocation from one building to another on the same site that already has planning consent for the sale of guns and ammunition.
- when the applicants previously sought consent to facilitate the commencement of use on this site, the officer in his report recommended consent and quoted "Having considered the above assessment of planning matters including the local, national policies and guidance, it is believed due to the relatively unusual nature of this particular retail offer that the application can be supported ..... " also, "given the considerable amount of open space and a degree of separation from public roads and other members of the public, it was not considered that this retail offer would be suitable for a town or village centre location, and in reality needs to be located away from built up areas".
- why would the planning officer, whilst quoting all the same policies and guidance, arrive at a different recommendation to what was presented 18 months previously? The policies and guidance referred to have not changed, and neither had the local support from Talsarnau Community Council, Gwynedd Highways Authority, North Wales Police Firearms Officer, Ecology, Gwynedd Council Public Protection Officer and four neighbours.
- it was extremely frustrating to hear reference to significant concerns that should this application be granted it would provide a precedent for similar proposals. This was incorrect, planning use on this site was consented in 2019 and this was for the same use and same planning conditions as was already consented and subject to strict licensing conditions.

- if the application is refused, how would the applicants secure the future of their business as the officer has previously stated that this retail offer was not considered suitable for a town or village centre location?
- as approximately 80% of UK businesses fail in their first year and one in three small businesses were due to close in Wales due to Covid 19 - probably higher for retail, this little business bucks that trend, and with support today would continue to do so without being a risk to any other local business.
- Members were asked to give this important application their full consideration and support.

**RESOLVED** to **defer** consideration to seek justification from the applicant to the extent of the proposal and to seek a reduced footprint, which would also be based on the planning conditions attached to the existing permission.

## 5. Update Reports

- (1) Enforcement Notices, Listed Building Enforcement Notices served under delegated powers and List of Compliance Cases – **For Information**

Arising thereon, Members were provided with further details on the following matters:-

- (i) NP5/60ENF5E – Stationing of 2 caravans - Beudy Goetre, Ganllwyd  
Further investigations had found that the caravans had been on site for over 10 years.
- (ii) NP5/77/ENF130C – Replacement outbuilding – Tanforhesgan, Ynys, Talsarnau  
The new building was very similar to what was originally on the site.
- (iii) NP5/55/ENFL142A – Untidy condition of property – 3 Glandwr, Brynchrug  
Members noted concerns on the length of time taken to address this issue. The Interim Head of Planning advised that all avenues for locating the owner had been exhausted and following the issue of a Section 215 Notice, and allowing time for the work to be carried out, legal proceedings were now underway.
- (iv) NP5/54/ENFLB33M – Poor condition of building - Nannau Hall, Llanfachreth.  
The Interim Head of Planning updated Members and advised that the condition survey had been delayed. The Interim Head of Planning confirmed that she would be meeting with the surveyor following today's meeting and that the owner had given his consent for a drone to survey the external fabric of the building.

**RESOLVED** to note the reports.

- (2) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**  
**RESOLVED** to note the report.

- (3) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**  
NP5/74/478A – Land at Coed Cae Farm, Llanymawddwy – Installation of 12.5m high telecommunications mast together with associated equipment and compound  
The Interim Head of Planning advised that negotiations were progressing.  
**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**Member appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd;

**Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillor Philip Capper;

**Member appointed by the Welsh Government**

Vacancy;

**Independent Members**

Mrs Rachael L.J. Davies, Mr. Martin J. Hughes, Mrs. Sharon Warnes (Chair);

**In attendance**

Councillor Annwen Hughes, ex-officio.

**Officers**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Ms. Bethan Hughes, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting, which was being held remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Authority would be appointing a Welsh Government Member to fill the Standards Committee vacancy at their meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Alwyn Gruffydd and Cllr. Philip Capper declared a personal interest in item 7 on the Agenda, under paragraph 10 (2) (a) (ix) (aa) of the Code of Conduct for Members.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

Item 8 – Standards Conference 2018

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the 2020 Standards Conference had been postponed due to the pandemic. The Conference was being organised by the North Wales counties and would be re-scheduled towards the end of 2021, although it may still be held remotely, depending upon circumstances.

Arising thereon, Mr. Martin Hughes advised that he had attended the Standards Conference in 2018, had found it very useful and would welcome the opportunity to attend again in future.

4. **Nomination of members for the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel**

**Submitted** – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to appoint three Members and two substitute members to the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel.

**Reported** – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background and confirmed that the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel had not met during the past year.

**RESOLVED**

1. to note the report.
2. to appoint Councillor Philip Capper, Mrs. Rachael L.J. Davies and Mr. Martin J. Hughes as Members of the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel with Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd and Mrs. Sharon Warnes appointed as substitute members.

5. **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**

**Submitted** – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to advise the Committee on the developments applicable to this Authority.

**Reported** – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and was pleased to confirm that, as in previous years, there had been no complaints referred to the Ombudsman for investigation. The Chairman thanked officers and congratulated the Authority on its excellent record.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

6. **Complaints Monitoring Report**

**Submitted** – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on written complaints received by the Authority.

**Reported** – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and provided Members with further details.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- Members were reassured that the Authority carried out thorough impact assessments prior to implementing any policy to close public toilets. Members agreed that the Authority's toilet provision was excellent in comparison to many other Councils.
- officers were commended for listening and dealing with complaints promptly in order to prevent further grievances arising.
- the Head of Administration and Customer Care did not anticipate an increase in complaints as a result of the impact of Covid-19 and was confident of the service being provided by the staff on behalf of the Authority.
- Members thanked the Head of Administration and Customer Care for her work.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

7. **Grant of Dispensations**

**Submitted** – A report by the Director of Corporate Services recommending that the Standards Committee grant a general dispensation to the Members of Gwynedd and Conwy County Borough Councils.

**Reported** – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and confirmed that dispensations previously granted by the Standards Committee had worked well.

Arising thereon, a Member felt it was important to have the dispensation in place and noted that if any Member had any other prejudicial interest they would be precluded. Members and officers also discussed how Snowdonia compared with the other two Welsh National Park Authorities.

