Eryri National Park Authority



The Minutes Book

Volume (29)

2024—2025

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ERYRI NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

THE MINUTES BOOK
2024 – 2025

VOLUME (29)

The Minutes Volume

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SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2024

Mr. Tim Jones (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers
Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Nia Murray, Angela Jones, Siwan Lyall, Anwen Gaffey.

Apologies
Councillor Louise Hughes; Sarah Hattle, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being web-broadcast and will also be made available online at a later date. Subject to the outcome of Item 16, there will be no recording or web-broadcast of Item 17.

1. **Chair's Announcements**

(1) the Chair reported on meetings attended since the Authority had previously met:-

- 16.04.2024 - the Chair and the Management Team had met with Victoria Bond-Rees, the CLA's new Director for Wales, where discussions had focused on the proposed new National Park in Northeast Wales.
- 25.03.2024 – following a request, the Chair had met with Mr. Sion Taylor of Zipworld to discuss his future plans and aspirations for the Surf Snowdonia site and the new holiday units at Betws y Coed. The Chair advised that the meeting had been informative and noted the positive economic impact of the business to the area. It had been made clear to Mr. Taylor there would be no discussions on planning matters.
- 22.03.2024- the Chair and the Chief Executive had attended the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to discuss aspects of the North Wales Sustainable Transport Plan.
- 6/7.06.2024 - the Chair will be attending the UK National Park Authorities Chairs Forum at Loch Lomond.

(2) Members noted that Eryri had experienced a busy Easter with many of the old problems of illegal and dangerous parking and ill-equipped visitors on the mountains. The Chair took the opportunity to thank the staff and others for managing the situation so effectively. It was especially pleasing to see so much support from the public on social media regarding the handling of these issues and there was also a positive article in North Wales Live on their Sherpa experience.

(3) the Chair thanked the Members who attended the recent Member Development Day which had been informative and interesting, and also thanked the staff for the arrangements.

(4) the Chair thanked the Members who had attended the three training sessions, provided by the Welsh Government, for all Welsh National Park Authority members. The topics covered were Governance, Diversity, and the Nature and Carbon crises which were all very relevant, and the Chair hoped Members had found the sessions useful. He confirmed there would be further sessions over the coming year and Members were encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities these sessions provide for learning and discussing issues with colleagues.

(5) it was with regret that the Chair, along with a fellow judge, had agreed not to award the Geraint George Scholarship this year as the standard had not been met. The Chair asked Members to encourage participation if they knew of any candidates for the future.

(6) the process of appointing a Member to the Authority's Welsh Government vacancy had started, and if Members knew of any suitable candidates they should encourage them to apply via the public appointments process when the advertisement is published.

(7) the Chair confirmed that the Authority had now received the Chief Executive's formal resignation letter confirming that he will be leaving the Authority on the 30th June 2024. The Chair stated that Members will have ample opportunity to thank the Chief Executive for his long and valuable service, and that it was important now to ensure his legacy was protected and enhanced by proceeding to recruit a successor as soon as possible.

2. **Corporate Update**

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

- the Chief Executive confirmed that the consultation response to the Sustainable Farming Scheme had been submitted jointly by the eight Designated Landscapes in Wales.
- the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority will step in to provide the Secretariat for the Welsh National Park Authorities over the next two years, and Eryri will then assume its responsibility in 2026.
- the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board will receive an informal update at the end of today's meeting with the intention of inviting all Members to attend the next meeting of the Board on the rising of the Authority AGM on the 12th June 2024.
- the Chief Executive advised that the Auditor General for Wales's report on the Governance of National Park Authorities was being published the following day and would be presented to the Authority's AGM on the 12th June 2024 when Members will be able to challenge its findings at that time.
- the Chief Executive confirmed that Final Accounts for 2021/22 will be presented at the next meeting of the Authority following a delay that had arisen from the recent asset valuation. The Chief Finance Officer advised that Audit Wales were fully aware of this and understood that the Authority had experienced difficulties.
- the Chief Executive reminded Members that funding for the Geraint George Scholarship was due to finish in the next year or so and was a matter the Authority may like to discuss further.

3. **Public Question Time**
Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declaration of Interest**
Mr. G. Iwan Jones and Mr. Jonathan Cawley declared an interest in items 16 and 17 on the Agenda and left the meeting while these matters were being discussed.

5. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 7th February and 6th March 2024 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as true records.

6. **Matters for information arising from the minutes**
Authority Minutes 7th February 2024
Item 3 (4) – Corporate Update
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive explained there were some minor technical issues that still needed to be addressed in the upgraded conference room, but overall, the acoustics in the room was considerably improved.

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

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that the Action Log should remain as submitted.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log.

8. **(Draft) Corporate Work Programme 2024/25**
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 2024/25.

Reported - The Director of Corporate Services presented the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme and provided further details on the format of the report. Members were asked to note the addition of 'CW6 – Balancing the Authority's Resources and Efforts' which had 3 specific actions.

Arising thereon, Members asked for the following amendments:-
- AC 2.2 – Responding to the Challenges of Climate Change (page 17)
  To remove the brackets and its content in the English report. Also, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Asset Sub-Group would be meeting in July 2024.
- CC 2.2 – Supporting Young People (page 24)
  The timetable for completion should read February 2025 in both the Welsh and English reports.
- CC1, 2, 4 – Resilient Communities (page 28)

Members noted that the Authority works closely with all the housing associations, Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council.

- CW 2.1 – Developing and Promoting Best Practice (page 31)
  The timetable for completion should read March 2025 in both the Welsh and English reports.

RESOLVED
1. **to note the report.**
2. **subject to the amendments as outlined, to formally adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2024-25.**

9. **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 background.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

10. **Outdoor Recreation Position Statement 2024-2025**

Submitted – A report by the Access and Well-Being Manager to present the final document for approval by the Authority.

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report in the absence of the Access and Well-Being Manager, who had been unable to attend today's meeting. Members were asked to note that the report, which reflects the current position, had now been re-branded as a Position Statement rather than a Strategy. Members also noted that the document was flexible enough to allow the Authority to work with its partners and manage future changes in the law such as access to water, public rights of ways etc. The Partnerships Manager stated that the Position Statement was a sub-document of Cynllun Eryri and will be available on the Authority's website as a useful reference document for both the Authority's staff and the public.

Arising thereon, Members welcomed the report and the Outdoor Recreation Position Statement which brings everything together and provides the key messages.

RESOLVED to approve the content of the Outdoor Recreation Position Statement 2024-25 (Annex 1) as submitted.

11. Conferences and Seminars

(1) **National Parks Conference 2024 : 75 years of Landscapes for Everyone**

Submitted – The draft programme for the National Parks Conference hosted by Northumberland National Park at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle : Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th September 2024.

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 Chair, Vice-Chair and the Chief Executive. The following members were also nominated to attend:-
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd or Delyth Lloyd, depending on their availability.
(Reserve Member – Councillor Meryl Roberts).

(2) **National Parks Wales Members' Seminar 2024**
Received – A diary marker and invitation for every member to attend the National Parks Wales Members' Seminar 2024, hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority on 6th / 7th November 2024 at the Giltar Hotel, Tenby.

RESOLVED to note the report.

12. **Members' Working Group Reports**
Submitted – The reports of the Members' Working Group meetings held on 24th January and 6th March 2024.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

13. **Calendar of Meetings**
Submitted – A timetable of meetings for the period 2024/2025.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the Calendar of Meetings and Members noted the usefulness of having the dates well in advance.

RESOLVED to approve the timetable for 2024/25 as submitted.

14. **Meetings of other Organisations**
Submitted – Oral reports on recent meetings of organisations that Members had attended as representatives of the Authority.

Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts - Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group
- Trawsfynydd site was now managed by Nuclear Restoration Services.
- the focus had shifted to the Wylfa Nuclear site, and it felt like the Trawsfynydd site was now secondary.
- as regards decommissioning, the roofs at Trawsfynydd site were due to be removed shortly.
- concerns have also been raised with regard to the footbridge.

RESOLVED to thank Councillor Roberts and note the report.

15. **Minutes**
Submitted - The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 29th November 2023, for information.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

16. **Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C**
Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents.
Submitted – A report by the Head of Human Resources requesting Authority approval for the exemption of the subsequent report.

RESOLVED that the "Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C" report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined.

17. **Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C**
Submitted – A report by the Head of Human Resources to provide the Authority with arrangements that are recommended to be put in place for an interim Senior Management Team structure (Option C) to facilitate the transition to a permanent structure upon the appointment of the new Chief Executive. The report also seeks Authority approval to formally adopt and implement Option C.

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

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-
- Members expressed their appreciation to the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Planning and Land Management for their co-operation.
- the Chief Executive and the Head of Human Resources were tasked with examining the tendering process (Sell2Wales) and preparing draft job descriptions for the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive posts, prior to the first meeting of the Recruitment Panel.
- Members were agreed that any restructuring should be the responsibility of the new Chief Executive.

RESOLVED
1. **to approve the formal adoption and implementation of Option C.**
2. **to agree two consecutive meeting dates for the Head of HR to meet with the selected Members' Recruitment Panel in order to gain input and agree the next steps to allow for the successful implementation of Option C.**
3. **to support the creation of two temporary posts of Interim Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive.**
4. **to appoint the Interim Chief Executive on the lowest pay point of the Chief Executive Grade being £87,717.**
5. **to appoint the Interim Deputy Chief Executive on a pay point between the Director's Highest pay point and the lowest point of the Chief Executive Pay being £79,911. (This is an estimated figure at this time since the pay point does not currently sit within our Senior Officers Pay Structure).**
6. **to manage all formal agreements, where necessary, regarding permanent changes in employment contracts via external legal support.**
7. **the posts of Interim Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive are positions which are event specific in duration.**
8. **to appoint GIJ into the post of Interim Chief Executive.**
9. **to appoint JC into the post of Interim Deputy Chief Executive.**
10. **to immediately prepare the recruitment pack for the post of Director of Corporate Services.**
11. **to officially open the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive**

no later than 1st July 2024.

12. **upon the commencement date of the new, permanent Chief Executive, GIJ will immediately assume the role of Deputy Chief Executive. This would automatically return JC to his substantive position of Director of Planning and Land Management, unless he has applied and been successful in gaining the permanent Chief Executive position, in which case a recruitment process will commence to recruit a replacement Director of Planning and Land Management.**
13. **the position of Deputy Chief Execuitve ceases on the 31st of July 2026.**

The meeting ended at 11.35

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Sarah Hattle, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers
Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Bethan Hughes, Angela Jones, Anwen Gaffey, Sarah Roberts.

In attendance
Sharon Warnes, Chair of the Standards Committee.
Euros Lake, Rachel Freitag, Derwyn Owen: Audit Wales.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting would be web-broadcast following election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Chair**
The Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Chair for the Authority and advised that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, the nominations proposed two Members for the Chair, Mr. Tim Jones and Councillor Edgar Owen, who were invited to address the meeting.

Mr. Tim Jones and Councillor Edgar Owen both took up the invitation to address the meeting and Members were provided with a summary of their background and experience.

Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen was elected as Chair of the Authority.
The Chair thanked Members for their support.

2. **Vice-Chair**
The Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Vice-Chair for the Authority and advised that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd for Vice-Chair.

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd was elected Vice-Chair of the Authority.
The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

3. **Apologies for Absence**
No apologies were tendered.

4. **Corporate Update**

- the Chief Executive congratulated the Chair and the Vice Chair on their appointments and also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Tim Jones for his work during his time as Authority Chair.

- at a recent meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Julie James MS, the Chair and Chief Executive were advised that the budget would remain at this level until 2025, although there could be further capital funding support for the National Park Authorities over the next 3 years.
- at their meeting on 3rd June 2024 the Snowdonia Communities Fund Scoring Panel had approved a number of applications.
- the Chief Executive reminded Members they were all invited to attend the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board Meeting following the Authority meeting today to receive a presentation by Cymynedoli Cyf. Arising thereon, the Chief Executive confirmed that selling the property was still an option and that Agents had now been appointed.
- the consultation deadline to respond to the Article 4 Directive letter sent to each household in Eryri had resulted in less than 400 responses, which officers were now considering.
- Members were reminded of the Member Development Day being arranged on 21st June with visits to sites in and around the Bala area.
- Members also noted that training on 'Effective Financial Governance' was being arranged by Welsh Government for all Members on 20th June 2024.
- the Chief Executive was pleased to report that the Management Team and Vice-Chair had recently met with Cymdeithas Eryri to discuss joint areas of concern and future co-operation.
- the Chief Executive and Chair had recently attended a meeting of all Chairs in Loch Lomond where the main topics of discussion were the challenges of climate change and how the 15 National Park Authorities can work on this together.
- the Chief Executive had recently met with the Chief Constable of North Wales Police to discuss the possibility of having a police officer seconded to the Authority for a 6-month period to help with rural issues.
- the Welsh National Parks Chief Executives had recently met with the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales, where discussions had focused on working in partnership to share expertise as resources become more scarce.
- the Chief Executive advised that as this was his final Authority meeting, he would like to take the opportunity to convey his best wishes to Anwen Gaffey, the Members' Services Officer, who was also retiring at the end of the summer after working for the Authority since before the National Park was established in 1996.

5. **Public Question Time**

The Chair advised that a member of the public had given notice to speak at the meeting.

Mr. Richard A. Shirres, provided Members with a short preface prior to presenting the following question:-

Q. Will the National Park Authority seriously consider taking steps to begin to establish the means to exercise proactive ecological spatial planning which could ultimately develop a Park-wide strategic ecosystem conservation and landscape-scale adaptation management plan, complete with defined measures, subject to periodic review; recognising there is great potential for early mobilisation of resources by way of local and regional stakeholder

engagement; through exploiting university research and harnessing that and developing citizen science programmes but also by exploring partnership working with Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority which produced a preliminary National Recover Plan in July 2019?

Officer response
The Director of Planning and Land Management thanked Mr. Shirres for his question.

The Director of Planning and Land Management assured Mr. Shirres that the Authority and its officers take such matters very seriously and will be considering and discussing these issues further over the coming months. In order to provide context, he then outlined some constraints that should be recognised as this work is progressed.

1. *Most of the land in the National Park was in private ownership, which means the ability to make direct changes are limited, and significant change can only be achieved through partnership working.*
2. *As resources are scarce, both in terms of funding and staff, the Authority continues to work closely with partners in the environmental sector such as the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales etc., and also with farmers and landowners.*
3. *The Authority's Carbon Strategy was being presented to the Authority today which clearly shows that Eryri was already on the journey. The Authority recognises the need to highlight the carbon challenge in its Corporate Plan, and the need to raise its ambition in Cynllun Eryri (which was being reviewed next year). The Authority had commissioned a report on the State of the Park and will collaborate with all the other statutory bodies to establish a baseline in terms of the state of nature and our ability to reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. Work on reviewing the Local Development Plan will also be undertaken in 2025 and will include ambitious policies to address these issues.*
4. *Eryri along with the other UK National Parks was now part of the global Race to Zero initiative and work had already started to meet the 2030 target and limit global warming to 1.5 rather than 2 degrees.*
5. *There is an intention to identify funding to appoint a Low Carbon Officer during this financial year which also demonstrates the Authority's ambition and commitment to respond to the challenge.*
6. *The Chief Executive advised upon a recent paper on carbon use, based on consumption, and commissioned by the family of National Parks, which had identified that roughly one third of Eryri's carbon outputs come from transport, one third from local communities and one third from tourism. Officers were currently working on a tree and peatland strategy and were also running ambitious schemes such as the LIFE Celtic Rainforest Project.*

In response, Richard Shirres provided Members with a brief background of his own experience and invited informal contact at any time for discussions with officers. He felt that it was crucial that data sets for flora and fauna should be developed for the individual National Parks, rather than across Wales. He suggested citizen science could be a cost-effective measure which was economical and gave a sense of purpose to local people.

Members welcomed the question and made the following observations:-

- a Member noted that although discussions with Bangor University were already underway, this should include looking specifically at data sets.
- Members agreed that citizen science was something the Authority should

further consider. The Chief Executive advised that during recent discussions with Cymdeithas Eryri they had agreed to work collaboratively to take advantage of the expertise available.

6. **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of Personal Interests 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 details were correct.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 24th April 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

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

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that both items should remain on the action log.

Arising thereon,
Authority Meeting 07.02.24 : Action Item 11 – Plas Tan y Bwlch
The Director of Corporate Services advised that Carter Jonas had been appointed as Agents, and solicitors appointed to prepare an Information Pack on the property. Members noted that the Head of Property would provide further details at the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board meeting following the Authority meeting today.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log, as submitted.

10. **Governance of National Park Authorities**
Submitted – The Governance of National Park Authorities Report (April 2024) by the Auditor General for Wales, together with a Summary Report. Members were also provided with a copy of the Organisational response, for information.

Mr. Euros Lake, Wales Audit Office presented the report and provided Members with a slide presentation. He advised that the report, published in April 2024, reviewed the governance arrangements across all three National Park Authorities in Wales.

