



ERYRI NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

The Minutes Book Volume (27)

2022 – 2023



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SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



**THE MINUTES BOOK
2022 – 2023**

VOLUME (27)

The Minutes Volume

This volume contains the minutes of meetings of the Snowdonia National Park Authority 2022-2023.

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SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2022

Cynghorydd Wyn Ellis Jones (Chairman) (Conwy)

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, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dafydd Edwards, Sian Owen, Bethan Hughes, Angela Jones, Naomi Jones, Anwen Gaffey.

In attendance

Rachel Freitag, Audit Wales.

Apologies

Councillors Mike Stevens, Judith Humphreys; Ms. Tracey Evans.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was subject to 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 and would be available online at a later date.

1. Chairman's Announcements

- (1) the Chairman reported upon a recent liaison meeting with the Snowdonia Society which had been very useful.
- (2) the Chairman advised upon a number of meetings arranged with Julie James, Minister for Climate Change, which had unfortunately been cancelled by the Minister for various reasons. It was hoped that a meeting would be re-scheduled in due course.
- (3) the Chairman reported that the Minister had now confirmed the appointment of the two new Welsh Government Members. Naomi Luhde-Thompson would be joining the Authority on the 1st May and Delyth Lloyd will commence on the 1st August 2022.
- (4) as this was the Chairman's final Authority meeting, he took the opportunity to thank all the Members for their friendship over the years and for their work in looking after such a special place as Snowdonia. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Owain Wyn, former Chair of the Authority, who had supported him since his appointment to the Chair. The Chairman stated that he was proud to have been able to represent the people of Conwy and had enjoyed being a Member of the Authority over a number of terms since 2003.
- (5) the Chairman also conveyed best wishes to all the Local Authority Members with contested seats at the upcoming Local Government election.

Arising thereon, Mr. Owain Wyn, on behalf of Members, thanked the Chairman for his kind words, his work, and his leadership during these challenging times.

2. **Corporate Update**

The Chief Executive provided an oral update on operational issues:-

- (1) the pre-booking facility at Pen y Pass car park had been re-established and was now easier to use as well as being available in both the Welsh and English languages on the Authority's website.
- (2) as the Welsh Government's Written Statement – Valued and Resilient: Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks was not being reviewed, the Authority will instead receive a strategic remit letter with priorities from the Minister for Climate Change, which will be presented to the Authority meeting on the 15th June 2022.
- (3) the upward adjustment in the Authority's pay bands by two salary points had been applied and included in the salaries from April onwards. The Chief Executive took the opportunity to thank all the Authority Members for their unfailing support for the Authority's staff over the past 5 years and for the stability and sound advice they had provided.
- (4) the Director of Corporate Services provided Members with details of the provision in the Environment Act 1995 which states that a person who retires from being a member of a council by virtue of an election does not terminate his office as a member of a National Park Authority until three months after he retires from being a member of the council, or if earlier, the day on which the National Park Authority receives notice of a proposed replacement appointment. If Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council have not made their appointments by the 18th May 2022, current Members will be required to attend the Planning and Access Committee on that day.
- (5) in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Authority's Standing Orders requires that:- *"A newly appointed member of the Authority may sit and listen at meetings of the Planning and Access Committee but may otherwise take no part in the decision making process of the Planning and Access Committee until such time as the Member has attended a Planning training course as may be approved from time to time by the Director of Planning and Land Management"*.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

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**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 9th February 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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

Item 9 – Annual Audit Summary 2021

The Chief Executive agreed to ask Mr. Nic Selwyn of Audit Wales for the link to the recently published 'Data Tool' comparing financial data for each Council, National Park and Fire and Rescue Authority in Wales, which could then be forwarded to Members.

7. **Action Log**

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

Authority Meeting 25.09.19

Action Item 8 – Budget Update

The Director of Corporate Services reported that the Property Manager was currently preparing an update report for Members of the Assets Sub-Group which will be sent out shortly.

Authority Meeting 29.12.20

Action Item 7 – Action Log

Officers confirmed that this action item referred to a decision taken as a consequence of the action item referred to in para. 8 of the minutes.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log as outlined.

8. **2022 Audit Plan**

Submitted – The Audit Wales 2022 Audit Plan.

Reported – Rachel Freitag of Audit Wales presented the report, outlined the audit risks and the work to be undertaken by Audit Wales over the coming year, including the audit of financial statements and performance audit work to be agreed with officers. The report also sets out the proposed timetable for the work and the estimated fees.

The Chief Finance Officer took the opportunity to thank the Authority's current membership for their work and support over the past five years. He welcomed Rachel to her first Authority meeting to present her report and reported upon discussions and revisions agreed with Audit Wales prior to its presentation.

Arising thereon, Members were advised that the Chief Executives of the three National Parks in Wales would shortly be meeting with Audit Wales to discuss their performance audit programme for 2022-23. The Chief Executive also reported that he believed there could be two audits undertaken next year, one on a national level and one on a local level. He also confirmed that Audit Wales would be attending the Authority's meeting in June to present their audit report on Sustainable Tourism.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the 2022 Audit Plan.

9. **Governance Task and Finish Group**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss and formally adopt the recommendations made by the Governance Task and Finish Group.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that the amendments, as recommended by the Members' Working Group, were now included.

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

- Members and officers agreed that opportunities for new Members to meet face to face was crucial to foster good working relationships.
- the Director of Corporate Services, in response to a question, advised that the

technology for live broadcasting was advancing very quickly, and once the decision to proceed had been agreed, would not take long to establish.

- some Members raised doubts as to the effectiveness of hybrid meetings and officers should seek best practice advice from organisations who were already using this method.
- a Member felt that a proportion of the Authority's meetings should be held face to face to help build a team spirit for both staff and Members. He asked whether 'in person' meetings should be the default to safeguard against experienced Members not attending which would then be of no benefit to the new Members.
- it was agreed that Members should have the option to attend meetings remotely or face to face in future to ensure fairness for all.
- a Member suggested that the Member Development Day, scheduled for the beginning of July, could be used to introduce new members, and provide an opportunity to meet face to face if the weather permits.

RESOLVED

1. to adopt the updated Code of Corporate Governance as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
 2. to adopt the process for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority's Well-being Statement and Corporate Work Programme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
 3. to agree the updated role descriptions of members and chairs as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
 4. to develop a Member Development Strategy as set out in paragraphs 2.3.2.1 – 2.3.2.7 of the report.
 5. to appoint Ms. Sarah Hattle to take the lead on Member mentoring.
 6. that the Authority continues with its current committee structure but should, in future, consider an amendment to the Authority's Scheme of Delegation to give the Performance and Resources Committee the right to make final decisions on financial and other reports (unless Authority approval is specifically required).
 7. Terms of Reference and the work of future Task and Finish Groups to be as set out in paragraphs 2.4.3 – 2.4.6 of the report.
 8. to proceed with future meetings and public access as set out in paragraphs 2.5.1 – 2.5.4 of the report.
 9. that Standing Orders relating to contracts be revised and approved by the Authority in due course with appropriate training for staff as set out in paragraphs 2.6.1 – 2.6.3 of the report.
10. **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 the accompanying letter from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED to note the report.

11. **Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report**
Submitted – The Annual Report to update Members on activity at Yr Ysgwrn.
- Reported – The Head of Cultural Heritage presented the Annual Report in detail and also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Owain Wyn for his immeasurable support for Yr Ysgwrn and its staff during his term of office.

Members welcomed the report and made the following observations:-

- Members thanked the Head of Cultural Heritage for the annual report and thanked all the staff and volunteers at Yr Ysgwrn for their work.
- a Member recommended promoting Yr Ysgwrn to literary circles outside of Wales and also internationally, as part of the aim to reach a wider market.
- another suggestion was to develop the audience by contacting the Federation of Young Farmers in Scotland, Wales, and England and also to market Yr Ysgwrn in Ireland in future.
- in response to a question, the Head of Cultural Heritage confirmed that Yr Ysgwrn and Plas Tan y Bwlch will be working together to attract schools from further afield. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a Business Plan was being prepared for Plas Tan y Bwlch which will shortly be presented to the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board.
- the Head of Cultural Heritage noted that opportunities to save on running costs were limited. Yr Ysgwrn has to be kept at a consistent temperature in order to protect the furniture and artefacts and staff costs have to be met even when there is less business. Yr Ysgwrn's Audience Development Plan aims to develop other target markets and whilst there was no data to support this currently, evidence will be available by the next annual report.
- Members discussed the technical problems with the biomass boiler which had been very disappointing, but hopefully the situation had now been remedied.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the Annual Report, for information.**
- 2. following changes to the site and to the membership of the Authority, Members should visit Yr Ysgwrn on a date to be arranged in 2022 to familiarise themselves with the site and to discuss specific issues.**

12. Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone: Our approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty (Revised for 2021)

Submitted – A report by the Partnerships Manager to adopt the revised 'National Parks Wales Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty.'

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report and background. Members were advised that both the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities have approved the document.

RESOLVED to note the report and adopt the 'National Parks Wales: Landscapes for Everyone' as set out in Annex 1 to this report and as presented to the Members' Working Group in January 2022.

13. Members' Working Group Reports

Submitted – Reports of the Members' Working Group meetings held on 19th January and 2nd March 2022.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

14. Calendar of Meetings

Submitted – A timetable of meetings for the period 2022/2023.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the Calendar of Meetings and Members were asked to note that an additional meeting of the Standards Committee was being arranged on the 28th April 2023, to assist the Standards Committee in its new duty to provide the Authority with an Annual Report.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive advised that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority were eager to host the Designated Landscape Wales Members' Seminar in 2022, the date of which will be reported in due course.

RESOLVED subject to noting the above additional meeting of the Standards Committee, to approve the timetable for 2022/23 as submitted.

15. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted - Oral reports on recent meetings of organisations that Members had attended as representatives of the Authority.

Mr. Owain Wyn – Campaign for National Parks

- the meeting focused on the UK Government's response to the Glover review which resulted in a series of presentations on Nature Recovery and Public Rights of Way. The UK Government have recently decided not to proceed with extending public rights to roam which is in direct contrast to the Welsh Government, who support extending the rights.
- CNP's Annual Conference will be held on 12-14 October 2022 in Plas y Brenin and if Members were interested in attending, they should contact the Snowdonia Society.

Councillor John Pughe Roberts – Southern Area Access Forum

Attended a recent meeting where discussions focussed on:-

- Public Rights of Way
- Access to Water
- 4 x 4 vehicles in Penal
- Bridleways
- update on £250k spent on footpath work

RESOLVED to thank the Members and note the reports.

16. **Minutes**

Submitted - The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 24th November 2021, for information.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

The Chairman conveyed his best wishes and thanks to all the Authority's staff for their work and support over his term of office.

The meeting ended at 11.30

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE 2022**

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. S. Owen, Ms. Bethan Hughes, Ms. Helen Pye, Ms. Angela Jones, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

Apology

Mrs. Sarah Hattle.

As the AGM was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and would be made available online at a later date.

1. Chair

The Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Authority and advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing three Members for the Chair, Councillor Annwen Hughes, Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd and Mr. Tim Jones. The Members were invited to address the meeting.

Councillor Annwen Hughes and Mr. Tim Jones took up the invitation to address the meeting, introduced themselves to new Members and provided a summary of their background and experience.

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd thanked Members for putting his name forward but advised that as he was the current Chairman of Conwy County Borough Council, he would like to withdraw his nomination at this time.

Councillor Annwen Hughes was elected Chair of the Authority.

The Chair thanked Members for their support.

2. Vice-Chair

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing three Members for Vice-Chair, Mr. Tim Jones, Councillor Elfed Roberts and Councillor Edgar Owen. The Members were invited to address the meeting.

Councillors Edgar Owen and Elfed Roberts took up the invitation to address the meeting whilst Mr. Tim Jones relied upon the address he gave for the election of the Chair. Following the first round of votes the Director of Corporate Services advised that as Councillor Elfed Roberts had received the least number of votes there would be a second round of voting between Mr. Tm Jones and Councillor Edgar Owen.

Councillor Edgar Owen was elected Vice-Chair of the Authority.

The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair thanked Members for their support and welcomed both former members and the newly elected Members to the first meeting of the new Authority.

The Chair and Members then took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd on being elected Chair of Conwy County Borough Council.

4. Corporate Update

- (1) The Chief Executive congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair on their appointment and welcomed returning and newly appointed Members to their first meeting of the new Authority. He noted that the Authority had today elected its first ever female Chair and that from 1st August 2022, the number of female Members will be in the majority.
- (2) The Chief Executive stated that the Authority has been very fortunate in its Members, who have provided it with stability and a strategic direction. The Chief Executive stated that Mr. Owain Wyn was attending his final Authority meeting as a Welsh Government appointed Member, and on behalf of Members and Officers, expressed appreciation and thanks for his valuable contribution and service over the years, especially during his time as Authority Chair.
- (3) The Chief Executive provided Members with details of upcoming training and development opportunities.
- (4) Members were advised that the Authority had recently appointed a new Head of Personnel, who would shortly be taking up her post. He also advised that the Authority was currently in the process of preparing a bid for approx. £800k in additional grant funding.
- (5) The Chief Executive advised that the three National Parks in Wales had appointed new Chairs and that the secretariat had transferred to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for the next two years.

5. Public Question Time

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

6. Declarations of Interest

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

7. Membership of the Authority

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

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and asked Members to confirm their contact details were correct and to consent to the information being published on the Authority's website.

Arising thereon:-

1. Officers noted the need to correct the spelling of Naomi Luhde-Thompson.
2. Brian Angell asked that his mobile telephone number, rather than his landline, be published on the Authority's website.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 27th April 2022 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon, Mr. Owain Wyn thanked the Chief Executive and proposed that the Chair and the Chief Executive should write to thank all the departing members for their service and commitment to the work of the Authority.

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 8 – Budget Update

The Director of Corporate Services advised that a detailed update had been circulated to the Members of the Assets Subgroup with the aim of convening a further meeting in the Autumn.

In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services reported that the Aberdyfi hearing was due to be held on the 4th July 2022 and that the Supreme Court Judgement may not be available until a later date.

Authority Meeting 09.12.20

Action Item 7 – Action Log

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Youth Manifesto Task and Finish Group will be convened once new Members were appointed onto the group.

Authority Meeting 09.02.22

Action Item 13 – Authority Resilience: Staff Terms and Conditions

The Chief Executive advised that the new group of Members would meet to consider the capacity/role of Directors. The group will also decide whether to consider the role of the Chief Executive if necessary.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log as submitted.

10. **Sustainable Tourism Snowdonia National Park Authority**

Submitted – The Sustainable Tourism Report by Audit Wales, together with a Summary Report.

The Chair welcomed Nic Selwyn and Euros Lake of Audit Wales to the meeting to present the report. Members were provided with a power point presentation of the main findings and were advised that the report was primarily specific to Snowdonia with reference to more National issues at the end of the report, for information.

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

- in response to a question, the Head of Engagement agreed to provide further information to Councillor Louise Hughes regarding Motorhomes and the confusion as regards Aires in the Snowdonia National Park. Officers would also contact local businesses to address this misunderstanding.
- in answer to a question, Audit Wales confirmed that the Sandford Principle still applies and that if National Park purposes were in conflict, then conservation would always have priority. The Chief Executive referred Members to the

outcome in Exhibit 4 whereby 52% of tourism businesses felt the Authority did not have the right balance between its two purposes and requested further analysis on this by Wales Audit.