Members considered the report and agreed to approve a general dispensation, in accordance with the terms outlined in the report, in order to ensure that the Authority could conduct its business effectively.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to grant a dispensation for Members appointed by Gwynedd Council enabling them to take a full part in the determination of issues relating to Gwynedd Council up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.**
- 2. to grant a dispensation for Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council enabling able them to take a full part in the determination of issues relating to Conwy County Borough Council up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.**

#### **8. North Wales Standards Committees Forum**

Received – The minutes of the North Wales Standards Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 together with an oral report by the Chair of the Standards Committee, for information.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that following recent problems, he was hopeful that membership of the Forum was now confirmed and that in future, the Chair of the Snowdonia National Park Authority Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer will be invited to attend all meetings of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum.

As the Chair of the Standards Committee had been present when Ynys Mon Standards Committee considered the Forum minutes, she was in a position to report that the main issue discussed was the merits of establishing a Joint Standards Committee for North Wales. Members considered whether it was timely for to discuss the matter at this meeting or to await further information. Members agreed to call a special meeting of the Standards Committee when a more formal proposal is presented.

Arising thereon, the Chair felt that whilst Agendas for the North Wales Standards Committee Forum meeting provide Members with headings for discussion, they lacked accompanying detailed reports, which on this occasion would have allowed Members to come to an informed opinion. Members agreed that the Director of Corporate Services, if he feels it necessary, should take the matter further following receipt of the Agenda for the next meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum meeting.

**RESOLVED to note the minutes for information and to thank the Chair for her oral report.**

The Chairman and Members thanked officers and staff for arranging the virtual meeting, which they felt had worked very well.

**The meeting ended at 10.55**

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Ms. B. Hughes, Mrs. J. Worrall, Mrs. A. Gaffey;

**In attendance**

Luned Fon Jones – Internal Audit Service

**Apologies**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Judith Humphreys, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Elinor Gwynn.

**1. Chairman's Announcement**

The Chairman advised that the meeting was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-

- a Notice of the Meeting had been published, also, the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
- the meeting was not open to the public.
- the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mr. Emyr Roberts, and Ms. Bethan Hughes declared an interest in item 9 on the Agenda and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed. Mrs. Jo Worrall and Mrs. Anwen Gaffey also declared an interest in item 9 on the Agenda, but remained in the meeting.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

**6. Welsh Government End of Year Funding Pressures**

The Chief Executive confirmed that Members would be advised of funding bids when the next six monthly report is presented.

#### 10. Strategic Scrutiny for 2020/21

The Authority Chairman requested an update on the Authority's Strategic Scrutiny for 2020/21.

The Chief Executive advised that, although the timeline had been affected by the pandemic, the Traffic Management Task and Finish Group would be invited to consider the upcoming Consultants' Report on the Review of Parking and Transport, prior to its presentation to the next meeting of the Members' Working Group.

#### 16. Europarc Youth Manifesto – Progress Report

The Authority Chairman felt this area of work should be intensified in response to the pandemic and the Chief Executive advised that the timeline for developing the Europarc Youth Manifesto had been delayed because of the effect of the pandemic on the availability of staff.

#### **4. Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2019/20**

Submitted – The Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report outlining the Internal Audit Services' opinion on internal controls within the Authority and the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21.

Reported – The Head of Internal Audit presented the report and confirmed that she was satisfied with the good overall standard of the Authority's internal controls in the areas investigated in the 2019/20 Audit Plan.

Members considered the report and asked for further details as follows:-

- a Member questioned how the Internal Audit Service could give assurance that Plas Tan y Bwlch income data was "satisfactory", when clearly there were clearly a series of failures referred to in their report. The failures have consistently been recorded in the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board minutes over a number of years, including this year-end, when income figures were still incorrect. Mr. Neil Martinson stated that in terms of governance, he did not support these findings, and asked that this be recorded in the minutes.
- in response, Members were advised that the purpose of the audit had been to ascertain the accuracy of the income data within the reports and to follow the data presented back to the relevant sources. A period of 5 to 7 days had been allocated for the work, and a more detailed audit of Plas Tan y Bwlch would need a great deal more resources. As the focus was on the Income Data, the "satisfactory" assurance reflected the auditor's opinion that there were controls in place.
- in response to providing assurance on how to proceed with regard to the development at Plas Tan y Bwlch, para. 5.5 of Appendix 2, this outlined the opinion of Internal Audit on the costs and additional income objectives included in the "Plas Tan y Bwlch Development Proposal" report, the estimates appeared to be reasonable and there was a rationale behind the objectives in the report, although it remained to be seen how accurate they were.
- Members are asked to suggest areas for consideration by Internal Audit, as part of a risk based approach to consider the biggest risks to the Authority. A report was being presented to the Authority meeting later today, which recommends transfers to and from earmarked reserves of £3.2 million. Whilst noting that some of the money was received late from the Welsh Government, there remained approx. £2.4 million unspent. This matter could not be due to Covid-19 disruption and the Member proposed that this was an area for consideration by the Internal Audit Service to ascertain why the money unspent, and what needs to change.



- in response to the request that the Internal Audit Service should examine the underspends being carried forward in 2019/20, the Chief Finance Officer asked for the matter to be considered at the upcoming Authority meeting, under the Revenue and Capital Outturn 2019/20 report, and if Members resolved to proceed, then further discussions would be undertaken with the Head of Internal Audit.
- a Member asked for clarification as to why Yr Ysgwrn had been included in the Internal Audit Plan 2020/21. In response, Members were advised that Yr Ysgwrn had been selected for inclusion as the project was now nearing completion and the audit could provide an useful insight into what had gone well and what had not, and to learn lessons for future projects. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that, in future, the Internal Audit Plan would include a statement outlining the purpose of the audit in the reason column.
- Members also sought guidance on how the audit would be undertaken, whether the Audit Team would need to access the National Park Office, and the possible effect of Covid-19 on the scope of the work and on the timetable. In reply, Members were advised that the work would not start until September as the Internal Audit Service had prior obligations with other organisations. The timetable had been agreed with officers beforehand, and the availability of electronic information and working remotely by means of Zoom and MTeams could be more efficient in the long term.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, thanked the Head of Internal Audit for attending to present the Annual Report.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. **to accept the report as the “Head of Internal Audit’s Annual Report” in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards for the financial year 2019/20.**
  2. **to accept the Operational Audit Plan for the 2020/21 accounting period, subject to amendment in consultation with the Head of Internal Audit, the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, the Corporate Director and/or Head of Finance.**
5. **Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**  
Submitted - Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meetings held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019, and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020, for information.

**RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

6. **Corporate Work Programme 2019/20**  
Submitted – The fourth and final quarter Progress Report for 2019/20.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report detailing the Authority’s progress against objectives for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The Director of Corporate Services reported upon an increase in red indicators, some of which were due to the effects of Covid-19 on the Authority’s work during this quarter.

#### Our Communities

Arising thereon, a member raised a concern that the first measure (page 38 of the report) referred to a project that should have been completed by December 2019. The reason it was not delivered could not be assigned to Covid-19, and officers were asked to be more open and honest about any difficulties, so that Members could better understand what the problems are.

In response, the Director of Corporate Services explained that officers had experienced problems in delivery during quarters 1-3 which were expected to have been resolved by quarter 4. The Director of Corporate Services concurred that there was a need to provide better explanations and agreed to convey the need for officers to provide more clarity in future.

The Director of Planning and Land Management provided further details on the “Measure of economic benefit to the local economy of the Authority’s Project based activities” (page 38) and advised that external consultants had now been commissioned to undertake this work, which had been delayed as officers had been unable to meet with the consultants before the end of 2019. The work was now underway and a report would be presented to Members in October/November 2020.

In response to a question on applications for telecommunications masts (page 40 of the report), the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that officers stress the need for providers to allow use of the masts by the local communities for broadband etc., where this is possible.

When “defining our stakeholders and the most effective means and methods of communicating with them” (page 41), a member felt that officers should not place too much emphasis on the Cambridge University research as it was not evidence based. The Member had raised the matter at a previous meeting, and was concerned the research was flawed. It was neither a random sample nor a representative sample, as 47% of all respondents had carried out volunteer work in the National Park. It was acceptable to refer to the research, but officers were asked to check on the methodology used and also to establish a methodology for future surveys.

#### Balancing our Resources and Efforts

A Member asked why only 75% of the Authority’s staff had been appraised in the past 12 months (page 66 of the report). Officers advised that work was underway to address the problem with the relevant Heads of Services. A Member suggested that as well as working with the Heads of Services, senior officers should assess the process to make sure it was user friendly.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive reminded Members that they were also subject to Personal Development Reviews (page 67 of the report) and the Chairman asked members to consider ways in which the Authority could provide Member Development in the future.

**RESOLVED to accept the Corporate Work Programme 2019/20 final report, as submitted.**

#### **7. Performance Indicators 2019/20: Fourth Quarter and Annual Results**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss the results of the 2019/20 Performance Indicators.

Reported - The Director of Corporate Services presented the report, which Members considered in detail.

#### Local Performance Indicators:

##### Health & Wellbeing (3ch)

A member asked for further information on the Authority’s relationship with the Public Service Boards.

The Chief Executive advised that an update report would be presented to the next meeting of the Performance & Resources Committee and confirmed that the indicators, which refer to the Public Service Boards, had been removed from the Corporate Work Programme this year, apart from one area, namely the Welsh language. The Chief Executive agreed that in future the Corporate Work Programme should only include indicators that the Authority is able to deliver.

#### Corporate Indicators (CHR/002)

Members and Officers discussed the increase in the number of long-term sickness absences when compared with 2018/19. The Head of Personnel advised that this concerned a small number of staff on long-term sickness absences, all of which were supported by medical certificates from their GP's. The Head of Personnel further advised that the Authority's sickness absences for the first quarter of 2020/21 had reduced significantly, as many staff were working from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic and also because of the furlough scheme.

**RESOLVED to note the report and await an update report on the Authority's relationship with the Public Service Boards to the next meeting of the Performance & Resources Committee.**

#### 8. **Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24**

Submitted – A joint report by the Head of Personnel and the Head of Administration and Customer Care to present the Strategic Equality Plan for 2020/24.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and, in response to a question, advised that the Authority had no influence on the Welsh Government appointment process. Whilst noting that the Authority needed to be proactive, an earlier Mentoring Scheme had identified and encouraged applications from under-represented groups - this had no influence on the appointment process.

The Chief Executive advised that the Welsh Government was looking at, and had changed, the appointment process for some public bodies. Whilst appointments to the Authority were currently for two periods of 4 years, this may no longer prove to be the case, and Members should be aware that there was no certainty for the future.

Members and officers agreed that the Authority should work towards having measures in place to encourage a younger demographic, and to continue with the work to adopt a Youth Manifesto.

**RESOLVED to note the report and to approve the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24.**

#### 9. **Pay Policy Statement 2020/21**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Personnel for Members to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 and receive the Pay Policy Report for 2019/20.

Reported – The Head of Personnel presented the report and background and noted a correction to the Welsh report in that the Pay Policy Annual Report was for 2019/20 and not 2018/19 as stated in the recommendation. Members were advised that the pay award for 2020/21 had not yet been agreed, and that the Trade Unions were currently discussing an offer of 2.75%.

Arising thereon, and in response to a question from a Member, the Head of Personnel advised that further details on the number of staff in receipt of each pay grade was included as part of the Strategic Equality Plan annual report.

**RESOLVED**

1. to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21.
2. to approve the Pay Policy Annual Report for 2019/20.

10. **Welsh Language Standards**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care together with the Authority’s Welsh Language Standards 2019/20 Monitoring Report.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and in response to a question, confirmed that all of the Authority’s staff were provided with opportunities to attend Welsh language improvement courses (Gloywi Iaitth).

The Head of Administration and Customer Care also agreed to discuss the design of Authority posters and signage with the graphic design team to ensure that the Welsh Language was clearly visible.