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

- the Chief Executive advised that he had always valued Audit Wales' findings, but on this occasion felt he could not agree with the first three recommendations as they were matters outside the Authority's control, and the fourth recommendation had not provided evidence that the current model was not fit for purpose. The Chief Executive advised that he had sent his response to Audit Wales and the response would be formally presented to Members at the next meeting of the

Performance and Resources Committee on the 10th July. The Chief Executive noted that two reviews over the last 15 years, the Marsden Review and the Future Landscapes Working Group chaired by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, had both agreed that the current model provides the necessary balance. The Chief Executive felt the opportunity to address the effectiveness of Section 62(2) of the Environment Act had been missed.

- in response to a question about who was responsible for creating the accountability framework, the Chief Executive advised there was an annual process for reporting performance to the Minister for Members appointed by the Welsh Government, but no such system for Local Authority Members. This was a matter for the Welsh Local Government Association to discuss with Welsh Government and demonstrates why it's difficult for the Authority to accept the first three recommendations.
- a Member felt the criticism did not refer to the balance between local authority and national members, but rather how local members are selected, which was more to do with implementation and not the governance structure. The Member felt that the report was not clear in this regard.
- the Chief Executive noted that para. 22 of the report supports the current committee structures, and that the issue was the level of skill available to scrutinise strategically. He advised that the Labour Party Manifesto may include reference to this as regards the Fire and Rescue service, who only have Local Authority Members, although the number of members on the Authority could be a matter for the future.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report.**
2. **to await the Organisational Response report to be presented to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee on 10th July 2024.**

11 (a) **Statement of Accounts 2021/22**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer to approve the post-audit Statement of Accounts and the Final Letter of Representation.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report, Statement of Accounts and the Final Letter of Representation for approval. The accounts had been subject to a significant delay due to issues which arose from the re-valuation of assets, and the Chief Finance Officer was pleased to report that Audit Wales were going to issue the Authority with an unqualified audit opinion. The Chief Finance Officer took the opportunity to thank officers for their work and then welcomed Rachel Freitag and Derwyn Owen of Audit Wales to the meeting to present their findings.

11 (b) **ISA 260 Audit of the Financial Statements – Snowdonia National Park Authority**

Submitted – The Audit of Financial Statements report.

Reported – Rachel Freitag, Audit Wales, presented the report and addendum and confirmed that the Auditor General would be presenting the Authority with an unqualified audit report. She thanked the Authority's finance team, past and present, for their work, and for their assistance and co-operation. Audit Wales advised there had been two key issues which they would like to raise, firstly the number of amendments, outlined in Appendix 3 – Summary of Corrections Made, were excessive with a large number of omissions. It was emphasised that it was the Authority's responsibility to ensure that the draft is thoroughly checked prior to

its submission. Secondly, Members were provided with detailed background of the delays experienced during the revaluation of the assets and of the additional work involved in ensuring the work was in accordance with the CIPFA Code. Members were asked to note that this would have an effect on the audit fee. The Authority will now prepare the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 over the summer months and the accounts for 2023/24 will be presented in 2025.

The Chair thanked Rachel Freitag and Derwyn Owen of Audit Wales for attending the meeting to present their report.

RESOLVED
1. **to receive and note the "ISA 260" report as presented by Audit Wales.**
2. **to approve the post-audit Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.**
3. **to authorise the Chair and the Chief Finance Officer to certify the Letter of Representation.**

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.

RESOLVED to appoint Members as follows:-

(1) COMMITTEES

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

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

iii) *Standards Committee* (Term of Office established by the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001).
Councillors Dilwyn Roberts, Elfed Roberts; 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, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Einir Wyn Williams; Sarah Hattle.

iii) *Yr Ysgwrn Management Board*
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Powell Roberts; Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

iv) ***Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board***
Councillor Elfed Roberts, Meryl Roberts; Tim Jones.

(4) AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

i) ***Celyn, Tegid and Tryweryn Advisory Conference***
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, June Jones;
Brian Angell.

ii) ***Fforwm Eryri***
Councillor Edgar Owen (Chair)
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd (Vice Chair)
Councillors Annwen Hughes, Jo Nuttall; Brian Angell.

iii) ***Local Access Forums***
***South*: Councillor John Pughe Roberts**
***North*: Tim Jones**

iv) ***Strategic Planning Sub-Committee (CJC)***
Councillor Edgar Owen

(5) TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

i) ***Assets Sub-Group***
Councillors June Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Dilwyn Roberts, Meryl Roberts;
Brian Angell, Tim Jones.

(ii) **Carbon Account Steering Group**
Councillor John Pughe Roberts; Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

(iv) **Place Names Steering Group**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Dilwyn Roberts.

(6) OTHER BODIES

i) ***Trawsfynydd Stakeholder Group***
Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts

ii) ***Joint Council for Wales***
Delyth Lloyd

iii) ***Campaign for National Parks***
(The 3 Welsh National Park Authorities are represented by a Member of the Authority which holds the National Parks Wales Secretariat, currently held by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority)

iv) **The Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes**
Mr. Tim Jones

v) ***Welsh Local Government Association Council***
Councillor Dilwyn Roberts

vi) ***Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau (SAC)***
Councillor Louise Hughes

vii) ***Eryri Transport, Parking & Active Travel Delivery Group***
Councillor June Jones
(In Reserve: Councillor Einir Wyn Williams)

viii) ***Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum***
Councillor Elfed Roberts

ix) ***Dyfi Biosphere Partnership***
Councillor Louise Hughes

x) ***Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference***
Councillor Meryl Roberts
(In Reserve – Ms. Delyth Lloyd)

13. **The Standards Committee's Annual Report to the Authority**
Submitted – A report by the Chair of the Standards Committee for Members to agree and note the contents of the Annual Report.

Reported – The Chair of the Standards Committee thanked Members for the opportunity to attend the meeting to present the Annual Report. The Standards Committee Chair presented the report in detail and advised Members upon the appointment of a new Independent Member, Mr. Mark Jones. The Chair also congratulated the Authority on the high standards of conduct shown by its Members with no complaints being presented to the Ombudsman. The Chair also took the opportunity to commend the work of the complaints monitoring team.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that when the opportunity arises, and Gwynedd Council Members or Conwy County Borough Council Members are required to make use of the dispensation granted by the Standards Committee, the independent members of the Standards Committee will be invited to the meeting to observe the process.

The Director of Corporate Services, on behalf of the Authority, took the opportunity to thank the Chair for her work and commitment to the Authority's Standards Committee over the last nine years.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

14. **Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**
Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care to approve the Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Chair and the Chief Executive.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24. Members were asked to note a correction to Paragraph 6, which should read 'Significant Governance issues and Actions proposed for *2024/25*'.

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the 2023/24 financial year.

15. **Corporate Work Programme 2023/24**
Submitted – A progress report by the Director of Corporate Services on the Final Quarter for 2023-24 (January to March 2024).

Reported - The Director of Corporate Services presented the Corporate Work Programme in detail.

RESOLVED to note the Corporate Work Programme, as submitted.

16. **Eryri Low Carbon Strategy 2024-2029**
Submitted – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management for Members to adopt the Eryri Low Carbon Strategy 2024-2025 and agree to subsequent annual reviews.

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report and background.

RESOLVED
1. to adopt the Low Carbon Strategy, as submitted.
2. to agree to a subsequent annual review of the document and any progress.

17. **Members' Attendance**
Submitted – An information report by the Director of Corporate Services detailing Member attendance at Authority and Committee meetings from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report. Arising thereon, officers agreed to correct the Welsh report to read Cllr. *June* Jones.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

18. **Welsh Language Standards**
Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care together with the Authority's Welsh Language Standards 2023/24 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 2023/24 Monitoring Report on the Authority's website.

19. **Cynllun Eryri Annual Monitoring Report 2023**
Submitted – A report by the Head of Partnerships to report on the third year of implementation of the National Park Management Plan. The Director of Corporate Services apologised that the English language report had been included in the Welsh Agenda and advised that Members were provided with a copy of the Welsh report prior to the meeting.

Reported – The Head of Partnerships presented the report which provided an outline of the key points to note, and the Annual Monitoring Report which reflected the work carried out in 2023. The Head of Partnerships was pleased to report upon good progress on each of the objectives and also took the opportunity to thank the partners for their valued contribution and support.

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 17th April 2024.

RESOLVED to note the report.

21. **Meetings of other Organisations**
Submitted – Oral reports on recent meetings of organisations that Members had attended as representatives of the Authority.

Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Meeting – Councillor Meryl Roberts

- two meetings had recently been held, one which was called as an urgent meeting to discuss Transport for Wales' intention to reduce the service to two trains in the morning and two in the afternoon. These discussions were still ongoing.

RESOLVED to thank the Member for the report.

22. **Minutes**
The following minutes were submitted for information:-
(1) Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 20th March 2024.
(2) Minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 26th April 2024.

Arising thereon, and on behalf of Members and Officers, the Chair expressed his appreciation and thanks to both the Chief Executive and the Members Services Officer for their valuable service and expertise over the years and wished them both a long and happy retirement.

The meeting ended at 12.25

MINUTES
SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2024
Plas Tan y Bwlch

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Edgar Wyn Owen (Chair), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Edward Jones, Adam Daniel, Eifion Jones.

The Director of Corporate Services announced that the meeting would be broadcast on the web and would also be available online later.

1. **Apologies for the absence and Chair's Statements**

Apologies were received from Councillors Louise Hughes, June Jones, Dilwyn Owain Roberts.

The Chairman offered condolences to former chairman Wyn Jones on the loss of his mother and asked that a condolence card be sent to him.

He explained that the Authority had recently lost two Members, Sarah Hattle and Dr Lowri Cunnington Wynn. Sarah Hattle had resigned because she had accepted a new job. Lowri Cunnington Wynn had withdrawn from membership because she too had recently accepted a position, and the two roles conflicted. He thanked Sarah Hattle for her contribution and asked that a letter thanking her for her contribution be sent to her.

He mentioned that he had been at the Meirionnydd Agricultural Show in August and that it was a good show.

2. **Corporate Update**

A verbal update was received from the interim Chief Executive:

- He mentioned that Julie James MP had resigned from Cabinet and Park had been moved to the portfolio of Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister and

Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs. Because the Prime Minister has just been appointed the situation could change again in the coming weeks.

- In terms of how busy it had been over the summer, he noted that this was most apparent at Llyn Tegid, Ogwen and Nant Gwynant. He said the relevant officers had been in constant discussions throughout the summer to try to resolve the issues and further meetings had been arranged. He thanked the Wardens and the relevant Officers for managing the situations and for their hard work and efforts over the summer.
- He noted that the Authority had won the "Best Show Stand" at the Meirionnydd Agricultural Show and congratulated and thanked everyone involved.
- The Chief Executive and Director of Planning and Land Management met with Alwen Williams, Chief Executive, North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, and Portfolio Director, North Wales Ambition to receive an update on the transfer of the North Wales Ambition to the Northern Corporate Joint Committee. This will take place from the 1st of November. He explained that the Authority still claimed a vote on planning matters only, but there were discussions to see if the Authority could be invited as a member without a vote on the Transport Sub-Committee. This would add a bit to how the Authority could contribute to the process.
- He noted that the Authority had applied to the Nature Networks Fund under the Heritage Lottery Fund. The fund aims to improve the condition and resilience of Wales' network of protected land and marine sites. The Authority submitted an expression of interest for the grant in August and a full application will have to be submitted by November. The value of the project is £967,000 if successful.
- In relation to the fiscal situation, he noted that Welsh Government Officials had been in touch asking about the financial pressures of wage inflation and, although it was early days to predict any outcome, the consistent message was that it things are not positive across the UK either or in Wales and that he was not optimistic about a more positive settlement than the pattern that had manifested itself in recent years.
- He mentioned that a recruitment panel had met the previous week to appoint a new Chief Executive and that a special meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee would follow the current meeting to discuss the applications and decide on the shortlist. A special meeting of the Authority would be held on the 2nd of October to interview and confirm the appointment.
- He mentioned the COPA1 Conference, which will be held on the on 24th September, where 55 youth from different North Wales secondary schools will attend the world's first environmental summit to present their response to the "Big Idea" on how to solve the one-off pollution crisis on Yr Wyddfa.

3. **Public Question Time**

The Chair advised that a member of the public had given notice that they wanted to speak at the meeting.
Ms Llinos Alun submitted the following question:

Question:

Why is the Authority not willing to transfer the Plas altogether to a community group, or sell the woodland to Coed Cadw / Woodland Trust and use that money to improve the Plas and run it in partnership?

The Chair thanked Ms Alun for her question and invited the Chief Executive to respond:

Officer Response:

The Authority remains in discussions with one company and is open to any proposal.
Since the property was put on the market several enquiries have been received and the Authority wanted to consider the main developments at the end of this meeting. He confirmed that one of the issues that would be discussed is whether Carter Jonas' advice needed to be revisited.
He explained that if the Authority sold the woodland and lands separately, it would be money once and for all and would not be sufficient to improve the Plas and run it in partnership.
He also reiterated that 3 million pounds needed to be spent on the building itself over the next ten years and that Plas Tan y Bwlch costs around £250,000 a year to run.

The Chair thanked everyone who had attended the meeting and confirmed that, as Chair, he had discretion to allow the individual to ask the Chief Executive an additional question if he wished.

Question:

Why couldn't local groups be given time to find grants instead of hastily selling it in this manner? And since the Authority survives on grants why weren't grants sought for the preservation of the Plas rather than letting it go?

Officer Response:

The Acting Chief Executive explained that the ability to obtain grants for the Plas at Authority level is limited which is why the Authority has been in discussions with a community company, and further discussions would follow following the meeting.

4. **Declaration of Interest**
No declarations of interest were received by members or officers in relation to any business item.

5. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Authority's meeting held on 12th June 2024 were received and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising for information from the minutes**
There were no matters arising.

7. **Action Sheet**
The Action Sheet was submitted, and the Chief Executive noted that the actions set out under the second item on the Sheet, namely "Plas Tan y Bwlch" had been completed and that item should therefore be removed from the Action Sheet.

***Recommended*:** remove Item on Plas Tan y Bwlch from the Action Sheet

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

8. **Annual Report 2023/24**

The Director of Corporate Services presented the Annual Report 2023/24. He explained that the purpose of the Annual Report was to formally report on the progress made by the Authority in delivering its Wellbeing Objectives. He noted that most of the work set out in the Annual Report would be a familiar area as the Performance and Resources Committee has been monitoring progress on this on a quarterly basis. However, this Report sought to provide an overview of the situation at the end of 2023-24 to better understand the progress made to date as well as the remaining challenges.

He noted that much of the report was green which signified a good solution for the year.

(At this point, a member of the public asked whether there was a right to leave the meeting and whether Members were going to discuss the Plas issue further at the meeting.
The Chief Executive explained that there was a right to leave the meeting, and that there would be further discussion on the matter at the end of the meeting, but that there was a report to shut out the press and public of that discussion before then.
He also made it clear that it would not be normal to have such a discussion or questions but to ensure fairness and a better understanding he would be willing to open the meeting to further questions and comments but not until the end of the present item.)

***Recommended*:** – that the Authority adopt the Annual Report and approve its publication.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

The Chief Executive invited members of the public present to ask any question they had.

- One member replied saying that it was understood that there would be a public discussion on the matter relating to the sale of Plas Tan y Bwlch during this meeting.
  The Chief Executive explained that it would be unusual to discuss confidential matters relating to a third party in an open discussion.
- A member of the public asked if it would be possible to arrange a public meeting to discuss the Plas issue openly.
  The Chief Executive replied that it would be possible to arrange such a meeting, but it would not be a meeting of the Authority.
- Another member of the public asked if the Authority would engage with the Community before going ahead with the decision.
  The Chair confirmed that it would.
- Another member of the public expressed her concern that the public would not have the opportunity to speak out. The Chair again assured her that there would be.
- Another member of the public said that, as a resident of the Plas Chalets, she was concerned about a lack of common courtesy relating to public assets.
  The Chief Executive replied that the Authority noted the comments made.

9. **Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)**

A report was submitted by the Chief Finance Officer detailing the Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan providing an overview outlining the main financial issues that would affect the Authority over the next few years.

- In response to the report one Member thanked the Chief Officer for his work, in a

difficult situation. He noted that funding is at the same level as it was in 2006. He stressed the importance of the reserves and that they should be used to fund the Park's strategic purposes. He also noted that looking at new ways of raising funds was imperative and suggested considering working more with the private sector while at the same time ensuring the funds are used properly. He also suggested working in partnerships with other public bodies, such as Natural Resources Wales.
The Chief Executive replied by drawing members' attention to a Table given in the Chief Finance Officer's report (on page 80 of the Agenda) which showed that if the Authority did nothing it would be a crisis by 2027/28. The Authority therefore had a small window to meet the challenge it was facing.

- Another Member noted that the Table on page 80 showed that the reserve money only "buys time", and that the money must be used wisely to meet the main challenges, namely climate and biodiversity challenges, and tourism challenges. He reiterated that he had raised an issue of phrasing in the report at the Members' Working Group meeting held on the 4th of September and expressed his wish that his comments at that meeting be recorded in the minutes of this meeting. In particular, he had highlighted two items in the report and suggested that the sentences should be worded in a way that more accurately reflected the statutory language:
    - Item 3.1 (p. 73) – instead of, "Protect and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area" that this wording should be used, "Protect and *foster*..."
    - Item 5.4 (pg. 81) – instead of, "Ensure that the Authority achieves its statutory implications." should be used, "Ensure that the Authority achieves its statutory *purposes*."