- in response to a further question, Audit Wales noted that it was difficult for National Parks to influence visitor behaviour and the Partnerships Manager confirmed that Bangor University was continuing its research into litter in the National Park. This has yielded data which has been included in the Snowdonia National Park's Communication Strategy. Arising from this work, the Authority was now in the process of appointing an officer to the 'Wyddfa di-blastig' project. The Member felt it would be useful to receive a summary of the outcome of this research in order to provide a strategic understanding of these behavioural issues.
- Members discussed the success of the 'Llysgennad Eryri' Ambassadors Scheme which currently has over 700 ambassadors. The Partnerships Manager provided further details of the scheme which is continuously reviewed and in future aims to reach out on a practical level to hospitality businesses etc.
- responding to a further question, the Partnerships Manager noted that the Wales Audit report referred to the current work by SNPA and Gwynedd Council through an MoU to establish a strategic plan, which will include input from all sectors across the National Park and Gwynedd and enable officers to create a detailed action plan.
- a member noted his concerns that there was no mention of sustainable tourism in the Minister's remit letter. Audit Wales advised that they were confident that the Welsh Government take their findings seriously.
- the Head of Engagement, in response to a question, reported that recent funding from Croeso Cymru will allow the Snowdonia National Park Authority to launch a campaign in the coming weeks to try and influence behaviour in the countryside. Whilst ideally there should be a national campaign, it was felt that 700 ambassadors spreading the message will help support progress locally. The Head of Engagement felt that the Audit Wales report goes to the root of the challenge faced by the Authority and highlights the need to find a balance for the future by working with Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council alongside local communities.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, thanked Mr. Nick Selwyn and Mr. Euros Lake of Audit Wales for attending the meeting to present their report.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report and accept the recommendations as identified.**
- 2. to await a summary of the outcome of the research by Bangor University into litter in the National Park to a future meeting.**

11. **Term of Government Remit Letter for Snowdonia National Park Authority**
Submitted – The Welsh Government Remit Letter from the Minister for Climate Change, for information.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented background for Members and advised that the contents of the letter have been incorporated into the Corporate Work Programme.

Members discussed the following:-

- to note that the letter was for the term of the Government.
- reference in the letter to excellence in governance through an improvement and support programme and a strengthened annual performance system which

- could be extended to Local Authority appointees.
- working with Welsh Government as it develops it's approach to sustainable farming to support farmers and lead to National Parks being more biodiverse areas. The Chief Executive agreed there was a need to review policies to respond to challenges such as climate change and future agricultural support for farmers. The Minister recognises the challenges going forward and has provided additional resources to create new posts to address this.
- the Local Development Plan review will aim to support a thriving Welsh language.
- the absence of any reference to the new national curriculum and the benefits of educating children on the effects of climate change.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that the work to celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms was being carried out by an officer from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority on behalf of the three National Park Authorities in Wales.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Term of Government Remit Letter, for information.

12. 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). Arising thereon, Members noted that in future, the Standards Committee will meet twice a year.

**Councillors Dilwyn Roberts, Elfed Roberts; Mrs. Sarah Hattle.
+ 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, Kim Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Mrs. Sarah Hattle.
- iii) **Yr Ysgwrn Management Board**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Powell Roberts; Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.
- iv) **Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**
Councillor Meryl Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones.

(4) AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- i) **Celyn, Tegid and Tryweryn Advisory Conference**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, June Jones;
Mr. Brian Angell.
- ii) **Fforwm Eryri**
Councillor Annwen Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Edgar Owen (Vice Chair)
Councillors Kim Jones, Jo Nuttall; Mr. Brian Angell.
(In Reserve - Councillor Dilwyn Roberts)
- 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) **Assets Sub-Group**
Councillors June Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Meryl Roberts;
Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones.
- (ii) **Communication**
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.
- (iii) **Europarc Youth Manifesto Group**
Councillors Kim Jones, John Pughe Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans.
- (iv) **Traffic Management Task and Finish Group**
Councillors Edgar Owen, John Pughe Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans.
- (v) **Carbon Account Steering Group**
Councillor John Pughe Roberts; Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Tim Jones.

- (vi) **Place Names Steering Group**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Dilwyn Roberts.
- (vii) **New Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Steering Group**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Roberts; Ms. Delyth Lloyd.
- (6) **OTHER BODIES**
 - i) **Trawsfynydd Stakeholder Group**
Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts
 - ii) **Joint Council for Wales**
Councillor Louise Hughes
 - iii) **National Trust, Beddgelert Local Liaison Committee**
Councillor June Jones
 - 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)
 - v) **The Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes**
Mr. Tim Jones
 - vi) **Welsh Local Government Association Council**
Councillor Dilwyn Roberts
 - vii) **Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau (SAC)**
Councillor Louise Hughes
 - viii) **Snowdonia Green Key Initiative Executive Group**
Councillor June Jones
 - ix) **Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum**
Councillor Elfed Roberts
 - x) **Dyfi Biosphere Partnership**
Councillor Louise Hughes
 - xi) **Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference**
Councillor Meryl Roberts
(In Reserve – Ms. Delyth Lloyd)
- 13. **Annual Report to the Authority**
Submitted – A report by the Chair of the Standards Committee.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the annual report on behalf of the Chair of the Standards Committee, who had unfortunately had to leave the meeting due to a prior commitment. The Director of Corporate Services provided the background and advised upon the additional statutory duty placed on the Standards Committee to prepare an annual report to the Authority.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

14. **Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**

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 the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22. Arising thereon, Members were advised that a detailed complaints monitoring report will be presented to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee in July 2022.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Annual Governance Statement for the 2021/22 financial year.

15. **(Draft) Corporate Work Programme 2022/23**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to discuss and adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2022/23.

Reported - The Director of Corporate Services presented the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme in detail for the benefit of new Members. He advised that Audit Wales were satisfied with the way the information was being presented and how it tied in with Cynllun Eryri outcomes. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that progress against objectives is reported to the Performance and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED

1. to note the report.

2. to formally adopt the Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2022-23.

16. **Annual Report on Actual Treasury Management Activity 2021/22**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer detailing the Authority's Treasury Management activity during 2021/22, for information.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer introduced himself and Sian Owen, Head of Finance to new Members. He presented his report in detail and confirmed that the Authority's funds and investments continued to be secure.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

17. **Members' Attendance**

Submitted – An information report by the Director of Corporate Services detailing Member attendance at Authority and Committee meetings from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report. Arising thereon, a Member asked whether this form of governance was still relevant as both the Welsh Government and Audit Wales measure performance, rather than attendance. The Director of Corporate Services advised that he would be considering the format of the report for the future.

RESOLVED to note the report.

18. **Welsh Language Standards**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care together with the Authority’s Welsh Language Standards 2021/22 Monitoring Report.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and background.

RESOLVED to approve the report and authorise the Head of Administration and Customer Care to publish the Welsh Language Standards 2021/22 Monitoring Report on the Authority’s website.

19. **Cynllun Eryri Annual Monitoring Report 2020/21**

Submitted – A report by the Partnerships Manager on the first year of implementation of the National Park Management Plan for 2020/21.

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report and confirmed that all the Partners had provided evidence, with a micro site being created to allow Partners to update the Plan. The Partnerships Manager confirmed that progress had been achieved in all Outcomes on the Action Plan, under very difficult circumstances, with one exception (No. A2.1) which was currently out of the Authority’s control. The actions will be reassessed and included in the next Annual Progress Report 2021/22.

Members welcomed the report, which was well written and easy to understand, although a request was made to increase the size of the type/font in some places.

RESOLVED to note the report and the progress made to date regarding the delivery of Cynllun Eryri.

20. **Members’ Working Group Report**

Submitted – Report of the Members’ Working Group held on 6th April 2022.

RESOLVED to note the report.

21. **Conferences 2022**

(i) **National Parks UK Conference 2022**

Exmoor National Park, 27th to 29th September 2022.

Submitted – A diary marker together with an oral report by the Chief Executive.

Reported – The Chief Executive advised that it was customary to send four delegates, including the Chairman, to the Conference.

RESOLVED to send four delegates to the Conference, including the Chief Executive and the Chair. The following members were also nominated to attend:-

Councillor Elfed Roberts; Mr. Tim Jones.

(Reserve Members – Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen and Councillor Louise Hughes).

(ii) **W.L.G.A. Annual Conference 2022 – Thursday 22nd September 2022**

Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Submitted – A diary marker for the WLGA’s Annual Conference 2022.

RESOLVED that Councillor Dilwyn Roberts should represent the Authority at the W.L.G.A. Annual Conference 2022.

(iii) **Europarc Conference 2022**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to inform Members of the EUROPARC Conference 2022 and discuss representation from SNPA at the event.

Reported - The Chief Executive advised that the next Europarc Conference would be held in Argelès-sur-Mer, Pyrénées Orientales, France from the 5th to 7th October 2022. The theme of the Conference will be “Climate is Changing! How can Protected Areas Adapt?”

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report and authorise representation from Snowdonia at the Europarc Conference 2022.**
2. **to send two delegates (1 member and 1 officer) to the Europarc Conference and for the Chair and Chief Executive to approve the delegation.**
3. **that Mr. Brian Angell should represent the Authority at the Europarc 2022 Conference in Argelès-sur-Mer, Pyrénées Orientales, France with Mr. Tim Jones in reserve.**

22. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted – Oral updates on recent meetings of organisations which Members have attended as representatives of the Authority.

Local Access Forum - Southern Area

Councillor John Pughe Roberts

Recent meeting discussed:-

- Coastal path monitoring figures
- the Access Forum discussed their authority to approve the SNPA Draft Regeneration Strategy update.
- Natural Resources Wales - Llyn Tegid Reservoir concerns regarding raising lake levels.
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act Access mapping.
- update from the Warden Service on wild camping.
- concerns raised that too many cones were being used within the National Park.
- Cwmni Nod Glas Project - over £250k had been spent on footpath improvements around Dinas Mawddwy.
- to thank local farmers for keeping the footpaths clear and tidy.

Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts - Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group

Recent meeting discussed:-

- building a waste storage facility
- as recent reports had re-energized discussions, Councillor Roberts suggested that Cwmni Egnio, established to bring forward new projects at Trawsfynydd, should be invited to a future meeting of the Members Working Group to update Members.

Members were advised that the Chief Executive and the Director of Planning and Land Management had recently attended a remote meeting with Cwmni Egnio as a form of introduction. The Director of Planning and Land Management felt it may be too soon to extend an invitation to Cwmni Egnio currently but an invitation to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group would be issued when definite proposals were available.

The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that details of decommissioning work at Trawsfynydd will be presented to the Planning and Access Committee in the near future.

RESOLVED to thank the Members and note the reports.

23. **Minutes**

The following minutes were submitted for information:-

- (1) Minutes of National Parks Wales Executive Meeting held on 19th November 2021.
- (2) Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 23rd March 2022.
- (3) Minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 1st April 2022.

The Chair thanked all Members for their input and conveyed best wishes to Mr. Owain Wyn for his commitment to the work of the Snowdonia National Park Authority during his term as a Welsh Government appointed Member.

The meeting ended at 14.15

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2022

Councillor Annwen Hughes (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Ms. Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. S. Owen, Ms. Nia Roberts, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

In attendance

Mr. Nick Selwyn, Mr. Euros Lake, Ms. Rachel Freitag - Audit Wales.

Apologies

Councillors June Jones, Elfed Powell Roberts;
Mr. J. Cawley, Director of Planning and Land Management.

As the meeting was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and would be made available online at a later date.

1. Chair's Announcements

- (1) The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. The meeting had been postponed in September following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and was being reconvened today. The Chair also welcomed Ms. Delyth Lloyd to her first Authority meeting.
- (2) Members were advised upon events recently attended by the Chair and Members:-
 - the Chair met the President of the Royal Welsh Show and had presented the 'Student of the Year' award on behalf of the Welsh National Parks.
 - a meeting with Leslie Griffiths MS at Yr Ysgwrn.
 - the Chief Executive and the Vice-Chair recently attended a Seminar in Portmeirion on the Tourism Levy.
 - the Chair, Councillor Elfed Roberts, Mr. Tim Jones and the Chief Executive had attended the recent UK National Parks' Conference 2022 in Exmoor.
 - Mr. Brian Angell and Mr. Tim Jones had represented the Authority at the Europarc Conference in **Argelès-sur-Mer, France**.
- (3) Members were then advised upon future meetings:-
 - Member Development Day at Yr Ysgwrn on Friday 14th October 2022.
 - Annual Community & Town Councils' meetings (online via Zoom) on the 25th and 27th October 2022.

- New Member Induction session with the Management Team for Members who had been unable to attend the first meeting.

2. **Corporate Update**

The Chief Executive provided an oral update on operational issues:-

- (1) In accordance with the Term of Government Remit Letter, the three strategic officers had now been appointed, one in each National Park. The Snowdonia National Park strategic officer will be responsible for nature restoration and carbon management.
- (2) The Chief Executive outlined a change in Ministerial responsibilities for Landscapes in Wales. AONB's, Access to the Countryside and the designation of a new National Park have been transferred to Lesley Griffiths MS with the responsibility for National Parks remaining with Julie James MS.
- (3) Arrangements for the Chairs and Chief Executives to meet with the Minister to discuss the effects of inflation on the Welsh National Park Authorities were underway.
- (4) Work to underground overhead lines over the Dwyryd had commenced and will take up to 5 years to complete.
- (5) The Authority was required to appoint a Member to sit on the Planning sub-committee of the Corporate Joint Committee, and in accordance with the regulations the Member should either be Chair or Vice-chair of the Authority or Chair of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen should represent the Authority on the Planning Sub-Committee.

3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

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

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 15th June 2022 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

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

Item No. 10 – Sustainable Tourism Snowdonia National Park Authority

In response to a question, Mr. Nick Selwyn, Audit Wales, agreed to provide further information and analysis on why tourism businesses feel that the Authority does not have the right balance between its two purposes. Also, the Chief Executive confirmed that a summary of the outcome of the Bangor University research into litter in the National Park would be presented to a meeting of the Members' Working Group, once the work was completed.

7. **Action Log**

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

Authority Meeting 25.09.19

Action Item 8 – Budget Update

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that officers will arrange a date for the Assets Subgroup to meet as soon as possible.

Authority Meeting 09.12.20

Action Item 7 – Action Log

The Director of Corporate Services agreed to stress the need to progress this action as a priority with the Head of Warden and Access Service on his return from sickness absence.

Authority Meeting 09.02.22

Action Item 13 – Authority Resilience: Staff Terms and Conditions

The Chief Executive advised that a meeting will be convened, and Members will be supported by the Chief Executive and the Head of Human Resources.

Authority Meeting 27.04.22

Action Item 9 – Governance Task and Finish Group

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a report to revise 'Standing Orders relating to Contracts' will be presented to the next meeting of the Authority and staff will be provided with the appropriate training.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log as submitted.

8. Introduction to the Auditor General for Wales and Audit Wales

Received – A presentation from Audit Wales.

Reported – The Chair welcomed Mr. Nick Selwyn, Mr. Euros Lake, and Ms. Rachel Freitag of Audit Wales to the meeting. Members received a PowerPoint presentation on the role of the Auditor General and the work of Audit Wales and were provided with an overview of the financial and performance audit work undertaken, and the timing of key reports which are presented annually.

The Section 151 Officer thanked Audit Wales for their assistance, especially with the time constraints experienced this year, and the Chief Executive also expressed his appreciation to Audit Wales for their work.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, thanked Mr. Nick Selwyn, Mr. Euros Lake, and Ms. Rachel Freitag of Audit Wales for the presentation.