A member asked for further information on how the Authority Promotes the Welsh Language Standards (para. 5.1). The Head of Administration and Customer Care advised that the Authority has a strategy and action plan to encourage and increase the use of the Welsh language through community based activities, but has no direct influence. The target was set as a requirement by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

**RESOLVED to approve the report and authorise the Head of Administration and Customer Care to publish the Welsh Language Standards 2019/20 Monitoring Report on the Authority’s website.**

11. **Cynllun Eryri Consultation**

Submitted – A report by the Partnerships Manager on the final public consultation of Cynllun Eryri (the new National Park Management Plan) together with a video presentation.

Reported – The Partnerships Manager outlined the outcome of the consultation by video presentation. Members were provided with a summary of the main findings and advised upon the additions and amendments made following the consultation. Also, the feedback from Members’ response to the Chairman’s report “Eryri and the New Normal” would be incorporated, and if Members had any further questions, they should be forwarded via the Member Services Officer for the Partnerships Manager to respond.

Members considered the report in detail and made the following observations:-

- further proof reading of the document was necessary to correct grammatical errors.
- concerns were raised that Welsh place names were being translated and Members agreed that the matter should be discussed at an early meeting of the Members’ Working Group.
- a Member considered there should be further opportunity to discuss measureable outcomes before the final report was presented for Authority approval in September.

The Chief Executive felt it would be difficult to put measurable outcomes into Cynllun Eryri due to the nature of the document and advised that he would discuss the matter further with the Partnerships Manager.

- a Member felt it was unnecessary to set up a further transport task and finish group in 2022 as the Transport Management Task and Finish Group could continue to look at wider transport issues. It was noted that membership of the Task and Finish Group was subject to future appointments.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note progress on production of the Plan.**
- 2. to present a report to an early meeting of the Members' Working Group with regard to translation of Welsh place names.**

**The meeting ended at 11.45**

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Neil Martinson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. B. Hughes, Mrs. J. Worrall, Mrs. A. Gaffey;

1. **Election of Chairman**  
**RESOLVED to elect Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd as Chairman of the Performance and Resources Committee.**  
The Chairman thanked Members for their support.
2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**  
**RESOLVED to elect Councillor John Pughe Roberts as Vice-Chairman of the Performance and Resources Committee.**  
The Vice-Chairman thanked Members for their support.
3. **Apology**  
Councillor Freya Bentham.
4. **Declaration of Interest**  
No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.
5. **Minutes**  
Subject to correcting the minutes to record:-  
Item 8 – Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24  
“... that whilst the Authority has no influence on the appointment, the Chair of the Authority has input into the process”  
the minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

**Matters for Information arising from the minutes**

Item No. 8 Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Administration and Customer Care confirmed that the Strategic Equality Plan would not be subject to assessment when the new socio economic duty legislation comes into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

6. **Action Log**

Submitted – A Log of strategic actions arising from decisions taken during meetings of the Performance and Resources Committee, for information and action.

Performance and Resources Committee 14.11.18

Action Item 7 – Corporate Work Programme 2018-19

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Performance and Resources Committee 27.03.19

Action Item 7 – 2018/19 Budget Update

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Performance and Resources Committee 20.11.19

Action Item 10 – Strategic Scrutiny for 2020/21

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Performance and Resources Committee 15.07.20

Action Item 7 – Performance Indicators 2019/20: Fourth Quarter and Annual Results

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Action Item 11 – Cynllun Eryri Consultation

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

7. **Audit Wales – Certificate of Compliance**

Submitted – The Audit Wales report on the Snowdonia National Park Authority's 2020-21 Improvement Plan, for information.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report on behalf of Audit Wales and stated that this could be the final performance audit under the Local Government Measure as the Authority would, in future, be subject to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

8. **Strategic and Wellbeing Objectives 2021-26**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive:-

1. for Members to formally adopt draft Strategic and Wellbeing Objectives for the period 2021 to 2026, and
2. for Members to approve a formal consultation with stakeholders and partners on the draft Strategic and Wellbeing Objectives for the period 2021 to 2026.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background. Members welcomed the report and the opportunity to set meaningful Performance Indicators and SMART objectives for the future and to simplify the range of activity reports presented.

**RESOLVED to note the recommendation of the Members' Working Group on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and adopt the draft Strategic and Wellbeing Objectives for 2021-26 for the purpose of undertaking the formal consultation, as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report.**

## 9. **Corporate Work Programme 2020-21**

Submitted – A progress report by the Director of Corporate Services for the first and second quarter of the financial year.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the first and second quarter updates. Members and officers discussed the report as follows:-

- Our Communities – the Director of Corporate Services agreed to arrange for Councillor Judith Humphreys to receive a written update on progress on “working with partners to diversify the economy, including developing a campaign to encourage businesses that are able to work remotely to establish in the area”.
- Health and Well-being – a Member suggested there was potential for the Authority to work with “Gall Genod Gwynedd GGG Go Gwynedd Girls” to engage with local people and get “North Wales Moving”.
- Balancing Our Resources and Efforts – a Member recommended that meetings with “all staff” should be held remotely, possibly on Zoom, rather than be postponed because of Covid-19. He also felt that staff appraisals were currently very important, as the majority of staff were working remotely during the lock-down period, and the appraisal process would provide an opportunity to raise any concerns they might have, and an outlet for discussing other issues.
- as the New Member National Induction Course had been deferred until March 2021, one of the newly appointed Members advocated that the Induction Course should proceed on a virtual basis. He advised that the Planning Induction training, provided remotely, had been excellent and felt that a simple general induction on the work of the Authority should be arranged. Member Personal Development Reviews should also be progressed.
- Members were advised that 2-year assessments of Welsh Government Appointed Members had commenced.
- a Member asked to be provided with a copy of the methodology being used for the National Park residents and visitors survey.
- as a general point, Members discussed staff time and resources used to prepare this report, which provided a lot of information, but was at times repetitive. The Director of Corporate Services advised that further simplification would not provide Members with the detail they sought and recommended that the current reporting format should continue for the next 6 months, until new Wellbeing Objectives were formally approved. This would provide a timely opportunity to revise the Corporate Work Programme. A Member asked the Management Team to consider giving oral updates in order to provide information that was more current.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

## 10. **Performance Indicators 2020/21: Half-Year Results**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to present the results for the first 6 months of the year.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the following matters were discussed:-

- a Member asked officers to consider using graphics/pie charts to present complicated information.