- A Member spoke of his disappointment that money raised via the Car Parks had been used towards maintaining Yr Ysgwrn, and said that a Business Plan needed to be created for Yr Ysgwrn. He also said more of the natural resources available around Llyn Tegid must be used. It should be run more like a business.

- Another Member asked two further questions relating to the Table on page 80:
    - In what way was the sale of Plas Tan y Bwlch reflected in the figure for 24/25 when it was not at all certain that the Plas would be sold before then, and would therefore remain a cost to the Authority?
    - Because the figures at the end of 24/25 are quite healthy, had consideration been given to postponing the sale of Plas Tan y Bwlch in light of the discussions about Plas becoming a community asset.

  The Chief Finance Officer replied saying that they had deducted the running costs of the Plas from the Permanent Budget and funded it from the reserves. Should the running costs continue beyond March 25, those costs will have to be funded from the reserves.
  The Chief Executive reiterated that the Member's second question would be one of the things that would be discussed in the Plas discussion later in the meeting.

- The Director of Planning and Land Management agreed that Yr Ysgwrn needed a Business Plan and that there are plans to have one. The intention was to have a 5 year plan. He said the Yr Ysgwrn Board would discuss this at their next meeting in November. He doubted the Ysgwrn would come to a point where it would make a profit, but keeping within budget would be the goal.

In response to a question from another Member the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the Business Plan would be presented to the full Authority for ratification.

- One Member noted that the Park receives Welsh Government funding after Christmas every now and then. How was this considered in the Table on page 80?
The Chief Finance Officer replied that it should not be taken for granted that that money would be forthcoming.
The Chief Executive added that the former Chief Executive had reported that the way the UK Treasury operated had changed and that this had made it harder for the Welsh Government to work according to the same pattern as they had in previous years. This meant that there was great uncertainty about this money.

***Recommended*:** – that the Authority identify and respond to the issues identified in the MFTP, and that it adopts the MTFP as a Working Document.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

10. **Draft Accounts 2022/23**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report presenting the complete set of statements of accounts, in accordance with statutory requirements. He thanked Sian Owen, Head of Finance, and her team for preparing the accounts.
He explained that the 22/23 figures were in question because the receipt of the previous accounts had been delayed due to asset valuation, which had affected the ability to prepare the existing figures.
He noted that the Authority had discussed the current accounts at the Performance Meeting in July 2023, that several decisions had been made at that time, and that those decisions had been fed into the current report.
He said the external Auditor had already received these reports and the audit was not expected to take as long as it did last year.

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

One Member asked for confirmation that Craig yr Aderyn was the Park's property, as stated under Heritage Assets of the report (p. 127).
The Head of Property confirmed that Craig yr Aderyn had been owned by the Park for decades.
Recommended: – to note the contents of the Statement of Accounts 2022/23

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

11. **Budget Update 2024/25**

A report was submitted by the Head of Finance summarising the revised revenue and capital budgets for 2024/255 with changes reflecting the period from the start of the financial year to the 31st of July 2024.

The Chief Executive added that Car Parks' fee income was less up to July this year than last year due to the poor weather experienced throughout the summer. He had, however, expected that the target would still be met.

A Member thanked the Officers for preparing the reports in such a readable format.

Recommended: – to receive the report and state the latest financial position 2024/25

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

12. **Youth Manifesto**

The Head of Wardening and Access presented the Youth Manifesto.
He explained that this is the final version of the Manifesto. A draft version was submitted to the Members Working Group on 22nd May 2024; That version had received very good feedback, and that feedback was incorporated into the current version.

Members thanked the Head of Wardening and Access for the Youth Manifesto. The youth were identified as the future of the Park. It was also noted that it was good that this development came from Europark and that the Park was doing something that showcases that we are part of the National Parks family across Europe.

Recommended: – to approve and adopt the manifesto and the work highlighted therein and propose that the manifesto and work be reviewed every two years.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

13. **Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report 2023/24**

In the absence of the Head of Cultural Heritage the Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report was submitted by the Director of Planning and Land Management.
He noted that two successful projects were undertaken during the year, namely:

- Vanishing Words, and
- Fama community heritage project

In addition to these over 20 further activities were held attracting over 500 attendees during the year.
Despite the financial challenges, the year was within budget.

One Member highlighted the intention to establish a development trust for Yr Ysgwrn and asked what the main objective of this intention was.
The Director of Planning and Land Management replied that the intention was to be able to attract more grant money than they would be able to as an Authority.

It was discussed whether there was a need for more advertising of Yr Ysgwrn, particularly on social media and in Conwy schools, and the Ysgwrn should have its own Facebook site rather than just under the Authority.
The Director of Planning and Land Management replied that there was advertising on social media and that Conwy schools were attending Yr Ysgwrn, but noted the comment and would take back the feedback.

Recommended: – to receive the report for information.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

14. **Europark Conference 2024**

Information on the Europark Conference was presented by the acting Chief Executive. He explained that it was an E-forum this time, and that it conflicted with the Wales Members Seminar 2024.
Mr Tim Jones volunteered to attend the E-forum as he was unable to attend the Seminar in Pembroke.
He further suggested that it would be good if a Park Officer attended as well.

Recommended: – to nominate Mr Tim Jones to attend the Europark Conference 2024 on behalf of the Park, and to appoint a member of Staff to attend as well.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

15. **Wales Members Seminar 2024**

Information on the Wales Members Seminar was presented by the interim Chief Executive who encouraged all Members to attend. He asked Members who wished to attend the Seminar for a show of hands so that the Democratic Services Officer could note the numbers and there would also be an opportunity to give further information to the Officer later.

Noted: – Members attendance noted by the Democratic Services Officer.

16. **Reports of the Members Working Group**

The reports of the Members Working Group held on 22nd May 2024 and 26th June 2024 were submitted.

Resolved: – to note the reports.

17. **Meetings of Other Organisations**

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

18. **Discussions on the Future of Plas Tan y Bwlch**

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a recommendation to ask the Authority to approve the exclusion of the report, "Discussion on the Future of Plas Tan y Bwlch" under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
He explained that the relevant exceptions to the report were that it contained information that was:

- Relevant to a specific individual
- Likely to reveal identity
- Involved the financial or business affairs of a particular person

He also noted that there are factors in favour of disclosure, namely openness and transparency.

One Member offered to accept the recommendation but that the Authority arrange a public meeting to discuss the sale of the Plas and lands.
Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts proposed that he would be willing to bridge with the local community and chair such a public meeting.

One Member noted that the information and discussions about the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch had been published for months and that the suggestion that the decision was one of surprise was misleading.
Another Member who had been Chairman of the Board of Plas Tan y Bwlch said the Authority could have done better than it had in terms of communication in relation to this matter.

Recommended: – that the Authority exclude the report, "Discussion on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch", and that a public meeting be arranged to discuss the matter Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts to bridge with the local community and chair such a meeting.

Noted: – that the Recommendation was amended.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

PART 2

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Edgar Wyn Owen (Chair), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Delyth Lloyd;
Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Edward Jones, Eifion Jones.

19. DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF PLAS TAN Y BWLCH

The Interim Chief Executive reported on a Discussions Update on the Future of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Property.
He noted that the situation changes from day to day if not from hour to hour.
Reported:

- that one definite offer had been received.
- further enquiries have been received about the entire site, but no offer had been made.
- some interest had been shown in the woodland and Llyn Mair, but not in the building. Again, no firm proposals made.
- he had asked the Head of Property to look at the feasibility of dividing the

woodlands from the Plas, and the impact that would have on those who had shown interest so far.

- he had asked Gwynedd Council about making the paths around Llyn Mair public footpaths. The answer was that the process would take at least 6 months and possibly much longer. Another option was to designate the area as an Open Access Land Area (*Open Access*) as the Authority had done with other areas of its property.
- he has been in touch with the community company, and they were going ahead with commissioning a report.
- he has been receiving constant emails from the Welsh Government recently asking for an update and stressing that the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch must be considered in any decision. He said he replied saying that this was very much the intention.
- that the profile of the matter had risen significantly recently even though the story has been in the press since February this year. He said it was a good idea to engage with the public locally and that a suggestion had been made that the Authority prepare an all-day "Drop-In Session" to let the public discuss the issue with Park Officers in the hope that this would generate better feedback from the public.
- one of the main issues was the concern that the public would lose access to the woodland and to Llyn Mair (more so than to the Plas itself).
- the Heritage Lottery Fund had communicated with him.
- he had, as a result of all this, and because a number of people had shown an interest in the property and the offers needed to be aired, suggested that the Authority could not accept the offer today, and that rejecting the offer or postponing the decision were the only options.

The Chief Executive invited the Head of Property to report on the latest developments with the Sales Agent, *Carter Jonas*.

The Head of Property reported:

- that he'd had a number of conversations with the Agent, *Carter Jonas*
- regarding the one offer that was on the table, the Proposer was pushing to have an early decision so that business decisions could be made.
- he had raised the issue of the division of the property (e.g. the sale of the woodland and Llyn Mair separately from the building) with the Agent and it was the Agent's view that this would not be of interest and that the site as a whole should be looked at aimed at the wellbeing, leisure, nature market etc. The Agent saw no problem in formalizing the permissions and public access around Llyn Mair. However, they found it difficult to draw a limit higher than the entrance road as the owner would be concerned about the condition of the trees above the road falling.
- a high number of the enquiries received had been "dreamy"; the price was attractive, but asking about their experience and knowledge of listed buildings and the costs associated with the building weeded out 95% of enquirers.
- he believed there were three potential parties – along with the community company – and any further discussions would be held with these. He also said that the Agent had suggested that if it was the Authority's decision to postpone the decision in order to gain more time for further discussion with

the parties and the community company, the property should be removed from the open market at this time.

The Chief Executive explained that the price may look low, but it reflected the fact that a lot of investment was needed, and that the interest received and the fact that there had only been one offer so far suggested that the price level was pretty accurate.

Following a lengthy discussion the following recommendation was made.

Recommended: – that the Authority accept the above proposal: that the Authority would postpone the decision relating to the offer until the Authority's meeting in November in order to enable discussions to continue with the other parties who had so far declared an interest and with Cymunedoli Ltd, that access to Llyn Mair and the woods must be protected under *the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) legislation*, and that the property remains on the market until then.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

The Chief Executive thanked Members for discussing the difficult issues in a mature manner.

The meeting ended at 13.15

MINUTES OF
SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2024
Plas Tan y Bwlch

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Edgar Wyn Owen (Chair), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson;

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Nia Murray, Eifion Jones;

Also Present
Rhian Jardine, *Natural Resources Wales*.

The Director of Corporate Services announced that the meeting would not be recorded or broadcast on the internet due to the confidential nature of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence and Chair's Statements**
   - Apology submitted by Ms Delyth Lloyd.
   - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
   - He especially welcomed Rhian Jardine, *Natural Resources Wales*, who was there as a non-voting observer.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
   No declaration of interest was made in relation to any item.

3. **Appointment of Chief Executive (National Park Officer) ENPA – Shortlist Package**
   Appendix 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents.

The interim Chief Executive explained that the relevant exceptions to the report were that it contained information that:

- Was relevant to a specific individual
- Was likely to reveal their identity
- Involved the financial or business affairs of a particular person

He noted that there were no factors in favour of disclosure.

Resolved – that the Authority exempt the report, "Appoint APCE Chief Executive – Shortlist Package".

The Democratic Services Officer left the room.

PART 2

4. **To Appoint Chief Executive (National Park Officer) ENPA**

- Three candidates were interviewed.
- After discussion between Members there was a secret ballot on the three candidates.
- Jonathan Cawley was found to have secured enough votes after one round, and it was announced that he had been appointed by Members to be Chief Executive of Snowdonia National Park Authority (provided he would accept the post).

The interim Chief executive left the room.

- It was confirmed in a phone call that Jonathan Cawley accepted the job.
- He proposed that he officially become Chief Executive in about a month (the exact date to be agreed following internal deliberations); he would meanwhile consider the structure of the Authority and present a paper to the Authority at the next meeting of the Authority on the 13th of November stating his plans on the way forward.
- The Head of Human Resources proposed that he inform staff of the appointment that afternoon and send out a press release the following morning. He said the new Chief Executive would be interviewed by BBC Wales at 17:45 that evening.

Resolved – that the Authority accept the proposed timetable.

The interim Chief Executive returned to the room.

- It was agreed to contact the unsuccessful candidates and congratulate them on the standard of the interviews, and offer some reasons why they were not successful, and to thank them for their interest in the Authority.
- Iwan Jones was thanked for his work as interim Chief Executive.

- This would be the last occasion the Authority held a meeting – and lunch – at Plas Tan y Bwlch, and all kitchen staff were thanked for their service over the years.
- Councillor Dilwyn Owain Roberts was congratulated on his appointment to the Conwy County Borough Council Cabinet. He said this would mean that he would cease to be a Member of the Authority from the following day onwards. He thanked everyone and said he had enjoyed his time as an Authority Member.

The meeting ended at 15.30

ERYRI NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 13th of NOVEMBER 2024
National Park Office

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Edgar Wyn Owen (Chairman), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Ioan Gwilym, Eifion Jones. (Nia Murray and Edward Jones joined the second part of the meeting.)

1. **Apologies for absence and Chairman's Announcements**

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Nia Owen to her first meeting as a Member of the Park Authority. He noted that Nia Owen was the successor of Councillor Dilwyn Owain Roberts who had resigned from being a Member of the Park Authority as a result of his promotion to the Conwy County Borough Council Cabinet. He suggested that the Park should send him an official letter to thank him.

2. **Corporate Update**

Received from the Interim Chief Executive.

He reported:

- that the COPA1 Conference, held on the 24th of September, had been a great success. 55 school pupils attended. A number of ideas were discussed regarding tackling the rubbish crisis on Yr Wyddfa. Three ideas made the top three, and grants of £1500 were available to deliver these ideas. The staff were congratulated on the success of the conference.
- That he himself, Councillor Edgar Owen (Chairman of the Authority), Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd (Vice-chairman of the Authority), and Delyth Lloyd had recently attended the National Parks UK Conference. They were celebrating 75 years of Landscapes for All. The obstacles experienced by

some people, for example people with disabilities, from being able to enjoy the landscapes of the countryside were highlighted.

- on the parking issues in the Park and that:
  - a series of officer meetings has been held to discuss solutions to the parking issues, specifically in Nant Gwynant, Ogwen, the foreshore of Llyn Tegid and Llangywer;
  - the Authority has received legal advice regarding the matter and that this had made the Authority's options clearer;
  - Jason Diamond's secondment period from North Wales Police has now come to an end, and it has been very successful, and he thanked him for his contribution during that period.
- that the Yr Wyddfa Partners and Stakeholders Workshop was held in Llanberis in October in order to build on the special work it was already doing, and to start planning for the next five years.
- he himself had not been able to attend the Welsh Members National Parks Seminar held in Pembrokeshire on 6-7 November due to illness, but he thanked everyone who went and he had heard that it was a good conference.

There was a discussion on the problem of car parking in the Park and some comments and suggestions were offered by the Members. The Interim Chief Executive proposed to prepare a paper on the matter to be presented at the March meeting of the Members' Working Group (if there was no opportunity to present it sooner).

3. **Public Question Time**
No questions were received from the public.

4. **Declaration of Interest**
The Interim Chief Executive declared an interest in items 22 (Exemption of Report: Proposed Structure of the Management Team) and 24 (Proposed Structure of the Management Team) as the reports may affect his job.

5. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Authority's meetings held on the 11th of September 2024 and on the 2nd of October were received, and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

6. **Matters for information arising from the minutes**
No issue was raised from the minutes.

7. **Action Log**
The Director of Corporate Services presented the Action Log.

***Recommendation*:** – the Action Log should remain as presented

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation**.**

8. **The Authority's Risk Profile Report**

The Director of Corporate Services presented the Authority's Risk Profile Report. He said:

- that the risks the Authority faced were divided into three categories, namely High Priorities, Medium Priorities and Low Priorities;
- that 19 risks had been identified on the Profile: 2 as High risks, 16 as Medium risks and 1 as a Low risk;
- that 3 new risks have been included on the Authority's Risk Register:
  - Resilience of the Management Team (risk 17)
  - The Proposal to Introduce Article 4 Guidance: Risk of Judicial Review (risk 18)
  - to Introduce Article 4 Guidance: Insufficient capacity to cope with the increase in workload (risk 19)
- that Risk category 18 has been entered incorrectly in the programme: it should be green (low risk category) rather than amber (medium risk category).

***Recommendation*:** – that the Authority note the content of the report.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation**.**

9. **National Parks Wales Executive Committee meeting**

The Minutes of the National Parks of Wales Executive Committee Meeting held on the 3rd of June 2024 were submitted.

The Minutes were ***noted.***

10. **The Standards Committee**

The Interim Chief Executive presented a recommendation to the Members to appoint two Members to the Standards Committee and agree on the process to appoint a new Independent Member onto the Committee.

He advised:

- that the term of the current chairman of the Committee, Mrs Sharon Warnes, had now come to an end and that the Authority must appoint anew by advertising the position in accordance with the regulations and establishing an interview panel;
- that Councillor Dilwyn Roberts and Mrs Sarah Hattle were no longer members of the Authority and that nominations were requested at the meeting to appoint two members for the Standards Committee, one from a Local Authority background and the other a member appointed by the Welsh Government.