RESOLVED to welcome the presentation, a copy of which will be provided to Members, for information.

9. Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer's information report for Members to note the contents of the draft Statement of Accounts and the arrangements for the period of inspection by members of the public.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report in detail and advised that the audited (and adjusted) Statement of Accounts will need to be presented to Members on the 30th November 2022, for approval.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services asked Members to consider whether to call an extraordinary meeting of the Authority, or to delegate authority to the Performance and Resources Committee to approve the Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22.**
- 2. to delegate authority to the Performance and Resources Committee to approve the Statement of Accounts on behalf of the Authority.**

10. **Annual Report 2021-22**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to recommend the adoption of the Annual Report 2021-22 and to approve its publication by 31st October 2022.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the Annual Report 2021-22 which reports on Year 1 progress in achieving the Authority's Well-being objectives, as adopted in the Authority's Well-being Statement 2021-26.

RESOLVED

1. to note the report.

2. to adopt the Annual Report 2021-22 and approve its publication by 31st October 2022.

11. **Authority Hybrid Meetings**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Information Systems and Communication to formally approve a recommendation that the Authority and the Planning and Access Committees be convened as live hybrid meetings.

Reported – The Head of Information Systems and Communication presented the report and background. The Director of Corporate Services asked Members to note that the Performance and Resources Committee would be held as a live hybrid meeting for this first trial session only.

RESOLVED

1. that the Performance and Resources Committee on the 30th November 2022 be held as an experimental live hybrid meeting.

2. if the above meeting is successful, to move forward with the live hybrid system for the Planning and Access Committee meeting on the 7th December and the Authority meeting on the 8th February 2023.

12. **Members' Working Group Report**

Submitted – Report of the Members' Working Group held on 29th June 2022.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Authority had received both the Aquaterra report and the Small World Consulting report which will be scrutinised, and a strategy produced for adoption by the Authority.

RESOLVED to note the report.

13. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted – Oral updates on recent meetings of organisations which Members have attended as representatives of the Authority.

Members were advised upon a recent event held at Portmeirion where the Finance Minister, Rebecca Evans, launched the consultation on a Tourism Levy for Wales.

The Chief Executive and the Vice Chair of the Authority had attended, alongside community and tourism industry representatives. The Chief Executive advised that a steer was provided by delegates at the seminar, in that if the tourism levy is supported, it should be applied consistently across Wales with agreement on the need to clearly demonstrate the benefits of a levy.

RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting ended at 11.30

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2022

Councillor Annwen Hughes (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Jo Nuttall;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Ms. Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. Nia Murray, Ms. Naomi Jones, Ms. Helen Pye, Ms. A. Gaffey.

In attendance

Ms. Rachel Freitag - Audit Wales.

Apologies

Councillors Louise Hughes, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Dilwyn Owain Roberts; Ms. Sarah Hattle.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that as the meeting was being held remotely, the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and would be made available online at a later date.

1. Chair's Announcements

- (1) the Chair thanked the Members who had attended the recent Member Development Day on the 14th October which started at Yr Ysgwrn and finished at Benar Boardwalk, Dyffryn Ardudwy.
- (2) the Chair reported upon the success of the recent Annual Meetings with the Community and Town Councils on the 25th and 27th October 2022.
- (3) the Chair reported on recent meetings attended:-
 - a meeting of the three Welsh National Park Authorities and Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change.
 - Caru Eryri Award Ceremony, Bethesda
 - a meeting with Snowdonia Transport
- (4) the Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee on the 30th November 2022 would be a hybrid meeting and will be held at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.
- (5) the Chairman referred to the recent indisposition of Councillor Louise Hughes and expressed the Authority's best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

2. Corporate Update

The Chief Executive provided an oral update on operational issues:-

- (1) the Chief Executive welcomed the successful outcome of the Hillside judgment and advised that the Director of Planning and Land Management would be presenting a report on the judgment to the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.

- (2) a report on the recent changes to planning legislation and policy for second homes, short-term lets and the potential use of Article 4 Direction would be presented to the next meeting of the Members' Working Group on the 7th December 2022.
- (3) the two main topics of discussion at the meeting between the three Welsh National Park Authorities and the Minister had been the work programme, set for the National Parks by Welsh Government, and the proposed budget settlement, which is to remain flat over the next 3 years. The Minister had agreed to ask her officers to look at the possibility of increasing the budget for the next and the following financial year but had also suggested that the Authority should consider what it could do less of over the next two years. The Welsh Government will be advised of its budget allocation by the UK Government on the 13th December 2022. The Chief Executive advised that in the short-term, recruitment for posts funded from the baseline would now be temporarily frozen, with only grant funded posts being filled. Once the Chief Executive was aware of the challenge ahead, he will meet with senior Members and the Management Team, prior to presenting a scrutiny report to a meeting of the Members Working Group. A detailed report would then be presented to the Authority for formal decision, although the Chief Executive advised there was no immediate urgency.
- (4) the Chief Executive, alongside the Partnerships Manager and the Head of Engagement, had recently presented evidence on traffic in the North of the National Park to the Traffic Commissioner, who was satisfied with the information presented.
- (5) Natural Resources Wales were proceeding to set up the new Clwydian Range National Park with a technical note being released before Christmas. A report will be presented to Members in due course.
- (6) Ms. Sian Owen, the Authority's Head of Finance, would shortly be starting a period of parental leave and Mr. David Williams, Finance Officer with Gwynedd Council will step in to cover her absence. The Chief Executive took the opportunity to thank the Chief Finance Officer for assisting with these arrangements.

3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

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

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12th October 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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

Item No. 9 – Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22

The Chief Finance Officer advised that Audit Wales had been unable to certify the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts in time for the Performance and Resources Committee on the 30th November due to insufficient evidence from the asset valuers. The report would now be presented to the Authority meeting on the 9th February 2023.

Arising thereon, Rachel Freitag of Audit Wales confirmed they were awaiting more information from the asset valuers and that there would be no sanctions for not meeting the deadline, set for the end of January 2023, as this was only an expectation by the Welsh Government.

7. **Action Log**

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

Authority Meeting 27.04.22

Action Item 11 – Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report

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

RESOLVED to note the updates to the Action Log.

8. **Treasury Management – Interim Report 2022/23**

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

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer advised that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice for Treasury Management (i.e. CIPFA's Treasury Management Code) requires authorities to report on treasury management performance at least twice a year. Members were advised that the Authority had approved its Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-23 on the 9th of February 2022 and investments had been made in accordance with the parties approved in the Treasury Management Strategy, namely, the Bank of Scotland, Barclays, HSBC, Nationwide, and Santander. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the Authority's funds continued to be secure, and he estimated that interest income was expected to be £12k higher than projected in the 2022/23 budget.

RESOLVED to note the oral report, for information.

9. **Base Revenue Budget 2023/24**

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer's report for Members to note the Base Budget as estimated for 2023/24 and projected funding position.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and background. He advised that discussions on the budget settlement were continuing with Welsh Government and Members agreed it would be reasonable to consider use of the reserves to meet any projected deficit when the Welsh Government Settlement for 2023/24 was known.

RESOLVED to note the report and the planned baseline budget for 2023/24, as outlined.

10. **2022/23 Budget Update**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of the revised budgets for 2022/23 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 Chief Finance Officer 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, the Director of Corporate Services advised that he hoped to reclaim a percentage of the Authority's costs following the successful Hillside judgment, and in response to a question from a Member, he confirmed that the estimated £20,000 overspend in Plas Tan y Bwlch (para. 4.3) was from the revenue budget.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the report.**
- 2. to confirm the transfers to/from reserves as outlined in paragraph 1.2 and the 'New Transfers' column, as outlined in the table under paragraph 2.1 of the report.**

11. Standing Orders Relating to Contracts

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to adopt a revised version of the Authority's Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and revised Standing Orders relating to Contracts (Appendix 1).

Members considered the report in detail. In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services reassured Members that the revised Standing Orders relating to Contracts provided a framework for the Authority to build their policies upon. They will provide a foundation for the Authority to incorporate environmental considerations into its green procurement policy etc.

RESOLVED to adopt the Standing Orders relating to Contracts as submitted. (Appendix 1 of the report)

12. 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 accompanying questionnaire, and to determine what response was required.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and questionnaire and outlined the proposed changes for 2023/24. Members had no additional observations and agreed that the Director of Corporate Services should complete the questionnaire on their behalf.

RESOLVED

- 1. to accept the report, as submitted.**
- 2. to authorise the Director of Corporate Services to respond to the questionnaire on behalf of the Authority.**

13. The Authority's Risk Profile

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to provide an annual summary of the Authority's Risk Profile.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the risk register and Members discussed the following:-

- Risk Ref 5 – Risk (publicity) as a result of the Traffic Scheme / Snowdonia Green Key Policy

Officers agreed the risk should not be raised from a medium risk to a high risk and agreed to review the left-hand column.

- Risk Ref 7 – Risks to the HLF Landscape Partnership project on the Carneddau
In response to a concern raised about staffing levels, the Director of Planning and Land Management and the Head of Cultural Heritage assured Members that with the support of partners, namely the National Trust and the Lottery Heritage Fund, the Authority had been able to increase capacity and the situation was now under control.
- Risk Ref 17 – Securing the long-term future of Plas Tan y Bwlch
A Member asked whether the risk should be increased following the recently commissioned carbon report which states that Plas Tan y Bwlch contributes to almost half of the Authority’s carbon budget. There will be costs to secure carbon improvements, as well as the large financial investment to bring the fabric of the building up to the necessary standard. The Chief Executive advised that an additional column will be included in the Asset Management Register to provide Members with an overview of the Authority’s carbon commitments. The Director of Corporate Services advised that Risk Ref. 17 referred to the risk to the Authority of continuing to manage Plas Tan y Bwlch. If the decision was not to continue, it would not have a big financial impact on the Authority.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the report, for information.**
- 2. to review the left-hand column of Risk Ref 5, as outlined above.**

14. Snowdonia National Park Place Names

Submitted – A report by the Head of Cultural Heritage to update Members on the progress of the Place Names Steering Group and present draft principles for topographical place names in the Snowdonia National Park (Appendix 1).

Reported – The Head of Cultural Heritage presented the report and background and outlined in detail the work of the Task and Finish Group, the draft principles, and the proposed work programme of the Steering Group. A further report will be presented to Members in Spring 2023 and will include a proposed standardised list of lake names in the National Park.

Members were asked to look specifically at the use of ‘Yr Wyddfa’ and ‘Eryri’ at the meeting, and following a full discussion made the following observations:-

- Members welcomed the comprehensive report which provided an explanation of a complex issue and outlined the expanse of history and the evolution of language.
- to note that the petition, calling on the Authority to formalise the use of the Welsh names *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa*, had now reached 7000 names.
- some Members maintained that the Authority should use the Welsh words *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa* only. Members noted that Cyngor Gwynedd have adopted a reformed policy to ensure that the Welsh language continues to be prioritised in every aspect of their work.
- the economic context was also a consideration and Members felt that the Authority should be flexible and sensitive in its approach.
- in response to a question, the Head of Cultural Heritage assured Members that as part of the process, use of the English names in brackets would last for an approximate period of 2 years, with the intention to use Welsh names in every context as the Authority’s publications and interpretation materials are updated.
- a Member noted that the Welsh Government were also looking to change the legislation at a future date.

- a Member agreed that a change in attitude would not happen overnight and noted that many businesses use Snowdonia for their branding, was there an opportunity here to keep “Eryri” special for the area?
- Members discussed names associated with mountaineering and climbing and their origins. A Member suggested that as these names were created by non-Welsh speaking individuals through their own skills, it would be disrespectful to change them. The niche element should be recognised and hopefully climbing groups would be willing to discuss with the community.
- the Head of Engagement provided members with details of the technical aspects of their decision. Google, Facebook, and Twitter use algorithms, and continued use of Snowdonia in brackets will maintain the National Park’s position at the top of the page which is critical for traffic to the website, until increased awareness of the name Eryri only, achieves the same result over time.
- Officers would issue a press release to inform the public of the Authority’s decision.

RESOLVED

- 1. to adopt the Place Names Principles in Appendix 1 as a guide for the Authority’s use of place names.**
- 2. to approve the use of the names *Yr Wyddfa* and *Eryri* in the Welsh and English languages, giving officers the discretion to use the terms, *Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon)* and *Eryri (Snowdonia)* in English, should the context require this for education and engagement purposes. It is foreseen that *Yr Wyddfa* and *Eryri* will be the usual and common forms and that over time, as awareness increases, will be the only forms used by the Authority. The change to occur over time, as Authority publications and interpretation are updated.**

15. Members’ Working Group Report

Submitted – Report of the Members’ Working Group held on 7th September 2022, for information.

RESOLVED to note the report.

16. Meetings of other Organisations

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

17. Minutes

The following minutes were submitted for information:-

- (1) Minutes of National Parks Wales Executive Meeting held on 25th April 2022.

Arising thereon,

Para. 7 – Member Support

in response to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that the meeting to discuss Member support had not yet been held. He advised that other training opportunities have been provided, such as the New Member Induction Course in Northumberland and the Welsh National Parks Members’ Seminar being arranged and hosted by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in May 2023. He further advised that Anna Jones had been appointed to one of the three Welsh Government funded Strategic posts, hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, her role included Member development and the strategic work of developing members was now on the agenda.

- (2) Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 13th July 2022.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

18. **Europarc Conference 2022**

Received – A slide presentation from Mr. Tim Jones and Mr. Brian Angell, Welsh Government Appointed Members who had attended the Europarc 2022 Conference in Argelès-sur-Mer, France. The Conference theme was ‘Climate Change: Resilient Parks’ and the emphasis of the Conference was on Adaptation or Mitigation? Members were also provided with a short film titled ‘Tribute to our Landscape’.

Reported – Mr. Brian Angell and Mr. Tim Jones thanked the Authority for the opportunity to attend the Europarc Conference, which had been exceptional. He gave particular thanks to Judith Orritt, the Chief Executive’s Personal Assistant, for the itinerary and travel arrangements. At the Conference, Eryri was presented with an award for being a member of the Europarc Federation for 25 years.

Next year’s Conference will be held in Leeuwarden – Friesland Netherlands from the 3rd to 6th October 2023 and the theme will be ‘A tribute to our landscape, where nature and people meet in harmony’ and Members were encouraged to take up the invitation to attend if they were given the opportunity.

RESOLVED to thank Members and welcome the presentation.

The meeting ended at 12.10

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2023

Councillor Annwen Hughes (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. David Williams, Ms. Angela Jones, Ms. Helen Pye, Ms. A. Gaffey.

In attendance

Ms. Rachel Freitag - Audit Wales.

Apologies

Councillors Louise Hughes, Kim Jones, Dilwyn Owain Roberts; Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that as the meeting was being held remotely, it was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and would be made available online at a later date.

1. Chair's Announcements

(1) Sympathy

The Chair referred with sadness to the recent death of Caerwyn Roberts, former Chair and Member of the Snowdonia National Park Authority. On behalf of the Authority, the Chair took the opportunity to pay tribute to Caerwyn, a Member of the Authority for 30 years and Chairman for eighteen of those years. He was first appointed in 1987 by the Welsh Office and then by Gwynedd Council, when he was elected as a Member of that Council in 1999. The Chair expressed her thanks to Caerwyn for promoting Eryri at every opportunity and referred to his many achievements and the experience which he brought to the Authority. Caerwyn had worked tirelessly to secure the Hafod Eryri project, and later played a leading role in negotiations to enable the Authority to buy Yr Ysgwrn. He was an active member of National Parks UK and had served as their Chairman. Caerwyn was also a valued Member of Harlech Community Council for over 40 years. The Chair, on behalf of Members, expressed deepest condolences to his wife Bet, and children, Iwan, Bryn, Iola and their families.