The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the report was prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government Planning Directorate's recommended format.

- Health and Wellbeing: Members discussed the delay in undertaking user surveys in 2020 due to Covid-19 and the resulting lockdown, social distancing measures and staff capacity. A Member suggested the delay could be used to identify more innovative methods for undertaking surveys.
- as personal development opportunities for Members had been affected by the pandemic, officers were asked to consider providing other methods/training options such as "webinars" or informal discussions.
- with regard to visitor surveys, a Member asked whether the Authority worked in co-operation with Visit Wales to benefit from information already available and make effective use of resources. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to ask the Head of Engagement and her team to forward details of future user surveys to all Members for information and possible input.
- Members further discussed the Authority's compliance service, which should now improve following the recent appointment of a new Compliance Officer. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that following a recent meeting with Planning Agents, where such matters were discussed, the feedback had been very positive.

#### **RESOLVED to note the report.**

#### **11. Strategic Scrutiny Update**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to discuss the scrutiny topics adopted for 2020/21, to note the delay in the scrutiny of the two areas selected, and to consider further theme(s) for scrutiny in 2021/22.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background. He advised that the Traffic Management Task and Finish Group had provided guidance on the draft traffic study, which has now been adopted, and that the Carbon Account Task and Finish Group were due to meet to start on their work shortly. The Chief Executive asked whether Members wanted the Traffic Management Task and Finish Group to continue, and also suggested two further potential scrutiny topics for 2021/22, namely, Governance of the Authority and Welsh Place Names.

Members were asked for their observations:-

- Members discussed and agreed that it would be timely to establish a Governance Task and Finish Group to review how the Authority conducts its formal business and its ability to continue with remote meetings, which was expected to be confirmed by legislation in early 2021.
- following the Members' Working Group recommendation on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to establish a Welsh Place Names Task and Finish Group, Members considered the terms of reference, prepared in accordance with Members' suggestions and outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the report.
- Members agreed that the Traffic Management Task and Finish Group should continue, and that the Membership should remain as agreed, three Members and three Officers, with an invitation to all Members who felt they had something to contribute to attend. The Agenda and papers would be circulated to all Members, for information.
- for ongoing scrutiny work, a Member asked that land management and ecology issues be included.

Future policy changes and the decline and conflicts for wildlife and biodiversity was an area the Authority should consider in a more structured way. The Chief Executive advised that the UK National Parks had recently established a group to look at these issues and their findings would then be applied/amended for use in Eryri.

- a Member felt that Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups should reach their conclusion within a specific timeframe, possibly 6 months.
- a Member suggested that if Members wanted to contribute to a specific Task and Finish Group they should present their suggestions to a Member of that Group who could raise the matter on their behalf.
- the Chief Executive advised that the Traffic Management and the Carbon Account Task and Finish Groups, as part of the agreed process, were still to present their brief to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group for consideration, and for nomination of a lead member.

## **RESOLVED**

1. **to note the report and the delay on the scrutiny of the two areas selected for 2020/21.**
2. **that the Traffic Management Task and Finish Group should continue and that the Membership (3 Members and 3 Officers) should remain the same, with an invitation to all Members who felt they had something to contribute to attend. The Agenda and papers to be circulated to all Members, for information. Members would be invited to speak at the discretion of the Chair, whilst noting that all recommendations would be presented to the Authority for formal decision.**
3. **to agree to the further two scrutiny areas as identified in paragraph 2 of the report.**
4. **to establish a Governance Task and Finish Group, made up of three Members of the Authority and three Officers, to agree the brief and report to the next available Member Working Group for consideration and nomination of a Lead Member.**  
**Members were appointed as follows:-**  
**Governance Task and Finish Group**  
**Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn.**
5. **to establish a Welsh Place Names Task and Finish Group, and approve the terms of reference as outlined in para. 2.2 of the report.**  
**Members were appointed as follows:-**  
**Welsh Place Names Task and Finish Group**  
**Councillors Judith Humphreys, Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd.**

## 12. **Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA) and Public Service Boards (PSBs) Well-being Objectives**

Submitted – An information report by the Chief Executive to update Members on the relationship between both Gwynedd/Mon and Conwy/Denbigh PSBs and the Authority, and to review progress.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the information report and background and advised that the Authority had been invited to be a member of the Gwynedd and Anglesey PSB and that he had been appointed as the current Chairman.

The Chief Executive believed the Authority had in the past aligned its work programmes and targets with those of the PSBs and unfortunately, for various reasons, the PSBs had made very slow progress. The Authority should, in future, be careful not to rely on other partners/agencies to assist them in delivering their objectives.

Arising thereon, a Member thanked the Chief Executive for his good work with the PSBs to date.

**RESOLVED.**

1. to note the report.
2. to note the lack of progress within our own corporate plan in delivering with PSBs.
3. to ensure that any future annual work programme that includes working with the PSBs has been fully appraised against the Authority's own Well-being Objectives, that the resources required are considered and that outcomes to be achieved are understood.
4. that the Authority remains a member of the Gwynedd and Mon PSB.
5. that the Authority continues to contribute to the thematic sub-group activity of both PSBs.

13. **Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**  
Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss the Independent Remuneration Panel's draft Annual Report and to determine whether a response was required.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the accompanying letter from the Independent Remuneration Panel and outlined the proposed changes.

Members considered the report and arising thereon, a Member raised a matter for the future, in that the remuneration was based on a time commitment of 44 days, which he felt, was still on the increase. Audit Wales could consider this issue as part of their assessment of the Authority's resilience.

**RESOLVED to accept the report and recommendations, as submitted.**

14. **Snowdonia National Park Authority Projects: Update Report**  
Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive for Members to receive details and updates on SNPA's Projects (as requested by the Members' Working Group meeting in May 2019) and to recommend potential projects where the Authority could submit bids for one off funding if the opportunity allows.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background and as this was the first six monthly update, Members were asked to approve the report format.