Recommendation:

(i) That the Authority appoint two members of the Authority as members of the Standards Committee to continue until that member ceases to be a member of the Authority.

(ii) In relation to the vacant post of Independent Member of the Standards Committee that the Authority advertises the post for a period of five years and establishes an Interview Panel of five in accordance with the Regulations to include one Lay Member to be chosen by the Monitoring

Officer.

***Resolved*:**

(i) To appoint Naomi Luhde-Thompson and Councillor Nia Owen as new members of the Standards Committee

(ii) To accept the Recommendation.

11. **Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services on the Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

He advised:

- that the Panel has decided that salaries should be increased in line with inflation;
- that there were no changes to the travel costs;
- that the rates payable to Independent Members of the Authority's Standards Committee had not changed;
- that the report, if it were to be published without amendments changes, would incur minor implications in terms of resources which would mean that the current budgets needed to be increased, but it would not make a big difference to the financial challenge the Authority is facing.

Recommendation: – to discuss the draft Annual Report and decide on the Authority's response.

Resolved to accept the report and its proposals as it was.

12. **Open Day Feedback; Public Comments relating to Plas Tan y Bwlch**

The head of communications presented a report on the feedback collated during the recent drop-in session regarding the possible sale of Plas Tan y Bwlch.

He advised:

- That some of the responses noted that the communication about the disposal of Plas Tan y Bwlch could have been a bit better;
- that 180 members of the public came to the drop-in session and that it was a good opportunity for the public to express their concerns and for the staff to better explain the situation;
- that the community's response to the possibility of selling Plas Tan y Bwlch showed that maintaining public access to the woodlands and Llyn Mair was a strong priority, and access to the house was generally secondary.

***Recommendation* -** to note the report for informational purposes in order to enable the Authority to gain a full understanding of the issues arising from the communication with the public before making any decisions regarding the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation**.**

13. Review decision to only use ***Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa* in the Authority's communications**

The Head of Communications presented a report reviewing two years of the Authority only using the names *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa*.

He noted:

- positive outcomes as well as challenges and areas for improvement;
- people's sentiment towards using the Welsh words was changing with newspapers and the media in England using the Welsh words, and the Park's partners now using the Welsh words only;
- confusion continues between the name of the Park and the mountain;
- negative comments continue on social media;
- some had requested assistance with the pronounciation of the words.

***Recommendation*:** – to use *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa* only in all communications from the Authority that are not considered statutory or legal.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

14. **The Authority's Logo**

Report submitted by the Head of Communications.

He explained that the Authority had decided to use the names "Eryri" and "Yr Wyddfa" in all communications from the Authority. He said that updating the Authority's official logo was an essential step to reflect this change of use and branding, and that continuing to have a logo that included the term "Snowdonia" was inconsistent with the communications.

Draft logos were presented.

Recommendation: – that the Authority

(i) Approves the modification of the Authority's logo to use only 'Eryri'.

(ii) Authorize the implementation of the changes over time when necessary in order to ease the workload on staff and resources

***Resolved*:**

(i) To adopt the logo below:

(ii) To accept the Recommendation

15. **Place Names Projects Annual Report**

In the absence of the Head of Cultural Heritage a report on the Place Names Projects was presented by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive.

He advised:

- that the aim of the project was to record as many of the of the National Park's landscape names as possible, from field names to the names of pools in rivers;
- that the list of standard names for Eryri's lakes has already been adopted by ENPA and the Standardization Panel of the Welsh Language Commissioner and since then, work has been carried out to standardize the names of Eryri's waterfalls and passes;

- that only Welsh landscape names would be upheld, recognizing at the same time that some names in other languages exist in Eryri;
- that five name recording workshops have been held this year and that three more workshops have been arranged for 2024/25. The relevant communities had warmly welcomed the work undertaken.

Recommendation: – that Members accept the report for information, to provide feedback on the progress of the work and any ideas for further projects.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

16. **Update On The 2024/25 Budget**

A report was presented by the Head of Finance summarizing the revised revenue and capital budgets for 2024/25 with changes that reflected the period from the beginning of the financial year up to the 30th of September 2024.

An update on the 2022/23 Audit Plan was also provided, reporting that the Authority was currently working with the Auditors to prepare the plan. It was advised that the Authority normally approved the plan but, as the plan was not ready in time for the current meeting, the recommendation was that the Auditors present it to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

Recommendation: – to accept the report and note the current financial situation for 2024/25, and that the Auditors present a report on the 2023/23 Audit Plan at the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

17. **Basic Revenue Budget 2025/26**

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report presenting details of the 2025/26 draft budget and showing the estimated cost of continuing the current services, and funding approved costs for the future.

Recommended: – note the basic budget planned for 2025/26 as outlined.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

18. **Reports of the Members' Working Group**

The reports of the Members' Working Group held on the 22nd of May 2024 and on the 26th of June 2024 were presented.

Resolved to note the reports.

19. **Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on the 11th of September 2024 were presented for information.

Resolved to note the minutes.

20. **Meetings of Other Organizations**

The Chairman asked if any Member had attended an external meeting as a representative of the Authority. Tim Jones reported that he had attended the British National Parks Partnership meeting. He also reported that he had been unable to attend the Europarc Conference, which was being held virtually, because he had not received the links and access details in time.

21. **Exempt Report: Plas Tan y Bwlch - Update and Options**

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a recommendation proposing that the Authority approve the exclusion of the report, "Discussion on the Future of Plas Tan y Bwlch" under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

He explained that the relevant exemptions in the report were that it contained information which are:

- Relevant to a specific individual
- Likely to reveal the identity of the individual
- Discuss a particular person's financial or business affairs

He noted that being open and transparent were factors in favor of disclosure.

Recommendation: – that the Authority in exempt the "Plas Tan y Bwlch - Update and Options" report.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

22. **Exempt Report: Proposed Structure Of The Management Team**

The Interim Chief Executive left the room whilst this item was being discussed.

The Prospective Chief Executive submitted a recommendation to ask the Authority to approve the exclusion of the report, "Proposed Structure of the Management Team" under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

He explained that the relevant exceptions to the report were that it contained information which was:

- Relevant to a specific individual
- Likely to reveal the identity of the individual
- Disussing a particular person's financial or business affairs

He noted that there were no factors in favor of disclosure.

Recommendation: – that the Authority exempt the report, “Proposed Management Team Structure.”

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

PART 2

23. **Plas Tan y Bwlch - Update and Options**

The Interim Chief Executive presented a report on Update and Options on the Future of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Property.

He reported that the latest situation was that:

- one offer of £1.2M for the all of the property has been received
- 1 party had confirmed interest and was reviewing the condition survey; they had indicated that their internal process for obtaining approval from Trustees after a due diligence process would take a few months to complete in early 2025 when they would have capacity.
- everyone else who had shown interest so far had now withdrawn.

He suggested that all of the above confirmed that the Plas had been priced correctly.

He further reported:

- that a community company had submitted a report which broadly stated their position so far. The report included a possible two-year plan, and the Authority postponing its decision until April 25 would enable the company to progress – the result of their grant application should be known by then. Further postponing the decision for more time now would pose an unacceptable risk to the Authority;
- there were four options in terms of public access to the Plas land post-sale; the option to separate the woodland and the paths from Plas and the gardens meaning that the situation with the paths would remain as it stood was the easiest and best option;
- the Authority had contacted archival institutions and local and national museums to discuss options for managing collections at Plas Tan y Bwlch. All options were being considered, including keeping part of the collection within the Authority, transferring parts of it to other accredited organizations and displaying the collection in the local vicinity;
- that the Authority held the freehold for Plas Tan y Bwlch. This title was registered with HM Land Registry and there were no issues appearing on this title which would appear to affect the Authority in disposing of all or part of it;
- that the cost of mothballing the Plas would be significantly lower than the cost as it was at the time. However, mothballing the property would likely be unpopular locally. It would also inevitably lead to a higher risk of vandalism and theft, and that this risk could only be partially mitigated by providing more security. The financial cost to the Authority could be significant if this type of thing were to happen. It would also lead to significant damage to the Authority's reputation. He therefore preferred to keep the Plas open as it was for the time being.

Following a full discussion the following recommendation was made.

Recommendation – that the Authority:

(i) formally annul the decision made by the Authority regarding Plas Tan y Bwlch dated 11 September 2024.

(ii) postpone a decision on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch until the Authority's meeting on 30 April 2025.

(iii) continue to communicate and negotiate with those parties who have shown interest so far with the intention of gaining a better understanding of their interest and ability to buy.

(iv) use this time to carry out an assessment of the ability of any potential buyer to fund repairs and improvements that are necessary to Plas Tan y Bwlch and whatever plans they have for the property. This assessment includes an assessment of any Community Company's ability to proceed with their plans and the likely timetable in question.

(v) meanwhile, formally remove Plas Tan y Bwlch from the market.

(vi) consider and decide the preferred option in order to ensure public access to the woodlands and Llyn Mair via a formal decision by the Authority as soon as possible.

(vii) if negotiations referred to in (iii) do not succeed and/or if all potential buyers

fail the assessment referred to in (iv), all options including placing Plas Tan y Bwlch back on the market open will be considered.

(viii) hold a further drop-in session on a date to be arranged but before the Authority's meeting on 30 April 2025 in order to communicate the Authority's decision and listen to any unresolved concerns that local communities and beyond have.

Resolved: *to accept the Recommendation*.

24. **Proposed Structure Of The Management Team**

The Interim Chief Executive left the room for this item.

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a report on the Proposed Structure of the Management Team to request the Authority's approval to increase the numbers on the Management Team from 3 to 4.

He reported:

- that the Management Team had included 4 members in the past and the number was cut to 3 due to budget cuts;
- that there is a lot of pressure on such a small team;
- that he was aware that providing an additional member to the Management Team would mean significant implications in terms of resources, which clearly made this a difficult decision, but he felt obliged to propose this despite the difficulties;
- that this was the right time to consider the new structure and responsibilities for the Management Team.

Recommendation:

(i) that the Authority supports the increase in the number of Management Team Members from 3 to 4, which would be structured as follows: Chief Executive, Director of Corporate and Legal Services and 2 other Directors. The administrative support would continue as it was.

(ii) The Corporate Director would continue as Deputy Chief Executive for 6 months and that role would be reviewed by the CEO and the Chairman of the Authority after the 6 months period.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

The meeting ended at 13:00

ERYRI NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2025
National Park Office

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Edgar Wyn Owen (Chair), Elwyn Edwards, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, John Pughe Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers
Jonathan Cawley, Iwan Jones, Rhys Owen, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Eifion Jones.

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive advised that the meeting would be web-broadcast and would also be made available online later.

1. **Apologies for absence and Chairman's Announcements**

Councillors Elfed Powell Roberts, Meryl Roberts.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Delyth Lloyd Griffiths to her first meeting of the Park Authority as a Member. He noted that Delyth Lloyd Griffiths was the successor of Councillor June Jones who had resigned from being a Member of the Park Authority as a result of her promotion to the Gwynedd Council Cabinet. He suggested that the Authority should send Councillor June Jones an official letter of thanks, and the Members approved the recommendation.

Reported:

- that, following June Jones' resignation, the vice-chair position of the Planning and Access Committe was now vacant, and that it would be necessary to elect another vice-chair in the next Committee meeting.
- that the Welsh Government had started the process of appointing two new Members of the Authority.
- that the Authority now had a non-voting seat on Ambition North Wales' transport committee

2. **Corporate Update**

Received: an oral from the Chief Executive.

Reported:

- there was a successful launch of the *Report on the State of the Rainforests of Wales* by the Alliance for Wales' Rainforests (AWR) in the Senedd in Cardiff at the end of November, and that the Park was a core partner in that alliance;
- there was generally a positive response – particularly locally – to the press release following the decision to use the name Eryri only;
- that the secondment of Jason Diamond, who is an Inspector with North Wales Police, to the Park had been extended to this year after a very successful period last year;
- that the Welsh government's draft budget had been received and that it contained a 5% grant increase, that this was to be welcomed but that the Park's financial situation remained serious and a strategy paper would be presented to the Authority soon;
- an internal staff session was held to review the visitor season;
- that the Visitor Accommodation Bill was going through the Senedd at the time and that the consultation period had ended; that the Park had responded to the consultation expressing disappointment that the Park did not have a direct role in the bill and that it would be dependent on the two county councils to receive money;
- a Farming Connect meeting had been held;
- a *Trees and Woodland Strategy* consultation was being held, which included drop-in sessions;
- a successful Staff Meeting had been held at Plas Tan y Bwlch and that it was the intention to hold one every 6 months;
- adverts for the posts of Director of Land Management and Director of Planning & Partnerships would be published very soon;
- Article 4 Direction had been approved by the Planning Committee and would be in effect from June; a consultation on the Supplementary Planning Guidance on implementing the direction would be held in the forthcoming weeks, the intention being that the Guidance would be ready before implementing the direction;
- a statement had been released to the Press stating that discussions regarding Plas Tan y Bwlch were continuing; a paper would be presented to the Authority at the April meeting;
- work had been commissioned on the Betws-y-Coed centre as part of the Income Strategy, and, as part of that work, local consultation would take place soon, and a paper on the issue would be presented to the Authority in due course;
- the Chief Executive had been to Llanberis for a celebration of a year of *Caru Eryri*, a project where volunteers collect waste;
- Eryri National Park would be hosting this year's Wales Members' Seminar on October 1 and 2, and that preparations had begun.

3. **Public Question Time**

No questions were received from the public.

4. **Declaration of Interest**
Councillors Annwen Hughes and John Pughe Roberts declared a non-prejudicial personal interest in item 9, *Ffermio Bro*.

5. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Authority's meetings held on 13 November 2024 were received, and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

6. **Matters for information arising from the minutes**
No issue was raised from the minutes.

7. **Action Log**
The Interim Deputy Chief Executive presented the Action Log.

*Recommended***:** – the Action Log should remain as presented

Resolved: **—** to accept the Recommendation**.**

8. **Election of Member to the Local Joint Working Group**

Presented: – An oral update by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive.

Reported:

- there was a vacancy on the Local Joint Working Group following the departure of Mrs Sarah Hattle;
- it would be beneficial if the Member elected were a Welsh Government-appointed Member, as the current three members of the Joint Working Group were County Council appointees;

Proposed: – that Naomi Luhde-Thompson be elected as a member of the Local Joint Working Group.

Resolved: — to **elect** Naomi Luhde-Thompson as a member of the Local Joint Working Group**.**

9. **Ffermio Bro: Farming in Designated Landscapes program**

Presented: – A report by the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture.

Reported:

- that the programme had been developed due to the need for capital grant packages for land managers in landscapes, and to carry out collaborative projects;
- that it was a three-year programme, and that it was a transition program from the current provision to the proposed collaborative layer of the Sustainable Farming Scheme which was scheduled to start in 2029;
- that three years was a year short of 2029, and that the Government was looking to see if the programme could be extended to four years;
- that there were concerns about a lack of funding (especially revenue money), and a lack of flexibility (especially in the plan options and payment rates);
- that officers had decided to recruit 2 full-time equivalent officers for Eryri in

year one – at no net additional cost to the Authority;

- that Officers of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AoHNE) of Llŷn and Anglesey had decided to pool their revenue funding, and add to the necessary funds from the resources of their Authorities, in order to be able to recruit a third officer who would be recruited with Eryri, with the caveat that one would perform in the AoHNE and they can be relocated in year two;
- that there was a risk to the Authority's reputation due to the tight schedule, having to recruit new staff, and the possible reluctance of farmers to join the programme due to negative experiences with similar programs in the past.

Recommended: – that Members discuss content and approve officers continue development of the programme for use in Eryri.

Resolved: — to **accept** the recommendation**.**

10. **The Authority's Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities 2025/25**

Submitted: a report by the Chief Finance Officer

Reported:

- that the report gave details of the Authority's budget for 2025/26;
  - it was based on the *draft* National Park Grant settlement for 2025/26, so the final settlement could be different;
  - the draft settlement stated that there would be an increase of 5% to the Authority's core funding;
  - that this was welcome news, but that the Authority continued to face a very challenging financial situation;
- details of the levy distributed between the two constituent authorities, namely Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council based on the indicative grant figure;
  - that the total figure in point 6.3 was incorrect in the Welsh agenda, but correct in the English agenda;

*Recommended**:*** –

(iii) Approve Eryri National Park Authority's revenue and capital budget for 2025/26, as presented in the report.

(iv) Approve the levies on the billing authorities, as stated in the report.

Resolved: – to **accept** the Recommendation

11. **Capital Strategy 2025/26**

Submitted: a report Chief Finance Officer.

Reported:

- how (i) capital expenditure, (ii) capital funding and (iii) treasury management activity contributed to the provision of National Park services;
- how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability;

In response to a question, he confirmed that borrowing money would be a fundamental change to the budget, and it would be necessary to return to the Authority before making a loan.

*Recommended**:*** –

(i) Note that there is no intention to borrow monies for capital purposes, but the limitations below are recommended on a prudent level as a precautionary measure in case of an emergency or need for expenditure at short notice.

(ii) To approve no change in:

1. the Authorised Borrowing Limit of £500,000 for 2025/26, and an Operational Boundary of £100,000, and
2. no limit on the proportion of interest payable at a variable rate.