The Chief Executive thanked the Chair for the opportunity to express his appreciation for Caerwyn's work and to convey condolences on behalf of the Authority's staff. Caerwyn's 30 years with the Authority had provided stability, for which the staff were very grateful. He was very respected in both the political sector and agricultural sector, for which he was awarded the

MBE, followed by an OBE for his work in the community of Harlech. He was always very thoughtful of the Authority's staff who wished to recognise his contribution. The Chief Executive was personally grateful for his constant support and although his illness had been a cruel one, Caerwyn still reminisced about the work of the National Park. The Chief Executive expressed his deepest condolences to the family on behalf of all the Authority's staff.

Members and officers stood as a mark of respect.

- (2) the Chair reported on meetings attended since the last Authority meeting:-
- the Chair and Vice-Chair had recently met with Audit Wales
 - meetings to discuss the Authority's financial position including a recent meeting with Sian Gwenllian MS
 - a meeting with The Snowdonia Society, and
 - a recent media training course at Plas Tan y Bwlch.

2. **Corporate Update**

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

- the Chief Executive provided an update on the Authority's current financial position. Since the recent meeting of the Members' Working Group, he had met with Janet Finch-Saunders MS and would be meeting with Mabon ap Gwynfor MS on the 9th February 2023.
- the Chief Executive advised that Welsh Government final grant allocation figures would be confirmed during the first week in March. If there was no improved offer, the Chief Executive will convene a meeting of the Panel of Members to consider the financial challenge.
- the freeze on recruitment had now been lifted to ease pressure on the Authority's staff.
- the Chief Executive advised that Audit Wales were undertaking a National Review of Governance in National Parks Authorities. Officers from Wales Audit were in-attendance at some of the Authority's meetings to observe, and as part of the review a number of staff and Members would be invited to attend interviews with officers from Audit Wales.
- tenders were currently being sought by Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, and the Eryri National Park for the Snowdon Sherpa Service, which will be for a period of five years and will provide an improved service. The Authority continues to contribute income from three of its car parks to support this service.
- Hafod Eryri will re-open for the 2023 season and officers will undertake a site visit with the Railway Company to assess whether there will be any additional costs to the Authority.

3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

Members noted a correction to the Agenda in that Item 15 was submitted by the Chief Executive and not the Director of Corporate Services.

Arising thereon, Mr. Iwan Jones and Mr. Jonathan Cawley declared an interest in items 15 and 16 on the Agenda and left the meeting while these matters were being discussed.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 16th November 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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 19.12.20

Action Item 7 – Action Log

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

Authority Meeting 13.10.21

Action Item 11 – Scrutiny Panel Progress Report – Place Names

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

Authority Meeting 09.02.22

Action Item 13 – Authority Resilience: Staff Terms and Conditions

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

Authority Meeting 27.04.22

Action Item 9 – Governance Task and Finish Group

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

Authority Meeting 15.06.22

- Action Item 10 – Sustainable Tourism Snowdonia National Park Authority
This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

- Action Item 22 – Meetings of other Organisations

The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that arrangements were now underway, and the action could be removed from the Action Log.

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

8. **Final Accounts 2021/22**

Received – An oral report by the Chief Finance Officer.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer advised that work to finalise the accounts was progressing and Rachel Freitag of Audit Wales was at the meeting to provide Members with a brief update. Rachel Freitag explained that difficulties had arisen due to the need to re-evaluate the Authority's assets every 5 years. This work was undertaken by external valuers and more details were awaited. As the figures were material to the accounts, Audit Wales were unable to give an opinion at this time. Members noted that several other Local Authorities were in a similar position.

Arising thereon, the Chief Finance Officer noted that he was hopeful that the Final Accounts 2021/22 would be presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 22nd March 2023. If this was not the case, the Final Accounts for

2021/22 would be presented to the Authority's meeting on the 26th April 2023. The Chief Finance Officer thanked Rachel Freitag, Audit Wales, for her support in this matter and thanked David Williams, the Finance Officer for his work.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report, for information.**
- 2. to confirm that the Performance and Resources Committee have delegated authority to approve the Statement of Accounts on behalf of the Authority.**

9. The Authority's Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities 2023/24

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer requesting approval of the 2023/24 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 informed Members that he was presenting the report for the final time, as he would be retiring in June 2023 after 20 years with the Authority. He stated that the Welsh Government draft grant allocation for 2023/24 was disappointing, and as National Park Authorities have no mechanism to increase revenue funding, he recommended that Members accept the report as submitted.

Members considered the report and discussed the following:-

- Members thanked the Chief Finance Officer for his commitment to the work of the Authority and for his expertise over the 20 years.
- Members and officers discussed future implications for the Authority's cash flow when taking on large projects such as the Celtic Rainforests (LIFE), which requires the Authority to utilise reserves to fund the projects until final payment is received. In response to a question, the Chief Executive explained how such projects were funded with an initial payment at the start, a further payment at the halfway stage and then a final payment upon completion.
- Appendix 4 - in response to a question, officers confirmed that the figure of £462,097 for Plas Tan y Bwlch was the revenue cost which did not include the additional maintenance costs referred to in the Asset Plan. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the figure included capital charges of £225k, which was not a cash cost to the Authority and represented depreciation across the age of the asset. The Chief Finance Officer agreed the figure could be an underestimate if there were urgent works necessary to maintain the building.
- the Chief Executive confirmed there was no baseline figure in the budget to support the Dark Skies project which was currently supported through various bids and working with partners. He also confirmed there was no specific budget for carbon zero work, and that this would be established when a Carbon Strategy is developed.
- officers and Members discussed unforeseen costs such as the possible overspend on capital schemes, the pay settlement for 2023/24 and other mitigations and agreed as these were unknown, they would be dealt with as they arise.
- the Chief Finance Officer advised that replenishing the Authority's reserves should be a priority for the Authority, but the ability to do so would depend upon future Welsh Government grant settlements.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that a bid for additional capital funding had been submitted to Welsh Government which would meet their priorities in the event of any slippage in their budget becoming available.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the report.**
- 2. to approve the revenue and capital budget for 2023/24 as set out in the report and appendices.**
- 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 2023/24

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer's report to approve the Capital Strategy for 2023/24 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, however, 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 2023/24, 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 2023/24 as outlined in para. 3.2 of the report and note the content relating to the Prudential Code (see tables under paras. 2.2, 3.2 and para. 7.1 of the report).**
- 5. to adopt the Investment Strategy for 2023/24 as outlined in paras. 3.5 to 3.14 of the report, and note the institutions listed in para 3.6.**

11. Report of the Interview Panel for Independent Members of the Standards Committee

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to appoint members to an Interview Panel to select Independent Members for the Standards Committee.

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

**RESOLVED to appoint a Panel of Members, as set out in para. 1.3 of the report, for interviewing prospective members to the Standards Committee. The following Members were appointed:-
Councillor Annwen Hughes (Authority Chair), Councillor Edgar Owen (Authority Vice-Chair), Mr. G. Iwan Jones (Director of Corporate Services), together with one Lay Member. Mr. Tim Jones was appointed in reserve.**

12. Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy – Strategic Plan

Submitted – A report by the Partnerships Manager to formally adopt the Strategic Plan for a Sustainable Visitor Economy in Gwynedd and Eryri (2035).

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report and updated Members on the production of the Strategic Plan. Members noted that the Snowdonia National Park Authority and Gwynedd Council were the only two local authorities in

the U.K. to have such a strategy. The Partnerships Manager confirmed Conwy County Borough Council's involvement and that they would be part of the steering group, with further discussions underway with regard to their role on the partnership and whether this would be as observers or full members. The Partnerships Manager advised that the Plan had now been approved by Gwynedd Council's Education and Economy Committee and was being submitted to Gwynedd Council's Cabinet next week. Once the Plan is adopted, it would be formally launched before the summer.

Arising thereon, Members made the following observations:-

- the Head of Engagement thanked the Partnerships Manager for her work which will allow the Authority to move forward with sustainable tourism in the area.
- Members also welcomed the report and strategy and thanked the Partnerships Manager for her work.
- Members noted that once the partnership is established a detailed action plan will be developed. The Partnerships Manager confirmed that the action plan will be reviewed annually.
- a Member asked whether the strategy evaluates the impact of tourism in terms of the cost of repairing damaged footpaths, litter collection etc., over and above what was currently expected. The Partnerships Manager confirmed that a baseline will be identified, and the Chief Executive stated that if a tourism tax is established in the future, this type of detailed work would be undertaken at that time.
- officers confirmed that the review of the Eryri Local Development Plan would look in detail at future planning policies which may impact on the strategy.
- in response to a question, the Head of Engagement advised that marketing of the Eryri brand, whilst there were elements in this strategy, comes under the National Park's Engagement Strategy.

RESOLVED to adopt the 'Strategic Plan for a Sustainable Visitor Economy in Gwynedd and Eryri (2035)' as set out in Annex 1 of the report.

13. Working Group Reports

Submitted – Reports from the Working Group meetings.

(1) **Members' Working Group**

Submitted – Reports of the Members' Working Group meetings held on the 19th October and 7th December 2022.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

(2) **Local Joint Working Group**

Submitted – Report of the Local Joint Working Group meeting held on the 19th November 2022.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive provided the following updates:-

Para. 5 – The Social Partnership & Public Procurement (Wales) Bill

A finalised response had been prepared and forwarded.

Para. 7 – Hybrid Working

A questionnaire would be sent to all staff in the coming days.

RESOLVED to note the report.

14. **Meetings of other Organisations**
Members had not attended any external meetings as representatives of the Authority.
15. **Terms and Conditions of Service**
SNPA Senior Management Team: Directors
Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents.
Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive requesting Authority approval for the exemption of the subsequent report.

RESOLVED that the “Terms and Conditions of Service – SNPA Senior Management Team: Directors” report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined.

16. **Terms and Conditions of Service**
SNPA Senior Management Team: Directors
Submitted – A joint report by the Chief Executive and the Head of Human Resources to report on the outcome of the Members Panel and to consider the Panel’s recommendations.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report in detail. He apologised that the Discussion Paper, as considered by Senior Members, had been omitted from the Agenda and that a copy was sent out separately.

Members noted the considerations and conclusion of the Panel of Senior Members also discussed the need for succession planning. Members also agreed that in order to complete the process, the terms and conditions of the Chief Executive should now be considered.

RESOLVED

1. **to appoint additional technical support for the Senior Management Team (resource identified).**
2. **to introduce arrangements whereby Directors are allowed TOIL for evening and weekend working.**
3. **to allow St David’s Day as a discretionary day’s leave for the Directors.**
4. **to support a two-pay point increase in the salary of the Directors to reflect enhanced responsibilities, backdated to April 2022.**
5. **the Human Resource Officer to monitor senior officer salaries over the coming 3 years.**
6. **that the Authority continues to support officers with managerial and leadership training, and where appropriate relevant work experience.**
7. **that the Panel, together with the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Human Resources, further consider the terms and conditions of the Chief Executive, and to present a report to the next meeting of the Authority if required to do so.**
8. **that the Panel, together with the Head of Human Resources and the new Section 151 Officer, are tasked and authorised to address potential matters resulting from turnover of personnel in the Senior Management Team.**

The meeting ended at 11.45

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 18th MAY 2022**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors 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, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Ms. Jane Jones, Ms. Emma Watkins, Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Ms. Anwen Gaffey.

Apologies

Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Mike Stevens; Ms. Sarah Hattle.

As the meeting was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services stated:-

- that the meeting was subject to Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and
 - o that a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
 - o the meeting was not open to the public.
 - o the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and will be available on the Authority's website at a later date.

1. Chairman's Announcements

i) Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, the newly appointed Welsh Government Member, to her first meeting of the Planning and Access Committee. The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that Ms. Thompson had been provided with planning training prior to the meeting.

ii) Best Wishes

The Chairman conveyed best wishes and thanks to the Members who were attending their final meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.

2. Declaration of Interest

Councillor John Pughe Roberts declared an interest in item 4 (2) on the Agenda and withdrew from the meeting when the item was under discussion.

3. Minutes

Subject to correcting the minutes to record that Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones was present at the meeting, the minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2022 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. **Planning Appeal Submitted and Received** – copy of the following appeal decision:-
Appeal by Ms. Jill Hughes against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the conversion of the former annex store / bunkhouse into a one-bedroom annex accommodation to the main hostel building at the Snowdonia Mountain Hostel, Tai Newyddion, Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda. LL57 3DQ
(Appeal allowed)

Members and officers noted that the Authority's list of traditional buildings would be re-examined as part of the annual monitoring work carried out by Planning Policy officers.

The meeting ended at 11.15

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 18th MAY 2022

Item No.

4. **Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management**
- (1) NP5/57/1058B – Erection of extension to provide additional workshop and classroom space, and additional car parking, Unit 1, Marian Mawr Enterprise Park, Dolgellau. LL40 1UU
Reported – Case Officer presented the report and background. In response to a question, officers confirmed that Natural Resources Wales use the latest data available to them when assessing applications and that the Welsh Government will be re-publishing TAN 15 and the new maps next year.
RESOLVED to refuse permission in accordance with the recommendation.
- (2) NP5/74/498 – Construction of track to provide access to peatlands in association with peatlands restoration project, Pennant, Llanymawddwy. SY20 9AJ
Reported – Case officer presented the report and background.
RESOLVED to grant permission in accordance with the recommendation.
5. **Update Reports**
- (1) Enforcement Notices, Listed Building Enforcement Notices served under delegated powers and List of Compliance Cases – **For Information**
- NP5/65/ENF115A – Land at Hengwrt, Llanelltyd
Members were provided with an oral update. The Acting Planning Manager will provide an update report to the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.
- NP5/55ENFL142A – 3 Glandwr, Bryncrug.
Members were advised upon the latest position and that the matter was being progressed. A follow up report will be presented in due course.
- NP5/54/ENFLB33M – Nannau Hall, Llanfachreth
Members were provided with an oral update. The Acting Planning Manager will provide an update report to the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.
RESOLVED to note the report.
- (2) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**
NP5/61/632 – Merthyr Isaf, Hwylfa'r Nant, Harlech.
The Acting Planning Manager agreed to discuss with the case officer and provide the Member with a separate update.
RESOLVED to note the report.
- (3) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**
NP5/61/T558D – Former Tabernacl Chapel, High Street, Harlech.
The Acting Planning Manager would ask the case officer to provide an update.
NP5/74/496 – Gwastadgoed, Aberangell.
The Acting Planning Manager would ask the case officer to provide an update.
RESOLVED to note the report.

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 29th JUNE 2022**

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Sarah Hattle, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mr. Richard Thomas, Ms. Elen Hughes, Ms. Sophie Berry, Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Mrs. Sarah Roberts.

As the meeting was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services stated:-

- 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 and will be available on the Authority's website at a later date.

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.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Members for their support.