The Chief Executive presented details of the main projects, and under para. 2.1 of the Welsh report, Members noted that, "Dolgellau Townscape Heritage" should read "Menter Treflyn Dolgellau". Details of short-term projects were outlined in para. 2.3 of the report and the Chief Executive confirmed that, in order to address capacity issues, the Welsh Government had now agreed to include up to 10% for delivery costs. This allowed the Authority to employ staff on short-term contracts and create seasonal roles to support these projects.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive confirmed he had recently presented a further bid to Welsh Government for just over £200k in revenue funds to deliver various projects, and that he would provide Members with an update at the next meeting of the Authority. The Chief Executive further advised that the Authority, at its meeting in February, would be asked to consider the principle of whether the Authority should purchase land and buildings.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- a Member supported the need to establish a process for purchasing land/property for the future, for which the Authority should have a clear purpose and an approved exit strategy.
- with regard to the report format, a Member suggested that a “summary of proposed outputs” column should be included in the table with the achievements to date against outputs running alongside it.
- for new projects, to implement a process structured around funding projects which would help the Authority achieve its strategic objectives.
- Members and officers discussed in detail, the three projects recognised as not achieving their targets, the Celtic Rainforests Wales Project, the Afon Eden Catchment Sustainable Management Scheme and the Uwch Gwyrfai Community Project. A Member noted concerns that these schemes may be disallowed, especially the European projects, and felt that taking on projects created by other organisations was ill advised and raised a question about the processes used to evaluate these schemes. Arising thereon, a Member, who was aware of the schemes and had experience in this area of work, offered his assistance. The Chief Executive provided Members with a summary of the latest position.
- a member welcomed the report and asked that in future, these reports should be presented annually and that the relevant project officers should present the reports on their projects. It was also suggested that, as good practice, project officers should provide their email addresses on the reports, for information.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that strategic decisions were made by using the Project Management Toolkit, which Members had adopted the previous year, which provides discipline for officers. In addition, with regard to a procurement framework, the Authority endeavours to employ local contractors where possible in order to support local employment.
- the Chief Executive considered that Member guidance in nominating areas of work and providing a direction of travel was essential. This had created a momentum, and the Authority was now considered a trusted partner by funding providers such as the Welsh Government.
- Members and officers discussed how the return on investment was measured and the Chief Executive considered that projects should be evaluated in terms of their overall impact rather than solely in financial terms.
- following a suggestion by a Member, the Chief Executive agreed to discuss “social value/return” opportunities with Mantell Gwynedd.
- Members discussed Brexit implications and the risks for the future of environmental grant schemes. The Chief Executive advised that contracts had been finalised for schemes already underway, but the loss of the single payment grant could result in young people moving from the countryside. This could have a long-term effect on future environmental protection work.

- the Chief Executive asked Members to suggest potential areas that could benefit from the end of year grant award, which he anticipated could be in the region of £2 million. A Member asked for a more formal structure for Members to carry out this work in future.
- Members considered para. 4.1 of the report and agreed on the following areas for consideration:-
  - visitor management strategy
  - impact of tourism
  - youth manifesto
  - cycling infrastructure and possible development of former railway tracks
  - working in partnership with other bodies
  - consider how different projects can relate with each other and make a difference at a relatively low cost e.g. water refill points, potentially reducing the amount of plastic waste.
  - steps to mitigate pressures in the north of the National Park.
  - to extend an invitation to both Gwynedd and Conwy Youth Councils to suggest potential funding areas so that the Authority can benefit from the views of our young people.
  - to select elements which can be easily delivered from the recent Traffic Management Scheme

Members thanked the Chief Executive and his staff for the useful and comprehensive report.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. to note progress of the various projects as identified in the report.
2. to note the potential delivery areas, as outlined, that officers should consider when short-term capital or revenue opportunities arise.

#### 15. **The Authority's Risk Profile**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to update Members on the Authority's Risk Profile and to consider the effects of COVID-19.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the risk register in detail. Members discussed the following concerns:-

- following a recommendation from a Member, it was agreed that an additional risk be added to the register - "Securing the long term future of Plas Tan y Bwlch".
- Risk Ref 12 – Diminished Staff Resilience – a Member felt this was an area of work that needs to be closely monitored to ensure the risk does not increase.
- Risk Ref.13 should be amended to read "The effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the National Park and on the work of the Authority".

Arising thereon, the Chief Finance Officer reported that the Authority's grant settlement would not be confirmed until early January 2021.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. to note the report.
2. subject to revising the register as outlined above, to approve the Authority's Risk Profile as submitted.

16. **Strategic Equality Plan**

Submitted – A joint report by the Head of Personnel and the Head of Administration and Customer Care to present the Annual Report for 2019/20.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report for 2019/20.

**RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2019/20 for publication on the Authority’s website.**

17. **Complaints Monitoring Report**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on written complaints received by the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and outlined the main points.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

18. **Freedom of Information**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on information requests received by the Authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report, for information.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

19. **Snowdon Partnership Projects Progress Report**

Submitted – A report by the Snowdon Partnerships Officer to report on the progress of projects noted in Cynllun Yr Wyddfa.

Reported – The Snowdon Partnerships Officer presented the report and provided further information on the financial support received from Welsh Government (Transport for Wales), the details of which were outlined on page 8 of Appendix 1.

Members welcomed the report and the support from Welsh Government.

Officers confirmed that they continued to work with Snowdonia Society, who collected and monitored the litter, and that officers would present the data in due course. In response to a request from a Member that the work should be quantifiable and that the outcome should be a reduction of litter on Snowdon, officers confirmed that the Partnerships Manager would be working on a study with Bangor University’s Institute for Behavioural Change.

**RESOLVED to note the report and the progress made to date with regard to implementation of Cynllun Yr Wyddfa.**

20. **HR Strategy 2017 – 2020: Update Report**

Submitted – An information report by the Head of Personnel together with a copy of the HR Strategy for 2017 – 2020.

Reported - The Head of Personnel presented the HR Strategy 2017 – 2020 and Members noted the revisions as highlighted in the report.

**RESOLVED to note the update report, for information.**

21. **Staff Absences 2019/20**

Submitted – An information report by the Head of Personnel summarising staff absences for the period April 2019 to the end of March 2020.

Reported – The Head of Personnel presented the report and advised that although there was an increase in staff absences for this period, especially in long term absences (details of which were provided in Appendix 1), all those affected had now been supported and had returned to work.