(iii) To adopt the Capital Borrowing Strategy for 2025/26 as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report, and to note the content relating to the Prudential Code.

(iv) To adopt the Investment Strategy for 2025/26 as outlined in paragraphs 3.5-3.14 of the report, and note the institutions listed in paragraph 3.7

Resolved: – to **accept** the Recommendation

12. **Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on the 27 November 2024 were presented for information.

Resolved to note the minutes.

13. **Reports of the Members' Working Group**

The reports of the Members' Working Group held on 4 December 2024 were presented.

Resolved to note the reports.

14. **Meetings of Other Organizations**

No Member had attended an external meeting as an Authority representative.

The meeting ended at 11:10

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chair)

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Louise Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Sarah Hattle, Tim Jones, Delyth Lloyd, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Iona Roberts, Aled Lloyd, Dafydd Thomas, Alys Tatum, Richard Thomas, Jane Jones, Anwen Gaffey.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies**
Councillors Einir Wyn Williams, Ifor Glyn 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 6th March 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. **Inspection Panel Report**
Submitted – Report of the Southern Area Inspection Panel held on 13th March 2024.

NP5/50/165C	Retrospective application for part single/part two storey side extensions including balcony/terraced areas, two storey rear extension, front porch, alterations to roof of existing dwelling including installation of 3 rooflights, and associated work, Glygyrog Ddu, Aberdyfi. LL35 0RL

Reported – Case Officer presented the report and background, outlined the relevant policies and provided a summary of the assessment. Members noted the additional ecological information provided by the applicant had not addressed the issues raised and consequently refusal reason 3 would remain.

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

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

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

6. **Update Reports**

Submitted – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and Section 106 Agreements.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

7. **Delegated Decisions**

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

Members asked for further details on:-

NP2/16/79Y – Aberdunant Hall Caravan Park, Prenteg

The case officer confirmed that the solar park was entirely within a wooded area with no ecological, landscape or visual implications.

NP4/29/463B – Playing Field near Ty'n y Ddol, Penmachno

The case officer advised that this particular application had been presented with no pre-application discussions with officers and was located in the centre of Penmachno. He advised that whilst this application had been refused, another application which covers the village itself and provides Emergency Services Network (ESN) cover and is a part of the Shared Rural Network (SRN), has been approved.

Arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management noted a concern that whilst a number of retail networks had been approved with the condition that the work should commence before the expiration of five years from the date of the decision, many were yet to be developed.

Members were also provided with an oral update on Nannau Hall and advised that the annual enforcement progress report would be presented to Members in June 2024.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

The meeting ended at 11.10

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 17th APRIL 2024

Item No.

4. Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management

(1) NP5/67/AD5J – Advert consent to display information panel for Taith Mari Jones, Eryri National Park Car Park, Dol Idris, Talyllyn.
Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning assessment.
RESOLVED to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

(2) NP5/71/53D – Conversion of outbuilding to form annexe to existing dwelling, Ty'n y Llechwedd, Parc. LL23 7YN
Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning assessment. Members were assured that condition 7 would restrict the use as ancillary to the residential use of Ty'n Llechwedd. In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that if the Article 4 Directive is adopted by the Authority, the applicant would need planning permission to change its use.
Public Speaking
Mr. Tony Girvan, the applicant, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- the application for consideration had been made with utmost care and respect for the environment and the requirements within planning guidance and policies.
- the applicant had collaborated with the Planning Department, through his agents, who provided local knowledge and input, and at every stage ensured adherence and enhancement of the environment and biodiversity at his home. The goal was to construct the Annexe using sustainable and sympathetic materials that fit in with the site and will not only blend with the site's environment and history, but also contribute positively to its ecological balance.
- as indicated in the planning information pack, the Annexe will accommodate the applicant's elderly mother, recently diagnosed with dementia. She currently lives alone as the applicant's father has passed away; she is a fiercely independent individual who has worked all her life to provide a loving and secure home for her family. This was now an opportunity for the applicant to help her in her late years and provide her with a safe environment, on one level, with close access to the applicant's home.
- the conversion is modest with two rooms to suit her needs. Only a wet room at the rear will be added, which is a single floor level accommodation to provide access.
- having lived in Bala for the past three years, the applicant and his family were actively striving to become more integrated into the community. They were taking small but significant steps, such as learning the Welsh Language, to demonstrate their commitment to and respect for the local culture and community.
- the applicant has two siblings, an older brother and a younger sister, who unfortunately are unable to assist their mother as they also have health issues, making this Committee decision key to the family and the future care for their mother going forward.
- the applicant thanked Members for their time.

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

(3) NP5/71/AD29B – Advert Consent to display information panel for Taith Mari Jones, Eryri National Park Car Park, Maes y Pandy, Llanuwchllyn.
Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning assessment. A Member noted a number of Welsh language errors on the panel (page 56 of the report) and asked the case officer to ensure they are corrected.
RESOLVED to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

(4) NP5/77/347 – Construction of affordable dwelling, formation of curtilage, extend access track, and alterations to existing vehicular access on land near Ty Mawr, Talsarnau. LL47 6UF
Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning considerations.
RESOLVED subject to a Section 106 affordable local occupancy agreement, to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

6. **Update Reports**

(1) Section 106 Agreements – **For Information**
Members asked for further details on:-
NP5/61/T558D – Former Tabernacl Chapel, Harlech.
Case Officer confirmed the planning permission was about to be issued as the Section 106 agreement had been completed.
NP5/61/654 – Land adjoining Pen yr Hwylfa, Harlech.
Case Officer confirmed the planning permission was about to be issued.
RESOLVED to note the report.

(2) Outstanding Applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed – **For Information**
Members asked for further details on:-
NP5/69/56M – Sunbeach Holiday Park, Llwyngwril
The Planning Manager agreed to arrange for the case officer to present an update at the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.
NP3/12/126C – Bron Fedw Uchaf, Rhyd Ddu
In response to a question, the case officer confirmed that the decision notice was nearing completion and will be issued once Natural Resources Wales agree with the assessment.
NP4/29/514 – Llys Meddyg, Penmachno.
Case officer confirmed that planning permission will be issued shortly with the necessary mitigation measures to make the access safer.
RESOLVED to note the report.

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY 2024

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Louise Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Sarah Hattle, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Iona Roberts, Dafydd Thomas, Richard Thomas, David Jones, Gavin Roberts, Anwen Gaffey, Sarah Roberts.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies**
Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts; 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 17th April 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,
Item 6 (2) - Update Reports
NP5/69/56M – Sunbeach Holiday Park, Llwyngwril
The Head of Development Management and Compliance confirmed that the application was being considered at today's meeting.

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

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 Section 106 Agreements.

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, for information.

7. **Planning Appeals**

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

(1) Appeal by Karl Jackson against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the "Erection of timber structure to be used as classroom" at Coed Dwynant, Barmouth. (Appeal dismissed)

(2 & 3) Appeals by Ms R. Abrams against the Authority's decision to:-
Appeal A - refuse to grant listed building consent, and
Appeal B – refuse to grant planning permission for the conversion of three buildings in the curtilage of the main house into four cottages at Caerynwch, Brithdir. LL40 2RF (Appeals dismissed)

The meeting ended at 11.30

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 22nd MAY 2024

Item No.

4. Report by the Director of Planning and Land Management

(1) NP4/11/393B – Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form short term self-catering holiday unit, creation of parking bay, alterations to vehicular access and associated works (Re-submission), Outbuilding at Craig Glanconwy, Betws y Coed.

Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning assessment and reported upon further information received and circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Public Speaking

Sioned Morgan, the agent, addressed the Planning and Access Committee and asked Members to consider the following:-

- the agent thanked Members for the opportunity to speak.
- extensive pre-application discussions have been held with officers and previous applications were refused as officers considered that the building was a ruin without a roof and that a new access road would need to be provided, stating that the visibility splays were insufficient, and that the proposal would lead to damage to issues of an ecological nature and related to trees
- a new application was submitted (which is the application in front of you today) with changes to the plan so that the parking space was next to the lane with access on foot only to the cottage as well as providing a large area of tree planting.
- it was confirmed that the amended plan satisfied the access issues with acceptable visibility splays and no unacceptable impact on ecology.
- this application was deferred at a previous committee to give the applicant an opportunity to respond to comments received on the structural condition of the building which were not shared with the applicant until the report was published for committee. We have now had the opportunity to respond to the comments and the applicant's response has been included in its entirety as part of this committee's report package with further observations in response to the forestry officers concerns.
- officers recommend refusal as the proposal does not conform with policy 9 of the LDP based on the condition of the building and that it does not have a roof. In fact, when converting any external building to a residential unit, the roof would have to be removed and a new roof installed in order to comply with Building Control rules. Structural reports have been submitted since January by a Structural Engineer showing that the walls are sound and that the building was suitable to be converted. There is no evidence to the contrary to suggest that the report is not acceptable and that the building can be converted without affecting the roots of the trees.
- whilst recognising the policy states that buildings need to have a roof in place, there are other planning considerations to consider in this particular case. The building is a historic one which is recorded on historical maps. The Gwynedd Archeological Planning Service considers it a building worth recording because of its history which is a worthy reason to keep the building.
- if permission is not granted to re-use the building, the truth is it will deteriorate until it becomes a ruin.
- it was not clear where the second reason for refusal stems from - this concern has not been raised on any of the previous applications and the scheme was now much simpler and sensitive and had less impact on the special qualities of the National Park.

- the Agent hoped that Members could go against officer recommendation on the grounds it was a historical building which is worth saving and support the application.

Arising thereon, Members considered the report in detail and were satisfied that the structure of the building could be converted without significant rebuilding. Members were also satisfied that the impact on the landscape and special qualities of the National Park was acceptable, and that the proposal would support an existing local tourism business.
RESOLVED to authorise the Director of Planning and Land Management to **grant** permission subject to appropriate conditions.

(2) NP5/54/462 – Repair work to a track including essential work to a track retaining wall by replacing undermined gabion baskets with a traditional dry stone retaining wall, Llyn Cynwch, Brithdir.
Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning assessment.
RESOLVED to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

(3) NP5/69/56M – Extension of the holiday caravan site to provide (a) a new main site entrance with internal access road and amenity area; re-distribution of already consented holiday caravans and redevelopment within the existing holiday caravan site to provide (b) 24 static holiday caravans/lodges with landscaping; (c) 12 static holiday caravans/lodges in lieu of a residential dwellinghouse; and (d) 3 static holiday caravans in lieu of the old site shop. Up to 455 holiday caravans can be stationed on the holiday caravan site, Sunbeach Holiday Park, Llwyngwril. LL37 2QQ
Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning assessment.
RESOLVED to **refuse** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

6. **Update Reports**

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

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

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Elfed Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd.

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Iona Roberts, Jane Jones, Gavin Roberts, Anwen Gaffey, Sarah Roberts.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Chair**
Councillor Elwyn Edwards was elected Chair of the Planning and Access Committee.
The Chair thanked Members for their support.

2. **Vice-Chair**
Councillor June Jones was elected Vice-Chair of the Planning and Access Committee.
The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

3. **Apologies**
Councillor Einir Wyn Williams; Sarah Hattle.

4. **Declaration of Interest**
No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.

5. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2024 were accepted and the Chair 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. Ifor Glyn Lloyd
3) Cllr. Jo Nuttall

Southern Area Inspection Panel
(9 Members)
1) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards
2) Cllr. Annwen Hughes
3) Cllr. Louise Hughes

4) Cllr. Edgar Wyn Owen	4) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts
5) Cllr. Dilwyn Owain Roberts	5) Cllr. John Pughe Roberts
6) Cllr. Einir Wyn Williams	6) Cllr. Meryl Roberts
7) Tim Jones	7) Brian Angell
8) Naomi Luhde-Thompson	8) Sarah Hattle
9) Vacancy	9) Delyth Lloyd

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

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

8. **Update Reports**
Submitted – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on planning applications and Section 106 Agreements.

Please see the Schedule of Planning Decisions attached.

9. **Delegated Decisions**
Submitted and Received – List of applications determined in accordance with delegated authority.
RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

10. **Update on Compliance**
Submitted – An update report by the Principal Planning Officer (Compliance).

Reported – The Principal Planning Officer (Compliance) presented the report and background and reported on the current position regarding resources and case figures.

- Members were advised that the current workload was considerably higher than in previous years and since writing the report, two additional enforcement notices had been served.
- the Principal Planning Officer confirmed that the Public Inquiry (Appeal at Tyn y Pant, Dyffryn Ardudwy) will commence on the 10th September 2024.
- the Principal Planning Officer informed Members that once costings for Nannau Hall were available, an update report would be presented.
- the Welsh Government Performance Indicators were noted and despite what the indicators may suggest, Members were reassured that the team were working very hard to achieve positive outcomes.

RESOLVED to note the report and await a further update in December 2024.

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

(2) Appeal by Dr Lisa Handcock against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the development of land without complying with conditions subject to which a previous planning permission was granted, at Coed Hen Doeth, Pentre Castell, Llanberis. (Appeal dismissed)

(2) Appeal by Mr. & Mrs. Gareth Pugh against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the change of use for an extension to Bwch-yn-Uchaf Holiday Park to regularise and upgrade 15 existing touring and tenting pitches, into a lower density informal layout with landscaping comprising of 5 touring caravans/motorhomes and 10 tents, at Bwch-yn-Uchaf Campsite, Ty'n Ddôl, Llanuwchllyn. (Appeal dismissed)

The meeting ended at 10.30

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 26th JUNE 2024

Item No.

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

(1) NP5/50/532H – Installation of bi-fold doors in lieu of sliding window and extending A3 use to outdoor area for consumption of food and drink purchased from the property, Unit 2, Wharf Gardens, Sea View Terrace, Aberdyfi. LL35 0EE
Reported – Case Officer presented the report, background and planning assessment and Members were advised that the Community Council had retracted their comments in respect of the application.
RESOLVED to **grant** permission in accordance with the recommendation.

8. **Update Reports**

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

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

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards (Chair), Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Elfed Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams.

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd.

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Iona Roberts, Dafydd Roberts, Eifion Jones.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies for absence and Chairman's Statements**
Apologies were received from Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd and Louise Hughes.
The Chairman welcomed Eifion Jones, the Park's new Democratic Services Officer, to the meeting.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
Councillor Elwyn Edwards declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 4 on the Agenda (NP5/53/576A – Extension of Llyn Tegid narrow gauge railway, Land at Bala, under paragraphs 10 (2) (c) (i) and 12 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members, and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

3 **Minutes**
The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 26th June 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. **Reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management**
Councillor June Jones took the Chair for this item as Councillor Elwyn Edwards had declared an interest.
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.
Several members noted that there were several applications for which there had been no developments for a number of years. The Director confirmed that the applications would be reviewed, and an update given in the next Committee meeting.

6. **Delegated Decisions**
Submitted – List of applications determined in accordance with delegated authority.
A Member noted that the details of application NP5/58/263B recorded in the report differed from the details found on the website. The Planning Officer confirmed that the

report was correct and that the details published on the website would be investigated and reported back.

7. **Appeal Decisions**

Submitted – An oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on the Inspector's decision to partly refuse and partly allow the following appeal:
NP4/29/ENF10G – appeal against maintenance of land notice, land at Machno Inn, Penmachno, by Mr Mohamed Shirajudin & Mrs Jackie Shirajudin. The Director reported that the appellants had requested more time to comply with the conditions owing to personal circumstances, and he confirmed that a 3-month extension had been granted.

The meeting ended at 10.55

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 4th SEPTEMBER 2024

Item No.

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

(1) NP5/53/576A – Extension of Llyn Tegid narrow gauge railway comprising of 1200m of railway track, installation of level crossing, erection of new station building, ancillary engine and carriage building, signal box and associated development (Re-submission), Land at Bala.

Reported – The Case Officer presented the report, the background and the planning assessment. Members were informed that the previous application (NP5/53/576) had been refused on 7 grounds but it was considered that the agent had been able to overcome these reasons. However, it was clear that unresolved issues remained, and further details would be required before commencing work or occupying the site, with some concern remaining regarding these issues. It was considered that most of them could be resolved through appropriately worded planning conditions. In addition, there remains an issue that has not been resolved and needs further assessment, namely the impact of the development on the local highway network.

Reported – Julian Birley, Chairman of Llyn Tegid Railway, gave a presentation to the meeting stating that

– all the reasons for rejecting the previous application had now been resolved,
– that the railway had been profitable over a period of 50 years, that it served the town well, and that the extension would use a car park which had so far been underused.
– He said that the Bala area had been forgotten and was desperate for investment in the local economy. He denied that hordes of additional visitors would come since the tourists were already there, but that there were insufficient facilities for them and many contributed little or nothing to the economy of the town and surrounding area. The extension would contribute towards creating a prosperous and sustainable future for the town.

RECOMMENDATION – To delegate the Authority to the Director of Planning & Land Management to approve the application, once the Authority had received the required additional information, and any issues raised had been adequately addressed.

RESOLVED to grant permission to delegate the authority to the Director of Planning & Land Management in accordance with the recommendation.

PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
ERYRI NATIONAL PARK
Wednesday 16th October 2024

Councillor Elwyn Edwards (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Elfed Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Jo Nuttall, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd.