3. **Apologies**

Councillor Meryl Roberts; Mr. Tim Jones.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

Ms. Tracey Evans declared a personal interest in item 10 on the agenda under paragraphs 10 (2) (c) (i) of the Code of Conduct for Members.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 18th May 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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. June Jones
- 2) Cllr. Kim Jones
- 3) Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd
- 4) Cllr. Jo Nuttall
- 5) Cllr. Edgar Wyn Owen
- 6) Cllr. Dilwyn Owain Roberts
- 7) Ms. Tracey Evans
- 8) Mr. Tim Jones
- 9) Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson

Southern Area Inspection Panel

(9 Members)

- 1) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards
- 2) Cllr. Annwen Hughes
- 3) Cllr. Louise Hughes
- 4) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts
- 5) Cllr. John Pughe Roberts
- 6) Cllr. Meryl Roberts
- 7) Mr. Brian Angell
- 8) Mrs. Sarah Hattle
- 9) Ms. Delyth Lloyd

7. Supplementary Planning Guidance: The Slate Landscapes of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site.

Submitted - A joint report by Anglesey and Gwynedd Council Planning Policy Manager and the Authority's Historic Environment Planning Officer to approve the Supplementary Planning Guidance: The Slate Landscapes of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site for adoption.

Reported – The Historic Environment Planning Officer presented the report and the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance and confirmed that Gwynedd Council's Cabinet had adopted the SPG the previous day without amendments.

Members considered the report and the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance in detail and made the following observations: -

- In response to a question, the Historic Environment Planning Officer confirmed how many areas of the National Park were included in the SPG and referred to the map on page thirty-two of the agenda.
- a member welcomed the document, and in response to a question, the Environment Planning Officer advised that the document would normally be published on the Authority's website, but it was also possible to circulate an email shot or a post on social media to make people aware that the document had been adopted.
- A Member felt it was important that Community Councils in the relevant areas should be informed. The Environment Planning Officer agreed that a brief note could be included in the email shot informing the relevant Community Councils of the changes made. The Director of Planning and Land Management felt it would also be beneficial to inform Planning Agents and Developers.
- In response to a question, the Environment Planning Officer advised that although Blaenau Ffestiniog area was not in the National Park, the Authority would be informed as a consultee on any applications submitted.
- The Environment Planning Officer informed members on the process of reviewing both the SPG and Local Development Plan. In response to a question, she also confirmed that the document was as future proof as possible.
- A Member noted a typographical error on page 42 in the Welsh report which should read "cydran" instead of "di cydran".
- In response to a request from a member, the Environment Planning Officer informed Members on the process of reviewing the SPG.

- In response to a question, the Environment Planning Officer advised that any contribution to the local community would depend on the scale of any development. The Director of Planning and Land Management stated that although the nomination of World Heritage Site Status did not come with any financial benefit there would potentially be opportunities to apply for grant funding and any other available sources of funding.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the consultation report.**
- 2. to formally adopt the Slate Landscapes of Northwest Wales World Heritage Sites SPG to be used as material planning consideration in decision making within the Snowdonia National Park.**
- 3. to delegate the right for the Director of Planning and Land Management to make any nonmaterial modifications, which may be required to the draft SPG before it is published on the website.**

- 8. 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.

- 9. 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.

- 10. Appointment of a Casual Vacancy for Southern Snowdonia Local Access Forum Submitted** – A report by the Access & Well Being Manager and Local Access Forums Secretary to approve the appointment of one casual vacancy for the Southern Local Access Forum.

Reported – The Access & Well Being Manager presented the report and background and welcomed new members to the meeting.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed casual vacancy appointment to the Southern Local Access Forum.

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

RESOLVED to note the report.

- 12. Planning Appeal Submitted and Received** – copy of the following appeal decision:-
An appeal by Mr. George Borthwick in relation to a planning refusal issued by the Authority “for the storage of one touring caravan which has planning permission to be used as living accommodation for twenty-eight days in any one year”, Land opposite Quaker Burial Ground, Llwyngwriil. (Appeal dismissed)

The meeting ended at 11.20

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 29th JUNE 2022

Item No.

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

- (1) NP4/13/61B – Proposed erection of 11kv electric substation, Car Park, Capel Curig.
Reported – Case Officer presented the report and background and provided new members with a summary of the application. The Case Officer advised that the application dealt with amendments to the original application. In response to a question, the Case Officer confirmed that access to the building was not a huge problem as it could be accessed without using car park spaces and once the building was up and running it was rarely required to visit the building.
RESOLVED to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

- (2) NP5/50/346E – External alterations and alter and extend the existing balcony, 9 Terrace Road, Aberdyfi. LL35 0LP.
Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management and Chair both welcomed Ms. Sophie Berry to the meeting, who was currently assisting the Planning and Land Management Section due to staff capacity within the section. The Case officer presented the report and background. In response to a question, the Case Officer advised that losing the recess on the doorway would improve access to the dwelling and would not affect the appearance of the building. The Case Officer confirmed that the condition of installing a bird box complied with Planning Policy Wales which supported the enhancement of Biodiversity. In response to a question, Officers confirmed that although the property was in a Conservation Area there were no restrictions and therefore the applicant could remove the porch on the doorway under Permitted Development Rights.
RESOLVED to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

5. **Update Reports**

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

Arising thereon, the Acting Planning Manager advised Members that the list was not as current as anticipated due to stretched resources but was positive that Members would be provided with more significant updates in due course.

NP3/12/ENF191 – Castell Cidwm, Betws Garmon

A Member was concerned that a significant amount of water was entering the road and the matter needed to be addressed.

NP4/29/ENF10G – The Machno Inn, Penmachno.

In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that a list of planning applications was circulated to Members, but an e-mail could also be circulated to members on individual applications relevant to their ward if required. He also advised that the Enforcement list was only presented at the Planning and Access Committee.

The Case Officer provided an oral update to Members and the Acting Planning Manager reported that the matter was still ongoing and advised that to date there had been no reason to initiate further action.

NP5/58/ENF616 – Land near Coed y Bachau, Dyffryn Ardudwy.

The Acting Planning Manager provided Members with an oral update on the matter.

NP5/65/ENF115A – Land at Hengwrt, Llanelltyd.

Members were provided with an oral update.

NP5/55/ENFL142A – 3 Glandŵr, Brynchrug.

Members were provided with an oral update. The Acting Planning Manager advised that both Glandŵr and Nannau Hall would be placed on the Gwynedd Council's Empty Property Management Group priority list to ensure progress was made regarding the situation.

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**

NP5/74/496 – Gwastadgoed, Aberangell.

Members were provided with an oral update.

NP5/57/34C – Marchnad Ffermwyr, Dolgellau.

The Acting Planning Manager would ask the case officer to provide an update.

RESOLVED to note the report.

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2022**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Sarah Hattle, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Ms. Delyth Lloyd.

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mrs. Jane Jones, Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Mr. Richard Thomas, Mr. Aled Lloyd, Ms. Elen Hughes, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

As the meeting was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services stated:-

- 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 and will be available on the Authority's website at a later date.

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Kim Jones; Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Tim Jones.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor John Pughe Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 4 (1) on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (a) (i) 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 29th June 2022 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. **Conservation Areas fit for the Twenty-First Century Project (Year 1)**

Submitted – A report by the Historic Environment Planning Officer for Members to approve the draft documents, with any necessary changes for public consultation.

Reported – The Historic Environment Planning Officer presented the report and background.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the draft documents for public consultation, as submitted.

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. **Delegated Decisions**

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

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. **Planning Appeals**

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

1. Appeal by Mr. Grant Scott against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of a two-bedroom rural enterprise dwelling on existing campsite at Nyth Robin Campsite, Aberdyfi. LL35 0RG (Appeal dismissed)
2. Appeal by Mr. R. Mathias against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the demolition of existing front porch and side lean-to, erection of new single storey extensions to front and side at Hen Gaerffynnon, Ffordd Isaf, Harlech. LL46 2RA (Appeal dismissed)

The meeting ended at 10.40

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 7th SEPTEMBER 2022

Item No.

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

- (1) NP5/74/500 – Removal and surfacing of existing boardwalk path with new aggregate materials, land at Waun Camddwr, Dinas Mawddwy.

Reported – Case Officer presented the report and background.

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

6. **Update Reports**

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

NP5/61/ENF329B – Hafod Wen, Harlech

Members were provided with an oral update.

NP5/65/ENF115A – Land at Hengwrt, Llanelltyd

Members were provided with an oral update.

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**

NP5/71/488 – Penaran Forestry Block, Llanuwchllyn

The Acting Planning Manager will provide Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd with a detailed update.

RESOLVED to **note the report.**

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2022**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Ms. Jane Jones, Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Ms. Eiliw Owen, Mr. Geraint Evans, Ms. Anwen Gaffey.

As the meeting was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services stated:-

- that the meeting was not open to the public.
- the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and will be available on the Authority's website at a later date.

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Kim Jones; Ms. Delyth Lloyd.

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 7th September 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **Eryri Local Development Plan – Annual Monitoring Report for 2021-2022**

Submitted – A report by the Principal Planning Policy Officer to discuss and approve the content of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2021-2022.

Reported – The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented the Monitoring Report and provided Members with further details on the main findings.

Members considered the Monitoring report and discussed the following:-

- the need to achieve a balance between protecting the environment and the economic well-being of communities within the National Park.
- the 'Future Wales: National Plan 2040' and its importance for the future revision of the Eryri Local Development Plan.
- the development of the new Sustainable Farming Scheme, and whilst not directly an issue for the Local Development Plan, would be considered as part of the review.
- under the section titled "Further research and considerations ..." a Member asked officers to strengthen and reflect the Authority's strategies on Sustainable Tourism, Transport Management and address climate change and the biodiversity crisis which needs to be integrated within the LDP. The Aquaterra and Small World Consulting

reports could provide useful data to build on and the biodiversity and climate strategies should be developed alongside the review of the Local Development Plan. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the Authority's Visitor Management Strategy, Transport and Parking Strategy, Carbon Strategy and the Welsh Government's policies on Nature Recovery etc., were all in various stages of preparation, and will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan review.

- Officers were asked whether there were opportunities within the LDP to improve building standards in relation to climate issues, with the National Park becoming an exemplar in this area without necessarily having an impact on costs?
- a member felt that the link between protecting and improving management of the natural environment and the role of agriculture was not clear enough in the document.
- in the light of previous observations about protecting the environment, a Member stated that the people who live and work in the National Park were equally as important.
- Members discussed the proposed 10% increase in tree planting in a bid to reach the carbon net zero target and the possible effects of this on the landscape.
- in response to a question, officers confirmed that the Traditional Buildings Register, referred to in para. 4.7, and the criteria for being included on the register, would be further examined and that Welsh Government were currently formalising the process for traditional buildings.
- Members further discussed para. 5.21 and the relationship between income and house prices and the effect of this on housing affordability in the National Park. Arising thereon, Members also discussed community-led housing, and the continued collaboration with housing associations and local housing authorities as referred to in paras. 5.58 and 5.59. Members also noted that the Authority was working with partners to create and fund an officer to help lead developments in the community.
- Members discussed the use of alternative materials, such as wood, to provide affordable homes for the future. Officers would support appropriate initiatives if applications were submitted.
- Members noted that a report on the recent changes to planning legislation and policy for second homes, short-term lets and the potential use of Article 4 Direction would be presented to the next meeting of the Members' Working Group in December.
- a Member felt that the LDP should, in future, allow the same development opportunities for residents who live within the National Park as is available to people who live outside the boundary.
- Members supported opportunities to support a sustainable rural economy by strengthening local food production / food chain.
- to correct a typographical error in para. 6.25 to read 'during the summer months of 2022'.
- officers agreed to further consider policies on access to remote sites and the resulting landscape implications.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management agreed to discuss Members' concerns with the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture, with regard to companies buying farms across Wales to plant trees in order to offset their carbon footprint. Members noted that Welsh Government were aware of the problem.
- Members thanked officers for the report which was well written and easy to understand.

RESOLVED

1. to note and approve the Annual Monitoring Report 2021-22.
2. to agree to undertake a review of the adopted Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031 as a result of the Annual Monitoring Report evidence, significant national and local contextual changes, the publication of Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (the National Development Framework) along with other changes in national policy.
3. to agree the next steps for undertaking the review of the adopted Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031, through the preparation of a Review Report and to report the findings to the Welsh Government.

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.

The meeting ended at 11.30

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 19th OCTOBER 2022

Item No.

5. **Update Reports**

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

In response to concerns raised by a Member regarding the time taken by the Authority to address planning breaches, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised, that whilst the enforcement process itself was complicated, staff recruitment problems were experienced not only by the Authority, but throughout Wales. The Director of Planning and Land Management reassured Members that once restructuring of the Planning Service was complete and fully staffed, performance will improve.

NP5/54/ENFLB33M – Nannau Hall, Llanfachreth

The Acting Planning Manager provided Members with an oral update and a further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee. Members noted that a new Historic Environment Officer had recently been appointed.

RESOLVED to note the report.

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

A Member asked the Director of Planning and Land Management to update the new Members on the Commuted Sums policy. Arising thereon, a Member asked whether the Authority had a policy which supports the conversion of unused chapels/churches within communities into flats? The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that it would be considered as part of the Local Development Plan review.

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 7th DECEMBER 2022**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Sarah Hattle, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Ms. Jane Jones, Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Mr. Richard Thomas, Ms. Anwen Gaffey.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and that the recording would also be posted online.

1. **Apologies**
Councillor Louise Hughes, Kim Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Meryl Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Delyth Lloyd.
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 19th October 2022 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. **Report on Hillside Development, Aberdyfi**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on the recent Supreme Court decision. The Chair took the opportunity to thank the Director of Planning and Land Management and the Director of Corporate Services for their work.

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management thanked individual staff who had been involved in the case. He thanked Iwan Jones, Director of Corporate Services, Jane Jones, Acting Planning Manager, Siwan Lyall, Authority Solicitor, Liz Jenkins, GIS Co-ordinator and Rebecca Jones, the Authority's former Head of Policy. He also conveyed the Authority's gratitude to Geldards Solicitors, Cardiff, and Barrister, Gwion Lewis.

The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report and provided detailed background for the benefit of the Members who had recently been appointed to the Authority. He advised there were no valid permissions remaining on the site and confirmed that the Aberdyfi development boundary comes right up to the houses already developed on the site. This determination will have an effect on future planning considerations and was mentioned in many of the national planning magazines.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a reasonable offer for the Authority's Supreme Court costs has been made by the claimant which has been accepted. Further claims for costs for the High Court and the Court of Appeal will follow.

In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that he could provide information on other live applications, if required.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

The meeting ended at 10.55

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 7th DECEMBER 2022

Item No.

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

- (1) NP5/73/LBAD425C – Advertisement Consent to display interpretation panel in car park, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog. LL41 3YU

Reported – The Acting Planning Manager presented the report and planning considerations. In response to a question, the Acting Planning Manager confirmed that the frame material would be in wood.

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

5. **Update Reports**

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

In response to a general concern raised by a Member and a request for officers to be more specific, and to include timescales in the 'comments' column so that Members know they are progressing, the Acting Planning Manager stated that it was difficult to provide accurate timescales as the nature of the compliance process was complicated and the reduction in staffing levels in the compliance section was also a factor.

NP5/77/ENFLB60H – Maes y Neuadd Hotel, Talsarnau

The Acting Planning Manager will provide Councillor Annwen Hughes with an update and details of proposed future use.

NP2/16/ENF448 - Hendre Ddu Quarry, Cwm Pennant

The Acting Planning Manager will seek confirmation from the Case Officer that the works on site have now ceased and that a Stop Notice will be served if any work resumes on site.

NP5/55/ENFL142A – 3 Glandwr, Brynchrug

Members noted that the Acting Planning Manager was still trying to locate the owner to progress this matter further. A Member offered to provide the case officer with further details.