The Heads of Service had been provided with training on ‘mental health first aid’ and ‘Medra’, the confidential counselling service was available to all staff. The Head of Personnel also reported that currently the number of staff absences for the first two quarters of 2020/21 had reduced by 50%.

In response to a question, the Head of Personnel confirmed that to date, there had been no staff absences due to Covid-19. The Head of Personnel also asked Members to note a correction to Appendix 1, in that columns 2 and 3 referred to 2019/20.

**RESOLVED to note the report, for information.**

22. **Health and Safety Annual Monitoring Report 2019/20**

Submitted – An information report by the Head of Personnel to advise Members on Health and Safety issues within the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Personnel presented the report and Members raised the following matters:-

- near misses should always be recorded and should start from the top down. The Head of Personnel agreed to establish a policy for reporting “Near Misses” for the forthcoming year.
- as the Covid-19 pandemic had meant more staff were required to work from home, Members asked whether health and safety risks had been assessed. The Head of Personnel advised there was an unit on the Authority’s e-learning system addressing this issue. Staff had been encouraged to follow the instructions on how to set up their equipment and to request further equipment or furniture to address their home-working needs a necessary.

**RESOLVED to note the report, for information.**

23. **Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**

Submitted - Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020, for information.

The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes.

**RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

**The meeting ended at 1.30 p.m.**

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

**PRESENT:**

**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Freya Bentham, Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

**Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council**

Councillor Phil Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

**Members appointed by the Welsh Government**

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones;

**Officers**

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. E. Roberts, Ms. B. Hughes, Mrs. J. Worrall, Mr. E. Jones, Mrs. A. Gruffydd, Mrs. Helen Pye, Mrs. A. Gaffey;

**Apologies**

Councillor Judith Humphreys; Mr. Owain Wyn.

2. **Chairman's Announcements**

- (1) The Chairman advised that the meeting was subject to the new Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-
  - a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
  - the meeting was not open to the public.
  - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes, but may be made available online at a later date.
- (2) Members and officers observed a minute's silence in remembrance of those who had lost their lives or been affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones and Mr. Jonathan Cawley declared an interest in item 13 on the Agenda and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

**Matters for information arising from the Minutes**

Item 11 – Strategic Scrutiny Update

In response to a question, the Chief Executive stated that the work of the Governance Task and Finish Group was included in the 2021/22 work programme. He informed Members that Audit Wales would be reporting on the governance framework to the Authority's meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services stated that Welsh Government were currently preparing a handbook, which would also provide further guidance for the group.



4. **Action Log**

Submitted – A log of strategic actions arising from decisions taken during meetings of the Performance and Resources Committee, for information and action.

Arising thereon:-

Performance and Resources Meeting 24.07.19

Action Item 13 – Corporate Work Programme 2018/19

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Performance and Resources Meeting 20.11.19

Action Item 6 – Welsh Government End of Year Funding Pressures

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

**RESOLVED to note the Action Log and remove the actions as outlined.**

5. **Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**

Submitted – The minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, for information.

The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes which Members considered in detail.

Arising thereon, a Member welcomed the Board's decision to recognise that National Park purposes should be factored into the business model in the medium term.

In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that once Covid regulations allowed, Plas Tan y Bwlch would re-open, with 21 rooms being made available for bed and breakfast guests.

**RESOLVED to note the minutes.**

6. **Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives 2021-26**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive for Members to receive, discuss and formally adopt the draft well-being Statement and draft well-being Objectives as the Authority's Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives for the period 2021 to 2026.

Reported - The Chief Executive presented the report and background and apologised that following the Members' Working Group meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 officers had been asked to amend the year of the Local Government Measure to 2009. This would now be corrected in para. 2.3 of the report. The Chief Executive confirmed that Audit Wales were satisfied with the way the information was being presented and had highlighted the importance for the Authority to keep in contact with its partners and the public during the 5-year period of the plan, and not to be fearful of making changes if it was felt necessary.

**RESOLVED to approve the draft Well-being Statement and draft Well-being Objectives as the Authority's Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives for the period 2021 to 2026.**

## 7. **2020/21 Budget Update**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of significant variations within the current financial year's budget and provide Members with updates on progress against the revenue and capital budgets. The Head of Finance apologised that the report was presented late and not included within the Agenda and papers.

Reported – The Head of Finance presented the report, which summarised the revised revenue and capital budgets for the first eleven months of 2020/21 and provided a projection of the Authority's position at the financial year-end.

Members welcomed the report and discussed the following in detail:-

- Legal – Members were provided with the latest information on the Hillside case, which currently remains unresolved.
- Cultural Heritage – Members discussed the increase in funds for the “buildings at risk” budget and the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that once commitments relating to the three properties in this current year were met, there would be no further direct commitments for buildings on the “at risk” register. He advised that future funding would be incorporated within the general “cultural heritage” budget.
- Conservation, Trees and Agriculture – the Director of Planning and Land Management agreed to forward details of the £38,000 estimated overspend to Mr. Tim Jones. He confirmed there was no specific funding to address ash dieback, and that the Authority's priority was to ensure public safety. The Chief Executive stated that the Property Section was currently undertaking an assessment of the Authority's liabilities and once this was complete, the Authority would need to decide whether to commit funds over several years, or to use available capital funding if it appeared to be a large commitment.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that funds were in place to employ a landscape architect in the near future.

### **RESOLVED**

1. **to note the report.**
2. **to approve the intended actions including the use of part of the specific risks reserve (estimated at £155,200, which will be revised in the outturn report) as outlined in paragraph 4.2.**

## 8. **Performance Indicators 202-21: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Results**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to present the results for the third quarter of the year. He further advised that where the work had been completed, quarter four updates were also included.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised upon the background. Members and Officers made the following observations:-

Our Communities (1ch) – The Chief Executive provided an update on the implementation of the Snowdon Transport and Parking Review and advised that focus work with the communities was now complete. Work was continuing on establishing a pre-booking parking system, and improvements to the structure of the Sherpa bus service, with additional funding secured from Welsh Government to address the challenges.

In addition, Welsh Government legal officers were currently looking at traffic orders to address the problem of campervans etc., the outcome of which was expected in the next few weeks.