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Elliw Owen, Sion Roberts, Jane Jones, Dafydd Thomas, Eva Jones, Eifion Jones.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies**
Mr Tim Jones, Iona Roberts.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
Councillor Elfed Roberts declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in Items

- 5.3 (NP5/73/LB208B – Listed Building Consent to retain external and internal works including replacement external doors and new thin double-glazed windows, replacement rear rooflights and internal works including re-plastering walls and ceilings, replacement of solid ground floor area and replacement of kitchen units), *and*
- 5.4 (NP5/73/LB208C – Retrospective application for the retention of garden shed and woodstore, re-building of existing retaining wall and additional stonewalls, side and rear wooden decking areas and paving area and replacement of rear slope rooflights)

under paragraphs 10 (2) (c) (i) and 12 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members, and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

3 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 4th of September 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Reported – updates on two questions raised in the meeting of 4th of September were reported by the Principal Planning Officer (Compliance):

- *Wern y Pistyll, Bontddu* (NP5/65/L302D)
  The application had been refused and had been removed from the list of cases under Section 106 Agreements. A meeting to discuss the situation had been arranged with the applicant.
- *Arosfa, Ffordd Capel, Dyffryn Ardudwy* (NP5/58/263B)
  Some confusion had arisen because the website appeared to suggest a different decision from the one given in the list of Delegated Decisions. The officer confirmed the website was correct and that a later application had been received, which was a variation of the original application, and that application had been approved.

4. **Eryri Local Development Plan – Annual Monitoring Report for 2023-2024**

Submitted: – a report on the Eryri Local Development Plan for 2023-24 by the Head of Planning Policy, for discussion and approval by the Members prior to its submission to the Welsh Government.

The Senior Planning Officer (Policy) noted the main findings of the report, and the next steps were reported by the Head of Planning Policy.

The Officers were thanked by the Members, who discussed the report and made the following observations:

- Concern was expressed that the amount of affordable housing being developed was lower than the target. The problem was lack of land. More than a “policy review” was needed.
  In response, the officer agreed that it was a concern and that rural places needed extra money as they were not financially attractive places for housing associations. The review of the Plan next year would be a good opportunity to look at this issue.
- The importance of having a community-led housing development process, and the need to match development areas with local need was highlighted. It was necessary to consider how the two things interacted and create policies that promoted community-led housing construction based on that.
- The availability of a Social Housing Grant from the Welsh Government was highlighted, and the use of these grants by the Authority and housing associations was queried.
  In response, the officer explained that it was not the Authority's place to submit an application for such grants but that the Authority sat on the group (which included the housing authorities and the housing associations) which distributed the grant money; the concern was that the grants were not being given to more rural areas.

Recommended: approve the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report 2023-24

Resolved: to accept the recommendation

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 attached Schedule of Planning Decisions.

6. **Update Reports**

6.1 ***Submitted:*** – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on Section 106 Agreements.

6.2 ***Submitted:*** – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on outstanding applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed.

Issues raised:

- NP5/50/647B – *Footpath between Tywyn ac Aberdyfi*
  The Principal Planning Officer (Compliance) reported that they would liaise with the Case Officer for this application and report back in the next meeting.
- NP3/12/126C – *Conversion and change of use of rural outbuildings to 3 holiday letting units, Rhyd Ddu*
  The Principal Planning Officer (Compliance) reported that the application had been held up due to the Case Officer's ill-health.

7. **Delegated Decisions**

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

The meeting ended at 10.50

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING DECISIONS – 16th October 2024

Item No.

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

(5.1) NP5/53/598C – Outline Application with all details reserved for construction of a single dwelling (Resubmission following refusal of planning application NP5/53/598B), Land near Ffynnon Beuno, Bala.

Reported: – The Case Officer submitted the report, outlining the background and the planning assessment:

- the previous application (NP5/53/598B) was refused as the development was not considered to be in-keeping with the surrounding area and on the basis of insufficient information submitted to determine whether the impact would have an acceptable impact on ecological important features;
- the revised scheme of a modest bungalow at the site was in line with Development Policy 1 – General Development Principles of the ELDP in that the development was sympathetic and in-keeping with the surrounding area.
- additional information with respect to ecological matters had been provided by the agent which demonstrated that the development was unlikely to have an adverse impact on biodiversity and protected species at the site, whilst also proposing mitigation measures and biodiversity enhancement measures.

Recommended: – To GRANT permission subject to the following conditions:

- The development begin either before the expiration of five years from the date of this permission or before the expiration of two years from the date of approval of the last of the reserved matters to be approved, whichever is the later;
- Any application for approval of the reserved matters be made to the local planning authority not later than three years from the date of this permission.

Resolved: – to grant permission in accordance with the recommendation.

(5.2) NP5/65/256A – Application to part of former Bontddu Hall Hotel and erect 8 open market dwellings and 5 affordable dwellings which will be accommodated within the existing holiday chalets (3 units), 1 within the lower ground floor and 1 within the former manager's dwelling.

Reported: – that the applicant has asked that the decision be deferred so that further discussions with the Case Officer may be held.

Recommended: – that the Members defer the decision until the next meeting to enable the Case Officer to hold further discussions with the applicant and report back to the Committee.

Resolved: – to accept the recommendation.

(5.3 a 5.4) NP5/73/LB208B – Listed Building Consent to retain external and internal works including replacement external doors and new thin double-glazed windows, replacement rear rooflights and internal works including re-plastering walls and ceilings, replacement of solid ground floor area and replacement of kitchen units.

NP5/73/LB208C – Retrospective application for the retention of garden shed and woodstore, re-building of existing retaining wall and additional stonewalls, side and rear wooden decking areas and paving area and replacement of rear slope rooflights.

Councillor Elfed Roberts left the room for Items 5.3 a 5.4

Eva Jones, Built Conservation Planning Officer (Graduate Trainee) , was introduced and welcomed on the presentation of her first applications as Case Officer.

The Director of Planning and Land Management highlighted the similarities between applications 5.3 a 5.4 and proposed it would be convenient to treat the two applications as one.

Proposed: – to treat the planning application and the listed building application as a single item.

Resolved: – to accept the proposal.

Noted: – that the applicant's name had been wrongly recorded in the agenda under application number NP5/73/LB208B, and that the correct name of the applicant was Aron Roberts.

Reported: – The Case Officer submitted the report, outlining the background and the planning assessment:

- the case had been reported to the Committee as the applicant was a relative of a Member of the Authority
- that changes made to the property had not been harmful
- the reasons for undertaking the changes were fair and reasonable (protection from the elements)
- the applicant had disposed of the canopy
- the decking colour did not have an adverse impact on the property

Recommended: – to GRANT consent subject to conditions:

- Accordance with approved plans
- Natural weathering of timber decking and fences
- Biodiversity enhancement and green infrastructure
- Screen Planting for Decking Area.

Resolved: – to accept the recommendation

PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
ERYRI NATIONAL PARK
Wednesday 4 December 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards (Chair), Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Delyth Lloyd, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

Officers
Jonathan Cawley, G. Iwan Jones, Jane Jones, Iona Roberts, Rhydian Roberts, Eifion Jones.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies**
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Mr Tim Jones.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
No declaration of interest was made in respect of any item.

3 **Minutes**
The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 16 October 2024 were adopted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Reported – updates on three items raised in the meeting of 16th of October were reported by the Head of Development Management and Compliance:

- Item 5.2 (details on the Schedule of Planning Decisions)
  - *NP5/65/256A – former Bontddu Hall Hotel*
    The application had been withdrawn.
- Item 6.2
  - *NP5/50/647B – Footpath between Tywyn ac Aberdyfi*
    The application had been withdrawn.
  - *NP3/12/126C – Conversion and change of use of rural outbuildings to 3*

holiday letting units, Rhyd Ddu
A Habitats Regulations Assessment was currently being undertaken.

4. **Tree Preservation Order 83 – Coed Penmaen, Talsarnau**

Submitted: – a report by the Tree and Woodland Officer.

Reported that:

- local residents of Talsarnau were concerned that a local woodland leasehold had been purchased by Woodlands.co.uk with a view to dividing the woodland into multiple small ownership.
- the Authority had made the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to safeguard a prominent mix woodland (part of which is an Ancient Woodland Site) overlooking the Dwyryd Estuary and Tremadog Bay.
- one letter objecting to the TPO had been received within the specified objection period which meant that confirmation of the TPO was passed to members of the Planning Committee for consideration.

Recommended: – to approve Tree Preservation Order 83

Resolved to accept the recommendation

5. **Update on Compliance Caseload and Performance**

Submitted: – an update by the Principal Planning Officer (Compliance) on the current situation with the compliance function and in respect to longstanding, notable compliance cases.

Reported that:

- the decision of the Public Inquiry into the Appeal at Tyn y Pant, Dyffryn Ardudwy, was made on the 27 November. Subject to corrections and variations to the Enforcement Notice, the Inspector dismissed the appeal and the enforcement notice was upheld. The time for compliance for the notice was two months. An application for a Partial Award of Costs was also made, and the Inspector allowed those costs.
- Officers would be introducing a new method of reporting breaches of planning control, and this would require a revised Compliance Policy to be approved by the Authority.
- there was no further update regarding Nannau, Llanfachreth.

Recommended: –

(i) To note the contents of the report in relation to capacity and performance, and provide any observations and comments on this

(ii) To adopt the revised Compliance Policy

Resolved to accept the recommendation

6. **Update Reports**

6.1 *Submitted:* Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on Section 106 Agreements.

6.2 *Submitted:* – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on outstanding applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed.

Issues raised:

- NP5/73/439 – *Land near Llech-y-Cwm, Gellilydan. LL41 4EU*
  The Head of Development Management and Compliance reported that they would liaise with the Case Officer for this application and report back in the next meeting.

7. **Delegated Decisions**

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

Issues raised:

- *Castell Cidwm, Betws Garmon*
  The Principal Planning Officer (Compliance) reported that Castell Cidwm was on the Compliance List and the situation would be reviewed. No application had been received but the untidiness of the site was a concern.
- *Snowdon Base Camp, Rhyd-Ddu*
  The Principal Planning Officer (Compliance) reported that an application had been received from Snowdon Base Camp and that it was being handled by Prospero.

8. **Appeal Decisions**

8.1 *Submitted*: the Inspector's decision to **dismiss an appeal** by Mr and Mrs Emlyn and Catrin Roberts against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the renovation and extension of an existing dwelling, Ty'r Orsaf, Drws-y-Nant, Rhydymain LL40 2BE.

8.2 *Submitted:* the Inspector's decision to **dismiss an appeal** by EE Limited against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for the installation of a 35m communication mast with EAS and SRN antennas, ground-based apparatus and ancillary development, land at Coed Bryn Engan, Capel Curig LL24 0EL

The meeting ended at 10.17

PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
ERYRI NATIONAL PARK
Wednesday 22 January 2025

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards (Chair), Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Delyth Lloyd.

Officers
Jonathan Cawley, G. Iwan Jones, Jane Jones, Iona Roberts, Elliw Owen, Geraint Evans, Eifion Jones.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Louise Hughes and Naomi-Lude-Thompson.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Delyth Lloyd Griffiths to her first meeting as a Member of the Authority.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declaration of interest was made in respect of any item.

3 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 4 December 2024 were *adopted* and the Chair signed them as a true record.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Reported – an update on one item raised in the meeting of 4 December by the Head of Development Management and Compliance:

- Item 6.2
  - NP5/73/439 – *Land near Llech-y-Cwm, Gellilydan. LL41 4EU*
    A delegated report had been completed with a recommendation to approve. The decision will be released upon completion of a Section 106 agreement.

4. **Article 4 Direction for The Eryri National Park Area – Consultation Report following Public Engagement and Decision to Confirm**

Submitted: – a report by the Head of Planning Policy.

Reported that:

- secondary legislation published in the Autumn 2022 introduced 3 new Planning Use Classes:
  - Class C3. Dwelling House; Main Homes
  - Class C5. Dwelling House; Secondary homes
  - Class C6. Short term let accommodation
- the current situation was that changes between any of the 3 new Use Classes would be 'permitted development' and planning permission would not be required;
- following the publication of this secondary legislation, permitted development rights might be withdrawn within a particular area by an Article 4 Direction made by a local planning authority on the basis of exceptional circumstance;
- that the Authority's Planning and Access committee had, on March 6th 2024, approved engagement on the proposed Article 4 Direction for a period of 6 weeks to allow the submission of public comments;
- a notice regarding the Article 4 Direction was served on April 12th, 2024. The Authority held a 6-week public engagement period from April 12th, 2024, until May 24th, 2024;
- 357 responses had been received during that period; responses that contained a wide range of views, concerns and support;
- the next step was for Authority Members to consider the responses and decide whether to implement the Article 4 Direction or not.

Noted:

- that the Authority was not hopeful of receiving further financial assistance. Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government had been approached, but no money or commitment had been forthcoming.

Recommended: –

(i) Consider the comments received during the public engagement period, to confirm the Article 4 Direction dated 1 June 2025 without immediate effect for the following uses:

  a. Change of use from C3 (primary residence) to C5 (second home) or C6 (short-term let) and specific mixed uses;

  b. Change of use from C5 (second home) to C6 (short-term let) and specific mixed uses;

  c. Change of use from C6 (short-term let) to C5 (second home) and specific mixed uses.

(ii) Subject to receiving the Planning and Access Committee's confirmation of the Article 4 Direction, notify those affected in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) and authorising the Authority's Director of Corporate Services to endorse the decision on the Article 4 Direction.

(iii) Delegate the right to the Authority's Chief Executive in consultation with the Authority's Solicitor to make editorial modifications to the Notice prior to publication.

Resolved: — to **adopt** the recommendation

5. **Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on the change of use of Main Home, Secondary Home and Short Term Holiday Accommodation**

Submitted: – a report by the Head of Planning Policy.

Reported that:

- should the Article 4 Direction be confirmed, it would be necessary to prepare a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG);
- Officers had prepared a draft SPG to provide further guidance on how to apply Eryri Local Development Plan policies when considering planning applications for the Change of use of Main home (C3), Second home (C5) and Short Term holiday accommodation (C6);
- officers had researched similar approaches and methods already in place across the UK in the preparation of the SPG;
- a threshold of 15% of the total stock of houses within a Town/Community Council had been proposed as the point at which the control of C5 and C6 houses should be implemented;
- once this threshold had been crossed there would be a presumption against granting applications for changes of use from C3 to C5 and C6, and mixed-use changes for C5 or C6;
- a 6-week public consultation would be held before reporting back to the Planning and Access Committee;
- a fuller version of the Guidance would be drafted before the public consultation, once initial feedback had been received from the Members.

Noted:

- the presumption would be against applications for change of use in areas over 15%, but other relevant considerations would continue for applications within areas under 15%;
- it would be possible to change the threshold following the 6 weeks of consultation or after that by revising the SPG, if there was sufficient evidence to justify such change;
- concern that the number of requests to change use could increase in areas that were currently under 15%.

*Recommended***:** – that Members discuss and approve the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance: *Change of Use of Main Home, Second Home and Short Term Holiday Accommodation* for public consultation, subject to any modifications considered appropriate.

Resolved: — to **approve** the recommendation.

6. **Development Management Performance Report – Q1 & Q2 2024/2025**

Submitted: – a report by the Head of Development Management and Compliance.

Reported that:

- an increased number of applications had been received in Q1 and Q2 this year compared to the equivalent periods in 22/23 and 23/24;
- the Development Management Team consisted of 3 senior planning officers, 1

planning officer, 3 planning technicians and 1 part-time administrative assistant, as well as one Building Conservation Planning Officer (Graduate Trainee).

- two members of the team had been absent due to ill-health;
- assistance had been received from external planning consultants, and that Compliance officers had also assisted Development Management officers to progress applications;
- the position of Historic Environment Planning Officer had been vacant since September 2023;
- the Welsh Government target was to determine 80% of all applications within 8 weeks or within the extended period agreed with the applicant; even though there was a way to go before this target would be reached, and despite officers' workload having increased substantially, it could be seen from the Q1 and Q2 figures that improvements had been made;
- a 100% appeal dismissal rate was an excellent result for the Authority and reflected the quality of the Authority's decisions.

Noted:

- there was no clear explanation why the number of applications had increased in the last 2 years.

*Recommended***:** – that Members note the contents of the report in relation to performance and capacity, and provide any observations and comments.

Resolved: — to **approve** the report.

7. **Update Reports**

7.1 *Submitted:* – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on Section 106 Agreements.

7.2 *Submitted:* – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on outstanding applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed.

8. **Delegated Decisions**

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

9. **Appeal Decisions**

9.1(a) *Submitted:* – an oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on the Inspector's decision to **dismiss an appeal** by Mr Robert Jones against an Enforcement Notice issued by Eryri National Park Authority for "without planning permission, the material change of use of the land from a use of agriculture to a mixed use of agriculture and use of the land as a touring caravan and tented camping site and for the storage of boats, motor vehicles and touring caravans", land adjacent to Ty'n y Pant, Ffordd Panteinion, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Gwynedd LL44 2HX.

9.1(b) *Submitted:* – an oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on the Inspector's decision to **allow an appeal** by the Authority for a partial award of costs against Mr. Robert Jones, Land adjacent to Ty'n y Pant, Ffordd Panteinion, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Gwynedd LL44 2HX.