Arising thereon, a Member suggested that a project board be established to assist staff with old enforcement cases. The Member also raised concerns that staff in the Planning Service may be under a lot of stress due to reduced staffing levels. The Director of Planning and Land Management stated that the Authority was no different to other Planning Authorities and that the enforcement process itself was complicated. The Director of Planning and Land Management reassured Members that once the recruitment freeze is lifted, the Authority would hopefully be able to appoint, although compliance staff recruitment problems are experienced throughout Wales.

In response to a concern that staff were having to deal with disgruntled applicants, the Director of Planning and Land Management reassured members that this was not a significant concern at the moment.

NP5/54/ENFLB33M – Nannau Hall, Llanfachreth

The Acting Planning Manager apologised to Members that the report did not include the update as agreed at the last meeting. A meeting with the roofing specialists, held this week, had provided various options to protect the roof. Officers were now

looking at various funding options and were considering registering an expression of interest for a new Cadw funded grant which may be available.

In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that currently there were other “at risk” buildings in the National Park where the Authority could step in and that the newly appointed Historic Environment Officer will be presenting a report for Members to prioritise options early in the new year.

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**

NP5/75/73D – Ynys, Cwrt, Pennal

Case Officer provided an update report and confirmed that the application would not be on the list by the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee in January 2023.

NP3/12/12G – Plas-y-Nant, Betws Garmon

The Acting Planning Manager agreed to provide Councillor Edgar Owen with a detailed update.

RESOLVED to note the report.

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 25th JANUARY 2023**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Delyth Lloyd, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Ms. Jane Jones, Mr. Aled Lloyd, Mr. Dafydd Thomas, Mr. Richard Thomas, Ms. Eleanor Carpenter, Ms. A. Tatum, Ms. Anwen Gaffey.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and that the recording would also be posted online.

1. **Apologies**
Councillor Louise Hughes, Kim Jones.
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 7th December 2022 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. **Planning Appeals**

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

- (a) Appeal by Ms. Lee Thomas against the Authority's refusal to grant planning permission for proposed alterations to front patio area with new bifold doors. New balconies and access bifold doors to front elevation, The Exchange, 4 Terrace Road, Aberdyfi. LL35 0LP (Appeal dismissed)

- (b) Appeal by Sylvester against the Authority's refusal to grant planning permission for the change of use of ground and lower ground floor restaurant from food and drink (A3) to a dwelling house (C3). Removal of shop window and reinstatement of frontage on original building line. Construction of a balcony at ground floor level at rear. Enlargement of an existing window to form a patio door, Weary Walkers Café, High Street, Harlech. LL46 2YB (Appeal dismissed)

The meeting ended at 10.50

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 25th JANUARY 2023

Item No.

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

- (1) NP5/62/63J – Outline application for the demolition of two outbuildings and the siting of 10 glamping pods and associated hard standing parking together with the redevelopment of the remaining building as a service block (re-submission), Cymru Lan, Nantcol Kennels, Pentre Gwynfryn, Llanbedr. LL45 2PB

Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning considerations. He confirmed that the ‘Community and Linguistic Statement,’ referred to in refusal reason 6, had now been received and was being assessed. If the linguistic statement assessment was acceptable, refusal reason 6 would be removed.

Public Speaking

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

- consideration of the current permissions, planning history and location, the site can only be considered as an exception site and was suitable for determination by the committee.
- the site does not fit neatly into planning development zones, yet has permissions, and value, that the site owner would like to realise in the same manner as any other landowner.
- the application was currently outline, to provide the developer with confidence that further design was prudent. Detail can be resolved as a reserved matter.
- the current site permissions were subject to local opposition but in this case the local community council supported the proposed use.

RESOLVED subject to removing refusal reason 6, to **refuse** permission in accordance with the recommendation

5. **Update Reports**

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

NP2/16/ENF448 - Hendre Ddu Quarry, Cwm Pennant

Case Officer confirmed that the works on site had ceased, and the case would now be closed.

NP5/54/ENFLB33M – Nannau Hall, Llanfachreth

The Acting Planning Manager updated Members on the Cadw grant application and advised that the grant process would take longer than anticipated. The outcome of the first application stage was expected towards the end of the month, and officers will know if they can proceed to the next stage at that time. Members noted that Eleanor Carpenter, the newly appointed Historic Environment Officer was working on the bid with Naomi Jones, the Head of Cultural Heritage.

Arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management accepted that work to safeguard the building could be carried out by the Authority, subject to various conditions, including establishing that the landowner/investor has a long-term sustainable plan for the future. In response to a question, he confirmed that there was a great deal of local interest in the future of the building.

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**

NP5/75/73D – Ynys, Cwrt, Pennal

The Acting Planning Manager stated that the application remained on the list as further information had been required. The farm enterprise details have now been received and the application could be progressed.

RESOLVED to note the report.

NP5/74/499 – Land at Mynogau Plantation, Dinas Mawddwy

A Member proposed that applications for masts where officers were minded to refuse, should be presented to the Planning and Access Committee for determination. The Director of Planning and Land Management stated that the Planning Scheme of Delegation worked well in its current form, and that over the last 6 years, only 2 applications out of 64, had been refused by officers. He also reminded Members, that if they have a valid planning reason, they can call any matter in for determination by the Planning and Access Committee.

RESOLVED not to amend the Planning Scheme of Delegation.

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2023**

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Delyth Lloyd.

Officers

Jonathan Cawley, Jane Jones, Aled Lloyd, Richard Thomas, Alys Tatum, Eiliw Owen, Peter Rutherford, Siwan Lyall, Anwen Gaffey.

Apologies

Councillor Jo Nuttall; Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.
Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Director of Corporate Services

The Director of Planning and Land Management stated that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and that the recording would also be available online.

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed eleven students and two lecturers from Cardiff University who were attending the meeting to observe and listen to the discussions. Also, in the absence of the Director of Corporate Services, the Chair welcomed Siwan Lyall to the meeting.

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 25th January 2023 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. Reappointment of Local Access Forums by April 2023

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to seek approval of the process and timetable for the re-appointment of Local Access Forums, and to appoint a selection panel of Members.

Reported – The Access and Well-being Manager presented the report and background.

RESOLVED

- 1. to approve the proposed procedure and timetable for the re-appointment of the Local Access Forums.**
- 2. to appoint a selection panel of four Authority Members to consider applications for membership of the Forums. The following Members were selected:-
Councillors Meryl Roberts, John Pughe Roberts; Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Tracey Evans.**

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. **Draft Review Report on the Eryri Local Development Plan Submitted** – A report by the Principal Planning Officer to approve the Draft Review Report for stakeholder engagement.

Reported – The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented the report and background and advised Members upon the next steps. The Principal Planning Policy Officer advised that since the report was considered by Members in January, the Draft Review Report had now been presented to Fforwm Eryri.

RESOLVED to approve the Draft Review Report for stakeholder engagement, as submitted.

7. **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.

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

RESOLVED to note the report.

9. **Planning Appeals Submitted and Received** – copies of the following appeal decisions:-

- (a) Appeal by Mr & Mrs. M. Gilmore-Parry against the Authority's refusal to grant planning permission for the change of use of existing domestic garage to holiday let accommodation, Bronant, Pentre Du, Betws y Coed. LL24 0BY (Appeal dismissed)
- (b) Appeal by Ms Caroline Evans against the Authority's refusal to grant planning permission for the siting of a static caravan for a temporary period (3 years), Plas Gwynfryn, Llanbedr, Gwynedd. LL45 2NY (Appeal dismissed)

The meeting ended at 11.45

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 8th MARCH 2023

Item No.

5. Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management

- (1) NP2/11/L524 – Demolition of garage and erection of two-storey rear and single storey side extension, Dolafon, Nant Gwynant. LL55 4NL

Reported – Case Officer presented the report and planning considerations.

RESOLVED to grant permission in accordance with the recommendation.

- (2) NP4/11/337D – Construction of new local affordable dwelling and installation of associated foul water disposal, Hendre Farm, Betws-y-Coed. LL24 0BN

Reported – Case Officer presented the report and background and provided further additional details as follows:-

- the Case Officer advised Members of the planning history, confirming that a proposal for a dwelling at this site had been refused twice before. The first time the application was for an open market dwelling and the second application was for an affordable dwelling, but no justification had been submitted to support this. The latest submission was more detailed.
- the Case Officer's report stipulated the housing development boundary was approximately 40 metres away from the site. Following publication of the report this measurement was queried and suggested it was more than 60 metres away. The measurement would depend on where you measure from. For the report, the measurement was taken from the red line site boundary. However, if you take the measurement from the location of the dwelling itself to the housing development boundary, then this does measure approximately 60 metres.
- a query was also raised about the size of the dwelling and that the gross internal floor area measured 114.91 m² and not 97.56 m² as stipulated in the report. Having reviewed the 114.91 measurement, it appeared the internal wall area had been included (but NOT the internal wall between the garage and the dwelling itself) and the hall measurement also appeared to be included. A colleague was asked to review the measurement which came to 102.54 m² which appeared to be in line with the 97 measurement and was a minimal difference. There would also be a condition to ensure that the garage space could not be converted into habitable accommodation.

Public Speaking

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

- Mr. Pierce thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak in favour of his application to build an affordable home on the farmyard in Betws y Coed to provide a secure home for himself and his son.
- Mr. Pierce was the third generation to farm in Betws-y-Coed and outlined the main reasons why the committee should support his application.
- the local community support the proposal and have started a petition in support of the applicant's request to stay on the farm and build a cottage to farm, work as a builder and mason, and live in the community in which he has lived all his life.
- the applicant has been living in a caravan on the farm for over 12 years and has always paid his council tax during this time. The caravan was no longer suitable to live in full time and this has had a detrimental effect on his health.
- the applicant cannot afford to buy a house in the area and there was no suitable accommodation to rent close enough to the farm holding.

- the applicant's son has rented a property in Betws y Coed for 10 years and was unsure how long he could continue to stay at this property.
- the new dwelling would house both Mr. Pierce and his son and allow them both to continue to work and live in the community.
- the applicant's son worked for the Fire and Rescue Service and needed to be close to his work to respond to emergency call outs.

Mr. Jamie Bradshaw, on behalf of Mr. Emlyn Roberts, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following objections:-

- Mr. Emlyn Roberts owned the house next to the site at Hendre Rhys Gethin and also the lodge park.
- due to the time limit Mr. Bradshaw stated he would not cover all of the severe and material issues with this case and would instead focus on key matters.
- the most pressing was that sewage cannot be drained without causing pollution. This was because the site does not provide enough space to fit in a soakaway, nor to provide the minimum separation from the neighbour. Detailed technical evidence had been provided to officers, as well as written confirmation from Conwy's Principal Building Control Officer that it will not comply with Building Regulations, and that the site was simply too small to accommodate a septic tank and a drainage field. This was not detailed in the report despite officers being aware of this fact.
- this is a key material factor, and if the site cannot be satisfactorily drained the application must be refused. Indeed, if built as proposed, the scheme will cause sewage pollution and have a severe impact upon his client, as his property was set below the site as well as a nearby river.
- for surface water drainage, as the site apparently has permeability, a soakaway must be used, but this is not proposed and instead a connection is shown to a surface water drain which he understood had insufficient capacity. No surface water drainage detail was provided, despite this being required by local and national policy.
- turning to the policy on exception sites, while officers have argued that flexibility should be applied, the separation from the boundary was not trivial at 61m at the closest point. The site was also separated from the boundary by a road, open land, trees, a few small structures, and a stream. This meant that it was in no way connected to the settlement, a clear and substantial breach of policy with any approval driving a coach and horses through the LDP.
- the live application for 5 affordable houses only 160m from the site also undermines the case, as this would potentially meet the need, thus also breaching the policy.
- more damningly, the Authority had previously refused an application on the basis that the site was in the open countryside and so did not comply with Development Policy 11. As the relevant policy within the LDP is the same, there can be no sound or defensible grounds for reaching a differing decision in this case as nothing has changed.
- there were also myriad other issues, such as the fact that the dwelling's gross internal size was 114 square metres, not 97 square metres, meaning that it did not comply with the affordable dwelling size limits, the lack of an ecology survey, the elevation of the site above his client's property so causing harmful overlooking, and that it will be difficult or impossible to park on the site.
- also a concern was the applicant's long track record of breaching planning controls which meant that if the house is built, any controls and conditions will not be complied with, subjecting his client to years of further problems.

- all in all, whilst sympathising with the applicant's situation, the proposal before Members clearly breaches the LDP, cannot be drained without causing pollution and flooding problems, and has myriad other issues. There was no sound basis for approval, and indeed as it stood the case was highly challengeable due to the numerous breaches of policy and procedures. A proper assessment of the issues clearly and heavily weigh in favour of refusing the scheme and therefore, respectfully the Committee was requested to refuse the application.

RESOLVED subject to a Section 106 affordable local occupancy agreement, to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

- (3) NP5/52/258B – Installation of pay & display machine, Car Park adjacent to Llynau Cregennan, Arthog.

Reported – Case Officer presented the report and planning considerations and members discussed the application in detail.

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

- (4) NP5/72/250B – Construction of an auxiliary spillway, catchwater channel and below ground flow measurement chamber, reconfiguration of the existing car park and the diversion of a below ground high voltage cable, including landscape and ecological mitigation measures, together with enabling works including the provision of haul roads, materials storage/set down areas, localised road improvements, site compound and welfare facilities and vehicle parking, Llyn Celyn Reservoir, Frongoch. LL23 7NU

Reported – Case Officer presented the report and advised upon the background and planning considerations. Since the report was written, Gwynedd Council Highway Authority have advised they have no objections.

Public Speaking

Mr. Steve Shakespeare, on behalf of the applicants, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- Mr. Shakespeare stated that he was the North Wales Dam Safety Engineering Manager with Dwr Cymru.
- over recent years the Regulations regarding the safety of dams had been tightened in response to climate change concerns.
- the dam at Llyn Celyn Reservoir was entirely safe but the latest independent inspection identified the need for additional spillway capacity, in order to meet the current Regulations. This was a mandatory requirement that Dwr Cymru must comply with.
- the additional spillway capacity at Llyn Celyn is required to deal with floodwaters resulting from storms that are predicted to occur only once in more than 10,000 years.
- Dwr Cymru were well aware of the sensitivity of Llyn Celyn, both in terms of its history and its environmental quality, and had engaged extensively with the local community, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders, in bringing forward the current proposals.
- the proposed auxiliary spillway will be located at the northern end of the crest of the dam and will be constructed in a covered culvert where it passes beneath the existing car park. The car park would be re-instated when the works were completed and the top of the culvert would be grassed over, to avoid any adverse landscape impact, and picnic tables, bike racks and interpretation boards would also be provided.

- the western end of the spillway will not be covered, but its sides faced with local stone and native planting carried out to integrate into the surrounding landscape.
- native tree planting will also be carried out, mainly in the areas below the dam, and mitigation measures will be implemented to offset any environmental or ecological harm.
- while the work is carried out temporary construction compounds will be established on existing level platforms located below the dam, together with temporary haul roads, with a small compound on the existing car park. These areas will be reinstated upon completion of the development.
- Dwr Cymru must provide the proposed auxiliary spillway to ensure dam safety, in the long term, and the proposals have the support of the local community, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders. The mitigation measures that form an integral part of the proposed development have been designed to offset any environmental harm. Dwr Cymru requested that the Committee endorse the Planning Officer's recommendation and resolve to grant planning permission for the proposed development.