Balancing our Resources and Efforts (5b) – Members were advised that a number of staff appraisals had been carried out remotely through Microsoft Teams. However, this was not practicable for all staff, and some appraisals had been deferred until September.

Balancing our Resources and Efforts (5d) – Members discussed new Member Induction in general and were advised that this was an issue raised by Wales Audit and would be included as part of the remit of the newly established Governance Task and Finish Group.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

9. **Corporate Work Programme 2020/21**

Submitted – A progress report by the Director of Corporate Services for the third quarter of the financial year. He further advised that where the work had been completed, quarter four updates were also included.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and third quarter updates. Members and officers discussed some of the trends shown in red in more detail.

- Members felt that the implementation of the Youth Manifesto should be accelerated. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a job description had been prepared, which was awaiting evaluation, and he hoped that an appointment would be made shortly. It was agreed that officers would provide an update report to a Members' Working Group in approximately 6 months' time.
- a Member thanked the Chief Executive and the Chairman for organising the virtual all staff meeting which had included a session with an external specialist to raise staff awareness on how to take care of their mental health.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

10. **Visitor Centres Business Plan 2021-2025**

Submitted – A report by the Sustainable Tourism Manager outlining the business plan for the National Park Visitor Centres over the next 4 years. The report included recommendations on the restructuring of the centres' budget to better reflect the costs of the service.

Reported – The Sustainable Tourism Manager presented the report and provided further details on the structure of the annual budget and the projected TIC totals.

Members considered the report and discussed the following:-

- there was an expected increase in visitors for 2021.
- figures for 2020 had indicated a new type of visitor to Betws y Coed, which had resulted in a negative effect, and a 30% reduction in income, which has been reflected in the projected income figures going forward. In contrast, Aberdyfi had the highest income figures ever recorded for September 2020 and Beddgelert was also very busy.

- in response to a question, the Sustainable Tourism Manager confirmed there was no defined policy on the type of goods to sell. The Centres sell as many locally produced items as possible, usually bought within a 40-mile radius of the National Park boundary. Products which were not available within the 40-mile radius were sourced firstly from other areas within Wales, followed by the UK and then fair trade/sustainable products from overseas. The Member felt it would be useful to adopt a policy for the future which would reflect commercial reality alongside the ethos of the National Park.
- proposed improvements to Betws y Coed Visitor Centre were discussed. Landscape architects had been engaged to consider how the centre could be made more visible without over-use of signage. A Welsh Government grant had been secured as part of the 2021/22 work programme and the Property Manager advised that the building would be made more sustainable by replacing the windows and improving insulation. The Property Manager stated that although solar panels were not appropriate on this sensitive building, other options were being considered.
- with regard to staffing levels at the Aberdyfi Centre, the Sustainable Tourism Manager stated that a store tally system had recently been purchased which could be rolled out to all the Centres if it proved to be successful. The Sustainable Tourism Manager confirmed that some of the Centres already sell Authority produced goods wholesale to local businesses and agreed to discuss the matter further with Councillor John Pughe Roberts.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to approve the increase/decrease in staffing levels at Beddgelert and Betws y Coed for 2021 – 22.**
  - 2. that 25% of the Sustainable Tourism Manager’s salary and on-costs be moved to C20 – Engagement Cost centre.**
  - 3. that 20% of the Centres Administration Assistant salary and on-costs be moved to F22 – Admin. cost centre.**
  - 4. a separate cost centre to be set up and managed by the Property Manager, to budget Building Maintenance costs for the tenanted units. The costs associated with the centres buildings themselves to be transferred via virements to this cost centre as and when works are carried out. This cost centre to be funded by 75% of the rent received from the unit occupiers at the centre’s buildings.**
  - 5. although major building maintenance works on the units is recommended to come from a separate newly created budget managed by the Property Manager, the centres should retain the income from recharges as a reimbursement for costs incurred.**
  - 6. the centres retain 25% of the rental income to reflect the fact that onsite supervisors spend time and resources acting as day-to-day contacts between SNPA and the tenants and should be remunerated accordingly.**
11. **Adoption of the Property Disposal Policy and Property Acquisition Policy**  
Submitted – A report by the Head of Property Services recommending adoption of the revised Disposal Policy and the final version of the new Acquisition Policy.

Reported – The Head of Property Services presented the report and advised that the policies outlined the main topics for high level consideration and did not include any of the minor details.

**RESOLVED**

1. to adopt the revised Property Disposal Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. to adopt the Property Acquisition Policy as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

12. **The Authority's Risk Profile**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to update Members on the Authority's Risk Profile.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and risk profile and outlined the 3 main changes to the register.

Arising thereon,

Risk Ref. 9 Aspects of financial risk associated with LIFE Celtic Rainforest Project

The Chief Executive confirmed that the LIFE project's expenditure was in euros and that the Authority had benefitted from a favourable exchange rate. The Management Group had also decided to employ another project officer to reduce the risk of failing to meet its target. The Chief Executive advised that he would refer this specific risk to the Management Group to decide if it was reasonable to reduce the risk from high to medium, and would report back to Members in due course.

Risk Ref. 17- Securing long term future of Plas Tan y Bwlch

Officers would include under Risk Ref. 17, that Plas Tan y Blwch, as it becomes more commercial, should ensure it operates within National Park purposes.

**RESOLVED to note the report and amend the Risk Register as outlined.**

13. **Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 and Pay Policy Annual Report for 2020/21**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Personnel for Members to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 and receive the Pay Policy Report for 2020/21.

Reported – The Head of Personnel presented the report and background and apologised to Members that Appendix 1, which is normally presented with the report and provides standard information, had been omitted.

Arising thereon, and in response to a question from a Member, the Head of Personnel agreed to ascertain the salary levels of the Chief Executive and Directors' of the other two Welsh National Parks and assess how they compare with Snowdonia. Members noted that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority were currently in the process of appointing a Chief Executive which would be a good indicator of market value.

**RESOLVED**

1. to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22.
2. to approve the Pay Policy Annual Report for 2020/21.

14. **Freedom of Information**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on information requests received by the Authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report, for information.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

**The meeting ended at 11.45**