9.2 *Submitted:* – an oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on the Inspector's decision to **dismiss an appeal** by Prachimba Dorjee Khenchen against the Authority's decision to refuse planning

permission for tool and equipment hut storage for woodland maintenance on woodland near Deunant, Capel Curig LL24 0DS.

The meeting ended at 11.15

PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE
ERYRI NATIONAL PARK
Wednesday 5 March 2025

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards (Chair), Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Delyth Lloyd.

Officers
Jonathan Cawley, G. Iwan Jones, Rhydian Roberts, Iona Roberts, Gavin Roberts, Eifion Jones.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the meeting was being web-broadcast and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. **Election of Vice-chair**

Reported – 3 Members had been nominated, namely Councillor Nia Owen, Ms Delyth Lloyd and Ms Naomi Luhde-Thompson, but Delyth Lloyd had withdrawn her name.

Naomi Luhde-Thompson had apologized that she was unable to attend the meeting, therefore, the chair invited Councillor Nia Owen to address the Members.

A secret ballot was held and Councillor Nia Owen was elected Vice-Chair of the Planning and Access Committee.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Naomi-Lude-Thompson.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Nia Owen as the new Vice-chair of the committee.

3. **Declaration of Interest**

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 6.1 – Application NP4/11/95A, Sapper's Bridge – as it was the Council that was making the application, but confirmation was given that the Members had been granted dispensation to partake fully by the Standards Committee.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Planning and Access Committee meeting held on 5 March 2024 were *adopted* and the Chair signed them as a true record.

5. **Tree Preservation Order 84 – Coed Cae-yr-Odyn, Llanfair**

Submitted: – an oral submission by Mr. Geoff Cross, owner of the trees. He stated his objection to the Tree Preservation order (TPO) for the following reasons:

- that the Park had failed to submit sufficient evidence to justify a TPO;
- that the TPO had not been triggered by any widespread concerns, and that only one letter of complaint had been received;
- that the Community Council had not objected but that they had failed to consult local residents regarding the TPO;
- that the trees were ageing and in a dangerous place and urgent work would be hampered and slowed down by a TPO;
- that the land was already protected by preservation orders and a TPO would be excessive;

In response the Tree and Woodland Officer *stated:*

- that the trees were assessed prior to granting the TPO and they were deemed to be safe;
- that granting a TPO on a tree did not prohibit carrying out any work on that tree – urgent work could be permitted within hours

Recommended: – to approve the Tree Preservation Order

Resolved: — to **adopt** the recommendation

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

Submitted – reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on applications received

6.1 Pont y Soldiwr / Sappers Bridge, Betws y Coed NP4/11/95A

Reported:

- that it was an application to create a new foot suspension bridge and improvements to a public right of way to include engineering and related work;
- that the application was acceptable with conditions;

Noted:

- the bridge would restore a key beneficial link between Betws-y-Coed & Llanrwst
- concern about the proposed lighting on the bridge and path in a rural area. In response it was said:
    - the lighting had been reduced as much as possible,
    - the lighting was needed to promote the night economy of Betws y Coed;
- concern about the impact of closing the road on local businesses. In response it was said that the applicant had stated that they would endeavour to reduce the impact of the work as much as possible.

*Recommended***:** – approve the application subject to the stated conditions.

Resolved:— to **adopt** the recommendation.

6.2 Hangin' Pizzeria, Betws y Coed NP4/11/377C

Reported:

- that it was a retrospective application to erect a rear extension and to extend the cafe/restaurant (Use Class A3) and shop (Use Class A1) uses to the extended area;
- the application complied with the requirements of planning policy and was acceptable with conditions;

*Recommended***:** – approve the application subject to the stated conditions.

Resolved:— to **adopt** the recommendation.

7. **Update Reports**

7.1 *Submitted:* – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on Section 106 Agreements.

7.2 *Submitted:* – Update reports by the Director of Planning and Land Management on outstanding applications where more than 13 weeks have elapsed.

8. **Delegated Decisions**

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

9. **Appeal Decisions**

9.1(a) *Submitted:* – an oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on the Inspector's decision to **dismiss an appeal** by Julia Katrinia (Katie) Davis-Maxwell against Eryri National Park Authority for a failure to give notice within the prescribed period of a decision on an application for listed building consent for "various internal works, re-roofing, replacement front door and windows", Colwyn Hotel, Ffordd Caernarfon, Beddgelert, LL55 4UY.

9.1(b) *Submitted:* – an oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on The Inspector's decision to **refuse an appeal** by Julia Katrinia (Katie) DavisMaxwell against Eryri National Park Authority (NPA) for a full award of costs, Colwyn Hotel, Ffordd Caernarfon, Beddgelert, LL55 4UY.

9.2(a) *Submitted:* – an oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on the Inspector's decision to **dismiss an appeal** by Roger Hartley against the Authority's decision to refuse planning permission for change of use of agricultural outbuilding for use as short-term, self-catering holiday accommodation falling within Use Class C6, Cae Haidd, Ffordd Caernarfon, Beddgelert LL55 4UU.

9.2(b) *Submitted:* – an oral report by the Director of Planning and Land Management on The Inspector's decision to **refuse an appeal** by Roger Hartley against Eryri National Park Authority (NPA) for a full award of costs, Cae Haidd, Ffordd Caernarfon, Beddgelert LL55 4UU.

The meeting ended at 11.30

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 26th APRIL 2024

PRESENT:

Member appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillor Elfed Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillor Dilwyn Roberts;

Member appointed by the Welsh Government
Sarah Hattle;

Independent Members
Martin J. Hughes, Mark Jones, Sharon Warnes (Chair);

In Attendance (ex. officio)
Tim Jones;

Officers
Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mrs Anwen Gaffey.

Apologies for Absence
Councillor Edgar Owen (ex. officio);

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

1 **Chair's Announcements**
The Chair welcomed Members and officers 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 Standards Committee meeting held on 1st September 2023 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record. The Chair thanked Sarah Hattle for not attending the meeting in September in order to balance the membership and ensure a quorum.

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 and advised upon the additional statutory duty to prepare an annual report on how the committee's functions have been discharged and provide an overview of conduct matters within their Authority.

Members considered the report and made the following observations on Section 4:-
- para 4.2 – Members noted that the new hybrid system was being trialled at the meeting today and officers invited further feedback from the Members who

were attending remotely. The Director of Corporate Services stated that past acoustic problems had been addressed by installing a new ceiling, and new screens and microphones had been purchased to allow the Authority to convene its meetings at the National Park Headquarters in Penrhyndeudraeth in future. Members agreed that the updated facilities were an improvement on the facilities at Plas Tan y Bwlch, although some problems did arise at the meeting which were reported to the IT department.
- the Director of Corporate Services to ascertain whether the Chair's input to the Wales Audit report on Governance of National Park Authorities and the Standards Committee's input to the Penn Review had previously been reported in the Annual Report 2023.
- the Chair confirmed that she was available to present the Standards Committee Annual Report to the Authority's AGM on the 12th June 2024.

RESOLVED subject to the above, to agree the contents of the Annual Report to be presented to the Authority's Annual General Meeting, as set out in Section 4 of the report.

5. **Report by Internal Audit on Support Provided to the Authority's Members**
Submitted – An information report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to note and discuss.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the Internal Audit Service's report in detail.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-
- Members welcomed the report conclusion that there was a high level of certainty that the internal mechanisms in place provided sufficient support to Members.
- the Standards Committee raised concerns on the low level of participation by Members to the Internal Audit Service's questionnaire. A total of three responses had not provided the Internal Audit with enough information to make an informed analysis and on this occasion the Authority had benefited from the additional evidence and information provided.
- the Standards Committee agreed that such lack of engagement should be referred to in the annual report and to encourage Members to respond fully to such matters when the opportunity presents itself in future.

RESOLVED
1. **to note the report**
2. **to include in the Annual Report the Standard Committee's concern at the lack of engagement by Members.**

6. **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 and Members noted they had had reviewed the process which seemed to be working very well.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

7. **Standards Committees Chairs' Forum Wales – Monday 29th January 2024**
Submitted - The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committees Chairs' Forum Wales, for information.

Reported – Members noted that the Chair would present the minutes and not the Vice-Chair as stated in the Agenda.

The Chair presented the minutes and advised that many of the matters under discussion at the Chairs' Forum were not relevant to National Park Authorities.

Arising thereon, Members and officers discussed:-
- use of the Local Resolution process
- the support provided for the Standards Committees
- an online session on the use of social media, prepared by the WLGA, which could be accessed by using the link in the report.
- Members noted that the recently published report by the Auditor General for Wales on Governance of National Park Authorities was available on the Audit Wales website, for information.

RESOLVED to note the oral report, for information, and to thank the Chair for representing the Snowdonia National Park Authority Standards Committee at the Standards Committees Chairs' Forum Wales.

The meeting ended at 14.55

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Member appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillor Elfed P. Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillor Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Independent Members
Mrs. Sharon Warnes (Chair), Mr. Martin J. Hughes, Mr. Mark Jones;

Officers
Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Ms. Bethan Hughes.

Apologies for Absence
No apologies were received.

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

1. **Chairman's Announcements**
The Chair congratulated The Director of Corporate Services on his new role as Interim Chief Executive. The Director of Corporate Services thanked the Chair but confirmed the role would end once a new Chief Executive was appointed. The Chair also congratulated Cllr. Dilwyn Owain Roberts on his new role with Conwy Council's Cabinet.
The Director of Corporate Services advised that this was Mrs. Sharon Warnes's (Chair) last meeting and, on behalf of Members and Officers acknowledged Mrs Warnes's valuable contribution to the Authority's work. The Chair stated that she had really enjoyed her time as a Member of the Standards Committee and wished everyone well for the future. Members were also advised that Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Welsh Government Member, had resigned as a member of the Authority. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a report would be submitted to the Authority to nominate two further members on the Standards Committee and as soon as The Chair's term came to an end, the Authority would also advertise for an Independent Member on the Standards Committee.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
Cllr. Dilwyn Roberts and Cllr. Elfed 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.

3. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 26th April 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

Item 4 – Annual Report to the Authority's Annual General Meeting
The Chair advised that the Annual report had been submitted to the Authority's

Annual General Meeting and the Authority congratulated the work of the Standards Committee.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the Performance and Resources Committee had also been held at the National Park Headquarters in Penrhyndeudraeth which had been successful and following further discussions, it had been decided to hold all meetings at the Headquarters after the 2nd October 2024.

He also confirmed that the Chair's input to the Wales Audit report on Governance of National Park Authorities and the Standards Committee's input to the Penn Review had previously been reported in the 2023 Annual Report and therefore had not been included in the current Annual report.

Item 5 – Report by Internal Audit on Support Provided to the Authority's Members
The Chair advised that the Standard Committee's concern at the lack of engagement by Members had been included in the Annual report.

Item 7 – Standards Committees Chairs' Forum Wales
The Chair apologised that the minutes had not been included on the agenda but would circulate them to the Democratic Services Officer following today's meeting. The Chair provided Members with a summary of the minutes and advised that it was now named the All Wales Forum. Members were advised that the next meeting was due to be held on January 27th, 2025, and as it was unlikely that the new Chair would be appointed by that time, Officers and Members agreed that Mr. Martin Hughes should attend.

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 Cllr. Elfed P. Roberts, Mr. Mark Jones and Mr. Martin J. Hughes as Members of the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel and appoint both new Members of the Standards Committee 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 background and advised that the full report was usually included on the Agenda but only the link to the Annual Report had been included.

Members believed that Officers and the Authority's staff should take pride that so few complaints were received, especially due to the nature of the Authority's work. The Director of Corporate Services agreed with Members and stated that The

Head of Administration and Customer Care dealt with any complaints effectively to avoid being made into formal complaints.

RESOLVED to note the report and record the Standards Committee's appreciation to the Head of Administration and Customer Care for her hard work in ensuring that complaints are dealt with in an efficient and timely manner.

6. **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, to ensure that the Authority could conduct its business effectively. The Director of Corporate Services advised that Officers were keeping track of any item where this would be operational in order to invite Members of the Standards Committee to see how the Grant of Dispensations was used, but unfortunately no items had arisen during the last year.

RESOLVED

1. **to grant a dispensation for Members appointed by Gwynedd Council (Grounds 2[a] and [d]) enabling them to take a full part in the determination of issues relating to Gwynedd Council up to 31st December 2025, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31st December 2025.**
2. **to grant a dispensation for Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council (Ground 2 [d]) enabling them to take a full part in the determination of issues relating to Conwy County Borough Council up to 31st December 2025, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31st December 2025.**

7. **Complaints Monitoring Report**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on written complaints received by the Authority in 2023/24.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and outlined the main points.

Members considered the report and made the following observations: -

- Members thanked the Head of Administration and Customer Care for a clear and concise report.
- In response to a question, the Head of Administration and Customer Care advised that the Authority did not have a Local Resolution Procedure but stated that Officers are encouraged to solve any minor complaints before they became formal. The Director of Corporate Services agreed that adopting a local resolution was something to investigate.

The Chair thanked the Head of Administration and Customer Care and staff for their work.

RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting ended at 14.40

PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 10th JULY 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, 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;

Member appointed by the Welsh Government
Sarah Hattle;

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Bethan Hughes, Nia Murray, Dewi Morgan, Sian Owen, Etta Trumper, Angela Jones, Ioan Gwilym, Anwen Gaffey.

In attendance
Euros Lake - Audit Wales.

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. The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts to the Chair.
   RESOLVED to elect Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts as Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee.
   The Chair thanked Members for their support. He also acknowledged that Iwan Jones was attending the meeting in his new role as Interim Chief Executive. Members also noted that the meeting was trialling the facilities at the Headquarters in Penrhyndeudraeth, and officers invited further feedback from those Members who were attending remotely.

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 Councillor Annwen Hughes as Vice-Chair.
   Councillor Annwen Hughes was elected Vice-Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee.
   The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

3. **Apologies**
   Councillor Louise Hughes, Einir Wyn Williams, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;
   Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd.

4. **Declaration of Interest**
   Iwan Jones and Jonathan Cawley declared an interest in item 12 on the Agenda and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 20th March 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.
Arising thereon,
Item 14 – SNPA Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Recruitment Process
The Interim Chief Executive reminded Members that enquiries from possible candidates for the Chief Executive vacancy should be forwarded to Steffan Jones at Goodson Thomas (a recent email with contact details was sent to Members). This would avoid any potential conflicts when the Authority appoints a new Chief Executive on the 2nd October 2024.

6. **Action Log**

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

Authority Meeting 14.07.21
Action Item 9: Scrutiny Panel – Snowdonia's Carbon Account
The Interim Chief Executive advised that the action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management reassured Members that the Scrutiny Panel would be continuing its work and that funding had been identified to employ a Carbon Officer. A progress report on the Carbon Strategy will be presented to Members annually.

Authority Meeting 12.07.23
Action Item 7: Income Report – Audit Wales
The Interim Chief Executive confirmed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group.

Authority Meeting 29.11.23
Action Item 8 – Income Diversification
This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

RESOLVED to note the updates to the Action Log.

7. **Governance of National Park Authorities: Report of Auditor General Wales**

Submitted – A report by the Interim Chief Executive for Members to discuss and approve the "Organisational Response" to the above report.

Reported - The Interim Chief Executive presented the Authority's response, as previously presented to the Annual General Meeting on the 12th June 2024, and during which time members were invited to make further comments. The Interim Chief Executive advised that one observation had been received in respect of 'R2: Ensuring member nominations support good governance'. The Member noted that whilst he agreed that the primary responsibility rests with the WLGA and Welsh Government, he asked whether it would be prudent for National Park Authorities to be invited to provide their input into the review on the protocol for nominations. He referred to the Welsh Government training on governance where they emphasised the difference between councillor members sitting on a National Park Authority as opposed to a Council committee and this should be reflected in any re-draft of the protocols. The Interim Chief Executive advised that he would be happy to work with Audit Wales and the Welsh Government to strengthen this element.

The Chair then welcomed Euros Lake of Audit Wales to the meeting. Members were advised that as this was a relatively new approach, Audit Wales were in attendance to provide Members with a follow-up to the responses received to their four recommendations.

Response to R1 - whilst agreeing to continue to collaborate with the Welsh Government to enable thematic training for all Members was to be commended, Audit Wales remained of the opinion that the organisational response did not directly address what was needed and did not provide sufficient certainty that this would happen.

Members and officers agreed:-
R1 – to address the issues raised by Audit Wales.

Response to R2 – Audit Wales welcomed the offer to work with the Welsh Government and the WLGA on the protocols, and whilst the response stated these matters were not within the Authority's control, they were relevant to the Authority as it has a role to govern effectively.

Members and officers agreed:-
R2 – to incorporate the Member's suggestion as outlined above and amend the response to read the National Parks would 'welcome the opportunity' rather than 'be willing' to contribute to looking at the protocols and promote awareness of their use. Also, to amend the response to read "not in the Authority's control" rather than "not relevant to the Authority."

Response to R3 – the Authority's response was accepted.

Response to R4 – the Authority's response stated the report did not provide evidence why the Governance system was not fit for purpose. Audit Wales were confident that the report provided a basis for the evidence which was comprehensive and conclusive.