RESOLVED to authorise the Director of Planning and Land Management to grant permission subject to appropriate conditions.

7. Update Reports

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

NP4/29/ENF10G – The Machno Inn, Penmachno

The Acting Planning Manager agreed to ask the case officer to provide Councillor Dilwyn Roberts with a separate update.

NP5/65/ENF115A – Land at Hengwrt, Llanelltyd

Members were provided with an oral update.

RESOLVED to note the report.

- (2) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**
NP5/61/632 – Merthyr Isaf, Hwylfa'r Nant, Harlech
 Members were provided with an oral update.
RESOLVED to note the report.

- (3) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**
NP5/64/190 – Land at Ffridd Bryn Coch, Llanegryn
 The Acting Planning Manager agreed to ask the case officer to provide Councillor Louise Hughes with further details.
RESOLVED to note the report.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 1st APRIL 2022

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

Ms Sarah Hattle;

Independent Members

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

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mrs Anwen Gaffey.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was subject to the 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.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were tendered.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the two Standards Committee meetings held on 3rd September 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

Item 6 – Appeal Hearing

The Director of Corporate Services provided feedback following the Standards Committee's decision and also advised that he understood that communication channels at Plas Tan y Bwlch had now improved.

4. **Annual Report to the Authority's Annual General Meeting**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to agree the contents of the Annual Report.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background. Members discussed the additional requirement for all standards committees to prepare annual reports to their "relevant authority" to promote and ensure high standards of conduct. Members and officers also discussed the key findings of the Governance Task and Finish Group in relation to the strategic role of Members.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- the Standards Committee supported the package of measures proposed, as outlined in para. 4.2 of the report.
- a Member asked whether it would be beneficial to include a list of mandatory training requirements for members, such as ethical standards, code of conduct etc., to be undertaken over a period of time, either in person or by e-learning modules. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that GDPR and Cyber Security training was currently mandatory for all staff and Members.
- Members agreed that a formal annual review process for all Members should be reintroduced with a skills matrix to recognise individual skills gaps. The Director of Corporate Services reported upon the reason past efforts had been unsuccessful but agreed this was an opportunity to reset and start a new system and also to motivate current members to take part.
- Members agreed that establishing a new Member mentoring programme would be beneficial, especially as remote meetings were not helpful in this regard. It was agreed that the mentoring programme should be undertaken in tandem with training. Members noted that Sarah Hattle had experience in this area and may be interested in taking the lead on Member mentoring.
- para. 7.1 should include that the Standards Committee had recently met to determine an appeal hearing in accordance with the Authority's Grievance Procedure.
- a Member asked that the annual report should include background information on the Standards Committee for the benefit of new Members. Reference should also be made to the Standards Committee's contribution to the North Wales Standards Committee Forum during the review of the Code of Conduct in order to demonstrate that the Standards Committee has a broader reach than simply at a local level.
- a Member noted that a report template used by the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Standards Committee (16 June 2021) was available on their website and may be of assistance in preparing the Annual Report.
- it was agreed that the draft report should be prepared as outlined and circulated electronically to Standards Committee Members with a request that any comments should be presented by return. The Chair of the Standards Committee will then present the Annual Report to the Authority's Annual General Meeting on the 15th June 2022.

RESOLVED subject to noting the additions/amendments as outlined above, to agree the contents of the Annual Report to be presented to the Authority as set out in Section 6 of the report.

5. Declaration of Members' Interests

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for the Standards Committee to monitor the operation of the code of conduct.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background. Arising thereon, a Member drew attention to the fact that some Members had not completed the section which asks, "does the Personal Interest constitute a prejudicial interest." The Director of Corporate Services agreed that in future, officers will ensure that the question is answered on the form, and in order that a clear record is kept the pro-forma will be amended to include tick-boxes for Members to tick either Yes or No. Also, so that a complete paper trail is available, officers will in future, print a copy of the Member's email together with the attached declaration.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

The meeting ended at 14.50

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

Member appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillor Elfed P. Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Independent Members

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

Officers

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

Apologies

Mr. Martin J. Hughes, Mrs. Sarah Hattle.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that as the meeting was being held remotely it was not open to the public and was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes. The meeting would be made available on the Authority's website at a later date.

1. Chair's Announcements

- i) The Chair welcomed new Members to their first meeting. Arising thereon, the Chair advised that she had recently accepted a new appointment which requires her to step down as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee due to the nature and scope of her new role. The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their support during her time as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee and especially during her time as Chair.
- ii) The Director of Corporate Services, on behalf of the Standards Committee, expressed appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Rachael Davies for her contribution to the work of the Standards Committee and for her commitment and expertise over the last 6 years.
- iii) The Director of Corporate Services reported upon an email, received by the Monitoring Officers Group, which provides an 'Update on the National Forum for Independent Standards Members' to which the WLGA have agreed to be the secretariat. The forum would be established to share good practice only and would not be a decision-making body, nor would it be the representative body for Standards Committees in Wales. It was anticipated that the National Forum would meet once or twice a year and the first meeting would be convened in October or November 2022. Members agreed to support the establishment of a National Forum, which would include all three of the National Parks in Wales and would add value to existing Standards Committees. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to convey the Standards Committee's support to the next meeting of the Monitoring Officer's Group.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Dilwyn Roberts declared a personal interest in item 7 on the Agenda, under paragraph 10 (2) (a) (ix) (aa) of the Code of Conduct for Members. Councillor Elfed Roberts was not present for item 7 and did not take part in any decision.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 1st April 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon, Members were advised that the Annual Report had been presented to the Authority's Annual General Meeting on the 15th June 2022. The Director of Corporate Services had stepped in to present the annual report on behalf of the Chair of the Standards Committee, who unfortunately had to leave the meeting due to a prior commitment after waiting longer than anticipated for the item to be considered.

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Authority had accepted the Annual Report as submitted, and Members noted that the additional statutory duty placed on the Standards Committee now necessitates the Standards Committee to meet twice a year in future.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

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 Members discussed future membership of the Panel.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report.**

2. **to appoint Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mrs. Sharon Warnes and Mr. Martin J. Hughes as Members of the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel with Councillor Dilwyn Roberts and Councillor Elfed Roberts appointed as substitute members.**

5. **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**

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

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and Members welcomed the favourable report which was a credit to the effective management of the Authority.

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 in 2021/22.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and Members commended officers for the way in which complaints were dealt with. Members noted that the number of complaints were relatively low when considering the size of the National Park.

In response to a question, the Head of Administration and Customer Care assured Members that staff who deal with the public on a regular basis are supported. One member of staff used their own bodycam over the summer. This could be considered as something the Authority provides for some staff in the future, as it has been shown that once an individual is made aware they are being recorded, this can diffuse the situation.

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 Council and Conwy County Borough Council.

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

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

Arising thereon, it was agreed that officers would advise the Independent Members of the Standards Committee that the dispensation was likely to be utilised at a future meeting of the Planning and Access Committee and be invited to attend the meeting to observe the dispensation being applied.

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 31st December 2023, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31st December 2023.**
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 31st December 2023, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31st December 2023.**
3. **to invite the Independent Members of the Standards Committee to attend a future meeting of the Planning and Access Committee to observe the dispensation being applied in practice.**

8. **All Wales Standards Conference – 9th February 2022**

Received – An oral report by Mrs. Sharon Warnes, Independent Member of the Standards Committee, for information.

Mrs. Sharon Warnes advised that she had attended the remote meeting of the All-Wales Standards Conference, held on 9th February 2022. Members were advised that Mr. Richard Penn presented his report on the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework, the Welsh Government were then invited to present their response and potential areas for legislation, followed by panel discussions by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, One Voice Wales, and Gwynedd Council Standards Committee Chair.

RESOLVED to thank Mrs. Sharon Warnes and note the report, for information.

9. **Date of next meeting: 28th April 2023**

The meeting ended at 14.55

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2022**

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. S. Owen, Ms. Nia Murray, Ms. B. Hughes, Mrs. S. Roberts;

In attendance

Luned Fon Jones – Internal Audit Service

The Director of Corporate Services advised that:--

- 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.

1. **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Elfed P. Roberts as Chairman of the Performance and Resources Committee.

The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

2. **Vice-Chair**

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing two Members for Vice-Chair, Councillor John Pughe Roberts and Councillor June Jones. The Members were invited to address the meeting and Councillors John Pughe Roberts and June Jones took up the invitation.

Councillor June Jones was elected Vice-Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee.

The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

3. **Apologies**

Mr. E. Williams, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

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

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on the 23rd March 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log as submitted.

7. **Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2021/22**

Submitted – The Head of Internal Audit's Annual Report outlining the Internal Audit Services' opinion on internal controls within the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Internal Audit presented the report and confirmed that she was satisfied that the Authority had a sound framework of control in place to manage risks in the areas investigated in the 2021/22 Audit Plan.

Members considered the report and discussed the following matters: -

- A member noted that there were two areas which were limited in terms of not deteriorating or improving over the next few years and asked what arrangements were in place for revisiting those areas in the future. The Head of Internal Audit advised that provision was in place in this year's plan for revisiting those areas to ensure the risks were alleviated to an acceptable level and they would be reported on at a future Performance and Resources Committee.
- The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Standing Orders for Contracts were currently being reviewed and would be presented to Members in due course. In response to a question, The Director of Corporate Services advised that there was no specific date on when the work on tendering would be dealt with but confirmed that the Management Team would be discussing the matter in September, the Heads of Service would also be given an opportunity to provide input and would be presented to Members in due course and following adoption of the revised Standing Orders on Contracts all relevant staff would be provided with the appropriate training.
- The Chief Finance Officer advised that the action point on Tendering Arrangements would remain as things were developing all the time but would be updated where possible. He took the opportunity to thank the Head of Internal Audit for her report and professionalism in leading the audit work, as his tenure as Chief Finance Officer for Snowdonia National Park Authority is scheduled to end in June 2023, hence he won't have another opportunity to show appreciation for her work at a Park Authority meeting.

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 2021/22.**
2. **to accept the Operational Audit Plan for the 2022/23 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.**

8. **Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2021/22**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer comparing, at service area level, the Authority’s budgeted revenue and capital spending plans for 2021/2022 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. The Chief Finance Officer reported that the intention to spend any surplus on the Authority’s Assets had not taken place and advised new Members on the usual cycles of reporting on the Authority’s reserves.

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

- Members discussed the additional income from the Authority’s Car Parks. In response to a question, the Head of Finance confirmed that 80% of the reserve money had already been allocated. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that money had previously been allocated to improve the footpaths at Pen y Pass but advised that the additional income from parking was a one-off situation rather than a permanent one and a significant amount of the additional money would be used to improve security at Pen y Pass.
- In response to a question, the Chief Finance Officer advised that there was no specific recommended sum or percentage for reserves for a typical year. He advised that the Welsh Government had given an indication that the Authority would be receiving the main grant without inflation and officers were discussing the matter with them to establish why the Authority was in this position. He also confirmed that it was likely that the Authority, like most organisations, would require the additional reserves in 2022/23, due to the increase in fuel costs, etc, and advised that the impact of this could be significant.
- In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Authority would continue to raise the issues regarding the access to the car park at Pen Y Pass with the Baron Hill Estate and hoped it would be solved in due course, but if not then it would be necessary to consider an alternative solution.
- In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that although car parks had been generally quieter this year the Head of Property was keen to reach the income targets, but on the basis that there will be fewer users.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the contents of the outturn report and approve the virements in the revenue and capital budgets outlined in part 4 (as detailed in Appendix 1).**
2. **to approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves as outlined in the table under paragraph 4.2 and Appendix 3.**
3. **to note the final position of directorates and services with regard to budgetary control (paragraphs 4.3 to 4.7 and Appendix 2).**
4. **to approve the allocation of slippage and commitments (£274,833) in Appendix 4.**
5. **to approve the transfer of the £480,000 additional car park income to the Asset Management Reserve.**
6. **to note that the surplus for 2021/22 financial year increases the Authority’s General Balances (paragraph 6.3).**
7. **to approve the Capital Financing Statement (part 5 and Appendix 5).**

9. **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 the risk register in detail.

Members discussed the following:-

- a Member was happy to note that the risk of a Cyber attack had now been included in the Risk Register as he was aware of the damage that could be caused. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority was mindful of the Risks posed by a potential Cyber Attack and advised that it had been upgraded so that Members were aware of the steps taken by the Authority.
- In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the risk had increased largely due to Covid as most of the Authority's work was now completed online and advised that the war between Russian and the Ukraine had not helped this risk profile as it had increased the opportunity for Cyber-attacks on Public Bodies.
- Members discussed the recent cyber attack on the Brecon Beacon National Park and asked whether there were lessons to be learnt from the incident. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Head of Information Systems and Communication had discussed the matter with Brecon beacons National Park and additional steps had since been taken by the Authority but advised that there was a limit on what could be done and advised it was important that everyone played their part including Officers and Members to avoid any potential risks.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Authority's Risk Profile as submitted.

10 **Corporate Work Programme 2021/22 Update on the Wellbeing Objectives**

Submitted – The fourth and final quarter progress report for 2021/22 by the Director of Corporate Services.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report on the fourth and final quarter updates and advised that the information provided in the report would be used to prepare the annual report which would be presented to Members in September.

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

- Improving Management and Understanding of Cultural Heritage – a Member asked on progress regarding the 'walk of the month'. The Director of Corporate Services advised that he was not sure on the progress to date
- Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities of Post Brexit Land Management Scenarios – a Member asked how things were progressing following a statement made by the Welsh Government the previous week. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that little progress had been made to date but the Chief Executive was in discussion with the Welsh Government on a regular basis and advised that a meeting was due to take place at the Royal Welsh Show and any developments would be presented to Members in due course.

- Addressing the Decline in Nature – a Member asked if any work could be done in the meantime in terms of an SPG on biodiversity. The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the National Planning Guidance was currently being amended and he was in contact regularly with Welsh Government Officers and advised that the new guidelines were due to be published very soon and once they were available it would be possible to move forward.
- Supporting Young People – in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the work would be given priority by the newly appointed Youth Officer.

RESOLVED to note the report.

11. **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.

12. **Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**

Submitted - Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meetings held on the 9th February and 18th May 2022, for information.

The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes. Arising thereon,

Minutes 18th May 2022

Item No. 5 – Condition Survey Report

- Members welcomed the decision on developing a partnership with another organisation in the long term. In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the surveyor had provided the figure of £30,000 to £40,000 as the amount required to spend on the building annually to maintain the upkeep of the building. He advised that some work needed to be prioritised due to Health and Safety concerns and advised that any decisions on significant expenditure would be presented to Members.
- a Member were concerned of the problem of water entering the building and the Director of Corporate Services provided a further explanation on the matter. He advised that a comprehensive report had been circulated to board members on the condition of the building. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to send a copy of the report to the member.
- In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the day to day business was changing constantly and the Authority had not looked in detail at the option of installing solar panels as some of the grounds within Plas were very sensitive.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

The Chairman on behalf of Members thanked Mr. Owain Wyn who was attending his final meeting for his valued contribution to the Authority. Mr. Owain Wyn thanked the Authority's Staff and Members and wished them well.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2022**

Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Jo Nuttall;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. B. Hughes, Mr. David Williams, Ms. Nia Murray, Mrs. Awel Gruffydd, Mr. Rhys Owen, Mrs. A. Gaffey;

Apologies

Councillors Louise Hughes, Ifor Glyn Lloyd.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.

1. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed staff and members to the Authority's first Hybrid meeting.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources meeting held on 13th July 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log, for information.

5. **External Grant Funding Update Report**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update on projects supported by the Authority and to confirm priorities for future external grant support.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background and provided further details for the benefit of Members who had recently been appointed to the Authority. He advised that not all the National Park Authorities benefit from being able to deliver projects by utilising external grant funding and suggested that Members should keep a copy of the report for reference purposes, as they will be

asked to complete a questionnaire as part of an income survey by Audit Wales in the next month or so. Members were invited to contact the Chief Executive directly if they required further clarification on any matter.

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

- the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture, in response to a question on the profile spend and profile years of the Celtic Rainforest Wales LIFE Project, reassured Members that the project had a high-cost element over the first three years and was regulated very robustly by the European Monitor, who was happy for the Authority to apply for a 2-year extension in the next week to 10 days.
- in response to a request from a Member, the Chief Executive agreed to amend Appendix 2 to provide a more strategic layout in future.
- Members and officers further discussed the complexities of securing management agreements with a number of private landowners. Officers confirmed that Natural Resources Wales have their own funding which can also add value to the Authority's work.
- Appendix 2 - item 14 Decarbonisation – a Member suggested this could be reviewed after the Carbon Strategy Group had reported and suggested that carbon reduction and promotion could be funded through this mechanism in future. Also, data collection on the impact of climate change within the National Park itself being presented in a more meaningful way, could assist strategic considerations for the future.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the capital funded projects 2022 – 2025.**
- 2. to note progress on live projects (Appendix 1).**
- 3. to confirm the priority areas for future bids (Appendix 2).**
- 4. to note the Member Approval Flow Chart (Appendix 3).**

6. Strategic Scrutiny for 2023-24

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive for Members to note the report and to consider further scrutiny areas for 2023-24 in the next financial year.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background. He advised that a scrutiny programme for the ensuing year was agreed annually by the Performance and Resources Committee each November. This year, the Management Team, after considering the current pressures on staff, recommend that the Authority should not commit to a further programme of strategic scrutiny at this time.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report and the continued scrutiny role which remains in relation to both Carbon and Place Names.**
- 2. to consider further scrutiny areas in the next financial year.**

7. Corporate Work Programme 2022-23

Submitted – A progress report by the Director of Corporate Services for the first and second quarters (April – September) of the financial year.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and Corporate Work Programme and asked Members to note that the Well-being Objectives had been cross-referenced to targets set for SNPA in the current Welsh Government Remit Letter.

Members and Officers discussed the report and made the following observations:-

- **Resilient Environments**

Addressing the decline in Nature

Officers confirmed they were still waiting confirmation of continued funding by Welsh Government over the next 3 years to develop the Action Plan for nature recovery in Eryri. The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture confirmed that capital works were continuing, although it was dependent on future funding and capacity issues in the department. The Chief Executive advised that the newly appointed Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration Strategic Officer was also contributing towards this work.

- the Chief Executive confirmed that following the recent publication by Welsh Government on the proposed deep dive into the decline in nature, the family of Protected Landscapes had written to Leslie Griffiths MS. In response, the Minister confirmed that she would consider utilising officers as facilitators in the new scheme to co-ordinate actions across a number of agreement holders to support protected landscapes.

- **Resilient Ways of Working**

Modernising Governance Arrangements

In response to a question on Member development, the Chief Executive reported that appointments have been made to the three Welsh Government funded Strategic posts, one of which will address Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence which includes Member development and is hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. A training and development programme will be established, and a discussion paper presented to a Members' Working Group early in 2023. He also advised that new member induction sessions have been held, and the UK New Member Induction Course was held in Northumberland in November, although new members from Eryri had been unable to attend on this occasion. The Welsh National Parks Members' Seminar was being arranged and hosted by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in May 2023 and the Authority has also appointed Sarah Hattle to assist with Member Mentoring.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. **Strategic Equality Plan**

Submitted – A joint report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care and the Head of Human Resources to present the Annual Report for 2021/22.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report for 2021/22. In response to a question, Members were assured that the Authority continues to work in accordance with its Well-being Statement 2021-2026.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2021/22 for publication on the Authority's website.

9. **Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6**

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022

Submitted – A draft report by Dafydd Roberts, Senior Ecologist.

Reported – The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture presented the report on behalf of the Senior Ecologist who had been unable to attend.

Members discussed the report and made the following observations:-

- Members thanked the Senior Ecologist for his excellent report which was concise and clear.
- in response to a question on the footpath work at Cors Geuallt SSSI, the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture confirmed that officers consult with Natural Resources Wales on every occasion and that the Authority has learnt to adapt its practices and procedures over time. Officers were mindful of their duty to train the footpath teams and the need to tighten up requirements for external contractors. The Chief Executive advised that the Head of the Warden Service was preparing a report which will outline principles for upgrading future footpaths and include reasons why and for whom the Authority was carrying out the work. He also confirmed that planning permission was not required for the bridlepath as the Authority undertakes footpath work under highway authority powers held by Conwy County Borough Council.
- Members and Officer's discussed planning breaches that have a negative impact on biodiversity and whether this was something Members should focus on. The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed there was positive support from the Welsh Government who have issued a directive to the planning authorities to ensure biodiversity improvements for every development. Unfortunately, due to lack of any guidance, this has created more complications as individual authorities deal with the directive in a different way. The Authority continues to wait for the guidance and in the meantime, officers draw the developers' attention to the requirement to incorporate biodiversity enhancement measures into their proposals as a planning condition. A Member noted concerns that if planning conditions were not being followed up, there were no sanctions, which undermines the whole process. The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that whilst the Authority has the powers, the reduction in staffing levels in the compliance service meant that the necessary monitoring work was not being carried out.
- Members and Officers discussed the evidence available through ERAMMP and Cofnod and whether they were sufficient for the Authority's purposes. The Chief Executive was of the opinion that ERAMMP was not delivering as it should, as it was trying to look forward, and the Cofnod system was good but was dependent upon the quality of data gathering. The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture advised that ERAMMP had just been awarded its second contract and would hopefully be able to show progress and decline and provide a better baseline moving forward. Members were also advised that the new Living Wales satellite imagery had the potential to be a more robust way of looking at breaches and subtle changes in land use over time. Members noted that the Authority benefits from having officers with the necessary skills to interpret the data, which may not be available to other designated landscapes at this time.
- the Chief Executive advised that the use of technology will change rapidly over the next 5 years with software systems such as google analytics being able to provide real time information on any landscape, which will effect the way in which we manage and add value for the future.
- Members further discussed possible curlew data collection by the community, and rhododendron management on land subject to organic agreements.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve its future presentation to the Welsh Government.

10. **Health and Safety Annual Monitoring Report 2021/22**

Submitted – An information report by the Head of Human Resources to advise Members on Health and Safety issues within the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Human Resources presented the report and background.

Members discussed the report and raised the following matters:-

- a Member was concerned that comparison data was not included and that the report should provide more monitoring information. The Head of Human Resources explained that the data was not sufficient to be included in the report and the Director of Corporate Services agreed that available data had been difficult to interpret. He advised that the information was being updated and would in future be available electronically.
- Members and officers discussed the upcoming review of working practices and the adoption of an agile approach to future working. In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services felt that whilst this work was ongoing it would be difficult to assess the impact of home working on staff's wellbeing but assured Members that monitoring would be reinstated without delay. Members were advised that all staff were encouraged to follow instructions on how to set up their equipment and address their home-working needs. Arising thereon, the Head of Human Resources confirmed that an update report will be presented to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED

1. to note the report, for information.

2. to await an update report on working practices to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

11. **Information Centres Annual Report**

Submitted – A report by the Sustainable Tourism Manager to update members on the Centres' progress against financial targets.

Reported – The Sustainable Tourism Manager presented the report in detail and provided an overview of the 2022/23 year to date and comparison figures from 2019/20.

Members discussed the following matters:-

- Members were sympathetic to the staffing problems experienced by the service.
- there was a need to publicise that the Sherpa Service operates to Beddgelert.
- the Sustainable Tourism Manager confirmed that staff at the Visitor Centres were retained during the winter months, although the Aberdyfi Visitor Centre, which was a more seasonal destination, had lost staff due to being closed from the end of October to the end of March.
- Members discussed the possibility of using the Information Centres as warm spaces this winter. The Sustainable Tourism Manager agreed to look into this possibility.
- a Member noted concerns that staff recruitment and retention problems could be a corporate risk to the Authority and that in order to provide a corporate focus, Members needed an insight into why this was the case. Arising thereon, officers were asked to consider organising a recruitment drive. The Chief Executive stated that this had already been raised by the Head of Human Resources who was currently working on promoting the Authority as an employer of choice. The

Chief Executive and the Director of Planning and Land Management were also looking at working in partnership with other local authorities in Wales to attract Welsh speaking Planning Officers. The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Authority had recently raised staff salaries by two incremental points across the workforce in order to compete with salaries paid by Conwy County Borough Council, Gwynedd Council and Natural Resources Wales and the Director of Corporate Services believed prospective candidates could be attracted by the Authority's agile approach to working practices, which provides flexibility and an improved work/life balance.

- a Member recommended various options for attracting staff to work at the information centres such as creating more part-time roles to encourage older workers or offering to pay travel costs etc.
- Members discussed options for creating a social media campaign to promote the TIC's and draw more people to the Centres.
- in response to a question, the Sustainable Tourism Manager advised that she attends an annual trade fair in Harrogate, works with local suppliers, varies the stock, and utilises various methods such as selling goods on commission for local craftspeople etc., in order to improve profit margins.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the actions for 2023/24, as outlined.

12. **Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**

Submitted - Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meeting held on the 13th July 2022, for information. The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes, and the Director of Corporate Services provided a summary of the current position.

Members and officers discussed the following:-

- for information, the Director of Corporate Services advised that 'S4C - Priodas Pum Mil' had recently filmed at Plas Tan y Bwlch and the programme would be broadcast over the Christmas period.
- in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services stated that as Plas Tan y Bwlch was a Grade II* listed building, there was a need to maintain the condition of the building in the short term. He further advised that once the Business Plan had been agreed, long-term decisions on grant funding and future partnership potentials will all be presented to the Authority for consideration before any formal decision is made on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.
- the Chief Executive further advised that if the Welsh Government settlement was not favourable, circumstances could change very quickly, and Members could be asked to consider the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch at an earlier date.

RESOLVED to note the minutes, for information.

The meeting ended at 11.50

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2023**

Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

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

In attendance

Mrs. Sharon Warnes, Vice Chair Standards Committee.

Apologies

Councillor Louise Hughes; Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and would be made available online at a later date.

1. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed Mrs. Sharon Warnes, Vice Chair of the Standards Committee to the meeting to observe.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 30th November 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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.

Performance and Resources Committee 24.11.21

- Action Item 9 – Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language 2016-21: Assessing the Outcome

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy was being considered today (Item No. 7), and if approved, the action could be removed from the Action Log.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log and remove the action as outlined.

5. **2022/23 Budget Update**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of significant virements within the current financial year's budget and provide Members with updates on progress against the revenue and capital budgets.

Reported – The Head of Finance presented the report, which summarised the revised revenue and capital budgets for the first eleven months of 2022/23 and provided a projection of the Authority's position at the financial year-end.

Arising thereon, the Chief Finance Officer took the opportunity to thank David Williams for his work and for his willingness to step in to assist the Authority during the Head of Finance's maternity absence. The Chief Finance Officer noted that although the figures could change by the end of the year, he was satisfied with the final projection for 2022/23.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- in response to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that Yr Ysgwrn currently had a 3-year Business Plan. He noted that whilst the current reporting method was unclear, the baseline would be adjusted to record the actual position. He advised that Yr Ysgwrn also had reserves which had accrued following the success of the first few years of operation and that the Head of Cultural Heritage had plans for the future, which will be presented to Members as part of Yr Ysgwrn's Annual Report in June.
- arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management stated that the article in the press had been misleading and that recent income figures had risen significantly. Also, the Head of Cultural Heritage had provided the BBC with an excellent interview to clarify any misconceptions regarding Yr Ysgwrn.
- the Head of Engagement asked Members to refer any media requests to the Communications Team who had, on this occasion, been able to correct the misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the Authority's Risk Profile.
- Members noted concerns that Plas Tan y Bwlch was unable to attract more business when compared with similar establishments in the area. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board were meeting on the rising of the Performance and Resources Committee to discuss future options.
- the Chief Executive advised that whilst the grant settlement from Welsh Government would remain flat over the next three years, he could confirm that in addition to the £200k referred to in para. 1.7 of the report, the Authority had just been awarded a further £300k, without conditions, which will be available to address financial challenges in 2023/24.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

6. **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 main changes to the register.

Arising thereon,
Risk Ref. 2 Income Generating Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch), and
Risk Ref. 17 Securing the long-term future of Plas Tan y Bwlch

In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that Plas Tan y Bwlch was divided into two risks within the register (risk ref 2 and risk ref 17). Also, the Chief Executive agreed to look at extending the Authority's Distaster Recovery Strategy to include threats from incidents such as foot and mouth disease, flu pandemic etc.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report and Risk Register.**
2. **to approve the removal of Risk Ref. 13: The effect of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) on the National Park and on the Authority's work from the Risk Register.**

7. Welsh Language Promotion Strategy

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care to approve a final version of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2022-27.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and strategy and thanked the Steering Group for their work.

In response to a question, the Head of Administration and Customer Care agreed to amend the use of 'normalise' as a translation to the Welsh word 'sefydlu' on page 19 of the Strategy.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report.**
2. **subject to noting the above amendment, to approve the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy as submitted, and to authorise the Head of Administration and Customer Care to publish the Strategy on the Authority's website.**

8. 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.

9. Annual Report for Yr 2022: Communications and Engagement Strategy Performance Indicators

Submitted – A report by the Head of Engagement, together with the annual report on the Communication and Engagement Strategy performance indicators and progress on the action plan.

Reported – The Head of Engagement presented the report, the background and the 2022 Progress Report in detail. Members noted that the Authority would be stepping back from developing the Tik-Tok platform referred to in the recommended strategy for 2023.

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

- the Chair, on behalf of Members, thanked the Engagement Team for their work.
- in response to a request, the Head of Engagement noted the opportunity for secondary school pupils in Conwy and Gwynedd to take part in volunteering work and also to encourage 6th form pupils to become members of the Ambassador Scheme.
- Members discussed marketing opportunities for Yr Ysgwrn and Plas Tan y Bwlch and the options for attracting larger audiences in future.
- Members and Officers discussed the future role of social media and how the Authority had benefitted during the Covid lockdown period. Members agreed that efficient communication had also played a big part in establishing car parking pre-payment at Pen y Pass.
- a Member welcomed the level of engagement arising from the Authority's decision to use of the Welsh names Yr Wyddfa and Eryri.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for Year 2022: Communications and Engagement Strategy Performance Indicators.

10. **Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**

Submitted – The minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meetings held on 16th November 2022 and 8th February 2023.

The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes and updated Members on the Action points. He further advised that the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board were meeting on the rising of the Performance and Resources Committee today, and a report would be presented to Members in April 2023.

RESOLVED to note the minutes, for information.

11. **Report of the Asset Management Group Meeting**

Submitted – The report of the Asset Management Group meeting held on the 30th November 2022.

The Chairman of the Asset Management Group presented the report and updated Members on the Asset Management Plan.

Arising thereon, and in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services explained why Plas Tan y Bwlch did not allow one-night stays, but agreed that this could be reconsidered in future.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

The meeting ended at 11.15