Members and officers agreed:-
R4 – that no change was necessary to the Authority's response.

Arising thereon, whilst there was some dissatisfaction with the recommendations in the report, Members acknowledged the need to work with the other bodies and that the response should be adjusted to reflect this.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report.**
2. **subject to amending the organisational response as outlined above, to accept the recommendations as identified.**

8. **Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2023/24**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer comparing the Authority's budgeted revenue and capital spending plans for 2023/2024 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. Members were advised that the figures presented in para. 5.2 of the report were not current and that the table in Appendix 5 provided the correct information. Also,

para. 6.1 of the Welsh report should refer to the balance in 31/03/*2023* in the first column, and 31/03/*2024* in the third column which will be corrected.

The Chief Finance Officer took the opportunity to thank the Finance Officer and her team for their work under severe time constraints and work pressures.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the contents of the outturn report and approve the transfers 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 4.6 and Appendix 2).**
4. **to approve the allocation of slippage and commitments (£299,730) in Appendix 4.**
5. **to approve the transfer of the underspends relating to the 2023/24 financial year to the Financial Hardship Reserve, rather than increase the Authority's General Balances.**
6. **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 risk profile and outlined the main changes to the register.

RESOLVED to note the report and Risk Register and accept the changes as outlined.

10. **Annual Report for Yr 2023: Communications and Engagement Strategy Performance Indicators**

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

Reported – The Head of Communications apologised that the annual report had not been presented to the Performance and Resources Committee in March as expected. This was due to re-structuring of the section in 2023, a key member of the team leaving the Authority's employ, and the additional work arising from a British Government external audit. He took the opportunity to thank Helen Pye, the former Head of Engagement for her work in preparing the strategy which had provided the basis for this work. The Head of Communications presented the report, the background and the 2023 Progress Report in detail.

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

- a Member welcomed the level of engagement following the Authority's decision to use the Welsh names Yr Wyddfa and Eryri.
- Members and Officers discussed the delicate balance of providing sustainable and consistent information without promoting more tourism.
- Members noted that this year's campaign would focus on redirecting visitors to areas outside the 'honey pots' which have the necessary infrastructure. The

Head of Communication welcomed the opportunity to discuss this further with Councillor John Pughe Roberts who has experience of similar initiatives in the Dinas Mawddwy area.

- Members noted the success of the Sherpa initiative and were advised that an update report on transport will be presented in the Autumn.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the Annual Report for Year 2023: Communications and Engagement Strategy Performance Indicators.**
2. **that a report on the Parking and Transport review would be submitted to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group.**

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 welcome the positive report and note its content.

12. **Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 and Pay Policy Annual Report for 2023/24**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Human Resources for Members to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 and receive the Pay Policy Report for 2023/24.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and background on behalf of the Head of Human Resources, who was absent from the meeting.

RESOLVED

1. **to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25.**
2. **to approve the Pay Policy Annual Report for 2023/24.**

13. **Volunteer and Wellbeing Annual Report 2023**

Submitted – A report by the Volunteer and Wellbeing Officer to present the Annual Report and to update Members on progress with the Volunteer Strategy 2021-26.

Reported – The Volunteer and Wellbeing Officer presented the Annual Report and provided Members with the background and a progress report.

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

- the Chair thanked the Volunteer and Wellbeing Officer for preparing the document which was easy to read and understand.
- Members welcomed the document and the progress made by the Volunteer and Wellbeing Officer in providing volunteering opportunities.
- a Member also took the opportunity to thank 'Caru Eryri' for their volunteering work.
- the Volunteer and Wellbeing Officer agreed to investigate whether competent volunteers could benefit from additional training that could ultimately lead to permanent employment.

- the Volunteer and Wellbeing Officer confirmed the Authority would welcome applications from local groups and that Members should encourage them to apply. Details on how to apply can be found on the Authority website.

RESOLVED to approve the content of The Volunteer and Wellbeing Annual Report 2023.

14. **Cynllun Yr Wyddfa Summary Report 2024**

Submitted – A report by Partneriaeth yr Wyddfa Officer to update Members on the progress achieved by Cynllun yr Wyddfa since it's launch during 2018, and to inform Members on the process for reviewing the plan.

Reported – The Partneriaeth yr Wyddfa Officer presented the report and background, and Members were provided with further details on key projects. The Partneriaeth yr Wyddfa Officer took the opportunity to thank all the partners and the staff for their work and co-operation over the past 6 years.

Arising thereon, the Partneriaeth yr Wyddfa Officer agreed to contact the relevant officer to advise that the three Sherpa stops at Waunfawr were incorrectly named.

RESOLVED

1. **to accept the Cynllun Yr Wyddfa Summary report as a progress report on the partnership's work since the launch of Cynllun Yr Wyddfa during 2018.**
2. **to note that the process of reviewing Cynllun Yr Wyddfa had begun, and that Members will receive full and regular updates with further opportunities to contribute to the process.**

15. **Retirement Best Wishes**

The Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee conveyed best wishes to Anwen Gaffey, the Members' Services Officer, who was retiring after 35 years with the Authority. The Chairs and Members expressed their appreciation for her valuable service and wished her a long and happy retirement.

The meeting ended at 12.05

PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Wednesday 11th of September 2024
Plas Tan y Bwlch

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elfed Powell Roberts (Chair), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Member appointed by Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Nia Murray, Dewi Morgan, Eifion Jones.

Present
Steffan Jones and Catrin Taylor of Goodson Thomas.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting be recorded to assist with ratifying the minutes.

Chair Nia Murray, Head of Human Resources welcomed Steffan Jones and Catrin Taylor (Goodson Thomas) to the meeting.

1. **Apologies**
   Councillors Louise Hughes, June Jones, Dilwyn Owain Roberts, Jo Nuttall; Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

2. **Declaration of Interest**
   No declarations of interest were made.

3. **Recruitment of Chief Executive (National Park Officer) APCE – Shortlist Package**
   Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents
   The Director of Corporate Services submitted a recommendation to exclude the report, "Recruitment of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) APCE – Shortlist Package" because it contained information that:
   - applied to a specific individual,
   - was likely to reveal the identity of the individual in question,
   - related to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority that held that information.

RECOMMENDATION – Performance and Resources Committee agreed to exempt the report "Recruitment of APCE Chief Executive – Shortlist Package".

RESOLVED to accept the recommendation

PART 2

4. **Recruitment of Chief Executive (National Park Officer) ENPA**

The Director of Corporate Services reported that the Appointment Panel met on the 4th of September chaired by Tim Jones, and decided on a recommendation.
The Chair of that panel reported on the decision, and began by thanking Steffan Jones and Catrin Taylor of Goodson Thomas for their work.
He explained that the panel had gone through the Shortlist Package in detail, that they had selected some from the shortlist to be interviewed after they had taken psychometric tests. After discussion the panel reached a unanimous decision on who should be interviewed.
10 names were put forward in the shortlist package, and the pack suggested that five out of the ten to be interviewed.
Of the five, three candidates were selected by the Panel for interview.
He noted that the Panel supported interviewing the first applicant because of her experience and background, that she had worked at a high level, and was familiar with the area and the Park. He noted that the panel supported interviewing the second applicant because he had already worked at the chief executive level, knew the area, but there was some concern about his experience of the Park. He also noted that the third applicant was well-known by everyone at the meeting.
He also noted that one of the other candidates had a background in the field, but not at as a high level as the others; and that the fifth candidate also had a good background, but not in the field and not for an organisation of this size.
He therefore proposed that the first three applicants be interviewed.
A Member seconded the proposal and also thanked Goodson Thomas for their work.
Steffan Jones expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to work with the Park and said they had enjoyed the work.
A Member asked what the next step in the process was and the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the full Authority would interview the three candidates on the second of October.

Recommended:– to invite the three candidates recommended by the Appointment Panel for interview, after they had taken psychometric tests.

Resolved: to accept the recommendation.

The meeting ended at 13.40

MINUTES OF THE
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 27th of NOVEMBER 2024
National Park Office

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Cllr(s) Elfed Powell Roberts (Chair), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr(s) Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson;

Officers
G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Bethan Hughes, Nia Murray, Awel Gruffydd, Gareth Hughes, Sian Owen, Eifion Jones.

Also present
Rachel Freitag, Audit Manager (item 10 only)

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist with checking the minutes and that the recording would be available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies for absence and Chairman's Statements**

Apologies were received from Cllr(s) Louise Hughes, June Jones, John Pughe Roberts, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, and from Brian Angell and Delyth Lloyd.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Nia Owen to her first meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

There was no declaration of interest in relation to any item from a member or officer.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Resources Committee held on the 10 July 2024 and on the 11 September 2024 were adopted, and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. **Action Sheet**

Submitted – Action Sheet by the Director of Corporate Services.

He said that item 9, *Scrutiny Panel - Eryri Carbon Account*, should be deleted from the leaflet as *a Draft Low Carbon Strategy* had been presented to the Authority's meeting on 12 June 2024.

***Recommendation*:** – to remove item 9 and keep the other two items as they were.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

5. **Strategic Equality Plan**

Submitted – a report on the Authority's Strategic Equality Plan by the Head of Human Resources and the Head of Administration and Customer Care which noted:

- the steps the Authority had taken to determine and collect the relevant information;
- how the Authority had used that information to meet the three aims of the general duty;
- the progress made towards delivering each of the Authority's equality objectives.

***Recommendation*:** – to approve the publication of the Annual Report for 2023-24 on the Authority's website.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

6. **Tourist Information Centres – Annual Report**

Submitted – report by the Sustainable Tourism Manager on the Park's Tourist Information Centres in Aberdyfi, Beddgelert and Betws y Coed.

Reported:

- that the turnover of the three centres has increased over the year
- that the number of visitors has remained stable in Aberdyfi and Betws y Coed, but has decreased slightly in Beddgelert
- Aberdyfi centre has managed to get a full staff complement for the whole season.

The Chief Executive advised that quite far-reaching work is proposed for the Betws y Coed Centre.

***Recommendation*:** – to discuss the content of the report and any steps that should be taken looking forward to 2024-2025.

Report ***Accepted***.

7. **Corporate Work Programme**

Submitted – a report by the Director of Corporate Services on the Corporate Work Programme which included details of the progress made in the first and second quarters of 2024 (April - September) to deliver the various projects and initiatives agreed on to deliver the Authority's Improvement Objectives.

Recommendation: – to examine and discuss the Corporate Work Programme

Resolved to accept the Corporate Work Programme.

8. **Update of External Funding Grants**

Presented - An update on the projects supported by the Authority and confirmation of priorities for external grant support in the future by the Chief Executive.

Recommendation(s): –

(i) Identify the capital funding projects 2022-2025;
(ii) Identify the commitment to Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places projects;
(iii) Confirm priority areas for future bids;
(iv) Identify the Flow Chart;
(v) Note progress of live projects.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

9. **Health and Safety Report**

Submitted: A report on health and safety management within the Authority by the Health and Safety Officer.

Reported that:

- Health and Safety Officer was appointed in January 2024;
- digital systems have been introduced to record illness and that this:
  - enables the reason for the illness to be identified as well as facts,
  - explain, possibly, the increase in the number of accident reported etc.;
- a significant increase has been seen in absences due to stress, anxiety and depression (the rate of absences was similar to other similar organisations);
- well-being is a key focus, with an emphasis on mental health; there is access to counseling on the Wellness 360 app is available to all members of staff, and that two members of staff are trained as a Mental Health First-Aiders and a Wellness *Champion.*

Recommendation(s): – to note the report.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

10. **Financial Audit Plan 2022.23**

Submitted - A plan for the 2022-23 accounts audit and the 2023 and 2024 performance audit work programme by the External Audit Manager.

Reported

- that this plan is for the 2022-23 accounts audit because the 2021-22 accounts audit has been significantly delayed due to issues relating to the valuation of property, machinery and equipment;
- that is also the reason that the plan specifies a performance audit work programme for 2023 and 2024;
- the financial statement risks and other focus areas;
- the intention is to complete the audit before Christmas and submit the report in February 2025

Recommendation(s): – to accept the plan.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

11. **To present the minutes of the Standards Committee for information**

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 20th of September 2024 were submitted.

***Noted*:** Minutes*.*

The meeting ended at 10:55

MINUTES
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025
National Park Office

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council
Councillors Elfed Powell Roberts (Chairman), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government
Brian Angell, Tim Jones;

Officers
Jonathan Cawley, G. Iwan Jones, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Angela Jones, Etta Trumper, Bethan Hughes, Naomi Jones, Eifion Jones.

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

1. **Apologies for absence and Chairman's Announcements**

Apologies were received from Councillors Delyth Lloyd Griffiths, John Pughe Roberts, and Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

There was no declaration of interest in any item from a member or officer.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee meetings held on 27 November 2024 were *adopted,* and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **Action Sheet**

Submitted: the action sheet by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Reported: that the Authority continues to await guidance and a response from the Welsh Government to the two items on the leaflet and they should be kept as they were.

Recommended: – to keep the two items on the sheet unchanged.

Resolved: — to **accept** the Recommendation**.**

5. **Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Project Completion Report**

Submitted: a report by the Head of Cultural Heritage.

Reported:

- the project background, and details on individual projects;
- that the Covid 19 pandemic had had an impact on the project's timetable;
- that the success of the current scheme had led to the of a Declaration of Interest submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a new project in Dolgellau;
- that the proposed project covered a wider range of activity, including a more detailed focus on listed building efficiency, community engagement, nature restoration and environmental improvements.

Recommended: –

i. that Members receive the report for information

ii. that Members support the intention to develop a new conservation project in the Dolgellau conservation area

Resolved: — to **accept** the Recommendation**.**

6. **Freedom of Information Requests – Annual Report**

Submitted: report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care.

Reported:

- that 42 applications had been received during 2024;
- that 16 of the 42 applications were dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations and 26 under the Freedom of Information Act;
- that no complaints had been submitted to the Information Commissioner's Office regarding the refusal to release information;
- that every request had received a response within the statutory time limit of 20 days.

*Recommended***:** – that the committee note the content of the report.

Resolved: — to **accept** the Recommendation**.**

7. **The Authority's Risk Profile**

Submitted: a report by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive.

Reported:

- that 20 risks had been identified on the Profile;
- that 3 had been identified as High risk, 14 as Medium risks and 3 as Low risks

- A New risk had been noted (Risk 20 – Financial risk and reputational risk regarding the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch)
- that Risk 18 – a risk of Judicial Review on introducing Article 4 Direction – had been increased from Low to Medium risk on the Risk Register;
- that 3 other risks had been reduced on the Risk Register: Risks 4, 5 and 17;
- it was deemed that Risk 17 (Resilience of the Management Team), due to the recent decision to increase the number of officers on the Management Team, had now been fully addressed and could be removed from the Risk Register.

Recommended:

(i) To discuss the content of the report and review the changes to some of the risk ratings;

(ii) Agree to remove Risk 17 from the Risk Register as outlined in the report.

Resolved: — to **accept** the Recommendation**.**

8. **Update on the 2024/25 Budget**

Submitted: a review of the 2024/25 budget including a summary of the revised revenue and capital budgets from the beginning of the financial year ie, 1 April 2024 to 31 January 2025 by the Head of Finance.

Reported:

- that an additional grant of £1.1M had been received from the Welsh Government since the submission of the written report;
- that the expected end of financial year deficit was approximately £500,000 but, because of the recent grant, it was no longer expected that it would need to be funded from the reserve funds.

Recommended: – to approve the report and note the current financial situation for 2024/25

Resolved: — to **accept** the Recommendation**.**

9. **Volunteering and Wellbeing Annual Report 2024**

Submitted: a report on the progress of the Volunteering Strategy 2021-2026 by the Volunteering and Wellbeing Officer.

Reported: that the annual report was divided into 5 parts, giving an overview of the developments in volunteering and welfare opportunities, which included;

- Volunteering program
- Welbeing events
- Tramper hire
- Detailed updates on KPIs from the Volunteering Strategy
- 2025 targets

Recommended: – to approve the content of the 2024 annual report and advise on any aims or objectives of the 2021-2026 volunteer development strategy.

Resolved: — to **accept** the Recommendation.

10. **Corporate Work Programme 2024-25**

Submitted: a report by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive on the progress made in Quarters three and four of 2024-25 in undertaking the agreed projects and initiatives for achieving the Authority's agreed Wellbeing Objectives.

Recommended: – to examine and discuss the Corporate Work Programme.

Resolved: — to **accept** the Recommendation**.**

11. **Corporate Work Programme 2025-26**

Submitted: a report by the Chief Executive on the work / projects that would be completed during 2025-26 in response to the Authority's Wellbeing Objectives.

Reported:

- that the period of the current Wellbeing Objectives ends this year, and that it was time to review the Objectives for the next 5 years;
- that the intention was to postpone this full review for a year or so to be able to complete the review of the *Local Development Plan* and *Cynllun Eryri* first, because:
    - the Wellbeing Objectives feeded into *Cynllun Eryri* and, probably,
    - the Objectives would have to be changed once again if they were reviewed before *Cynllun Eryri* was reviewed.
- that the Chief Executive intended to submit a report to the Authority in June formally to postpone.

Recommended: – to adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as an operational document for 2025-26.

Resolved: — to **adopt** the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme**.**

The meeting ended at 10:55