

SURREY HILLS AONB BOARD

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th JUNE 2019 AT WARREN FARM BARN

CORE MEMBERS

*Cllr Susan Parker	Guildford Borough Council
*Cllr Hazel Watson	Mole Valley District Council
*Cllr Mike Goodman	Surrey County Council
*Cllr Geoffrey Duck	Tandridge District Council
Stephanie Fudge	National Trust

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Romy Jackson	National Farmers Union
Kristina Kenworthy	CPRE
*Sarah-Jane Chimbwandira	Surrey Wildlife Trust
*Tim Bamford	CLA
*Liz Cutter	SSALC
Gordon Jackson	Surrey Hills Society
Gordon Jackson	Surrey Hills Trust Fund
*Simon Whalley	Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC

*Members present

IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Fairbanks	Surrey Hills AONB Office Director
Denise Furlonger	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Clive Smith	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Caroline Price	Surrey Hills AONB Office
Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Surrey County Council
Alice Knowles	Waverley Borough Council

			ACTIONS
1		INTRODUCTIONS	
		<p>Rob Fairbanks welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that following local elections there had been a complete change of representatives for the borough and district councils. Reigate and Banstead BC and Waverley BC were yet to appoint representatives. Rob asked whether there were any objections if Mike Goodman took the position of interim Chair. There were no objections.</p> <p>Mike Goodman stated that he was happy to stand in for the next 2 meetings but added that under normal circumstances he felt it was not correct for Surrey County Council to take the Chair.</p> <p>The Board wished to thank David Wright for his many years of service to the AONB. Mike Goodman also felt that formal letters of thanks should be sent to all outgoing Members for all their hard work.</p>	RF

2		APOLOGIES	
		Stephanie Fudge, Gordon Jackson, Romy Jackson, Wendy Varcoe. It was again noted that Natural England, Reigate and Banstead BC and Waverley BC were yet to nominate a Member for the AONB Board.	
3		MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	3.1	The minutes of the last meeting held on 27 th March were agreed.	
4		MATTERS ARISING	
	4.1	Item 6 - Management Plan. Susan Parker requested a copy of the pre-publication Draft Management Plan that was agreed at the last meeting.	DF
	4.2	Item 8 - 25 Year Strategy of SCC Countryside Estate. Mike Goodman said that it was due to be launched at the Rural Conference in July but when the results of consultations were analysed it was clear that there needed to be a wider reaching strategy.	
5		RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR	
	5.1	<p>Rob Fairbanks and Lisa Creaye-Griffin provided the background. It was common across the national family of AONBs to appoint an independent Chairman. The loss of the Surrey Hills AONB Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the May local elections provided an opportunity to look into the possibility of an independent Chair. It was proposed that the Vice-chairman could continue to be from one of the constituent local authorities.</p> <p>The Members discussed the Person Specification and made suggestions for changes to the draft document. It was agreed that “Experience within the Surrey Hills AONB Board” should not be essential and that candidates should be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the pressures and threats to the AONB.</p> <p>Lisa Creaye-Griffin outlined that a panel will make the recommendations and that the AONB Board will make the decision. It was agreed the Panel should include the Surrey CC Member; an Advisory Member, which Surrey Wildlife Trust volunteered; an AONB Family Member, which Surrey Hills Enterprises volunteered; and a constituent local authority Member, which Guildford BC volunteered. Rob Fairbanks to update the job profile and circulate as a draft candidate pack to the Panel.</p> <p>Mike Goodman said that we must be open about the process and encouraged Members to promote the opportunity. Rob Fairbanks stated that it would be promoted in the e-bulletin.</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF/CP</p>
6		SURREY HILLS ACTIVITY REPORTS	
	6.1	<p>AONB Unit. Rob Fairbanks referred to his report and invited any questions. He highlighted the Symposium in November when the new AONB Management Plan would be launched.</p> <p>1.6 Rural Surrey LEADER. Mike Goodman said that we need to put pressure on the Government after Brexit to find a replacement for this</p>	

	<p>funding. Sarah Jane Chimbwandira agreed and added that the Surrey LAG has worked very well and she would not like to see it lost. Rob Fairbanks to raise this with the LAG.</p> <p>2.2 Planning. Clive Smith asked the Members to note that item 2.2 of the AONB Report had been corrected and that the Guildford Local Plan reference to legal challenges under Purdah has been removed.</p> <p>3.8 Mole Valley Trail. Hazel Watson requested more details on the EAFRD bid.</p> <p>3.9 Quiet Lanes and De-Cluttering Working Group. Liz Cutter explained her disappointment that so much background work has been done over the years on de-clutter projects, but there has been a failure in the ability to get things signed off within Surrey County Council Highways. Mike Goodman suggested that local County Councillors and Local Committees should be approached but if Liz sends something through to him he will speak to Matt Furness.</p> <p>4.3 – Social Media. Caroline Price said that Members can be kept updated with what is happening in the AONB if they follow the Surrey Hills media channels. Susan Parker requested the links be forwarded.</p> <p>Rob Fairbanks thanked the AONB team for all their hard work.</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF</p> <p>LC/MG</p> <p>CP</p>
6.2	The Members noted all the AONB Unit activity report	
7	SURREY HILLS FAMILY ACTIVITY REPORTS	
7.1	<p>Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC Simon Whalley provided the background history to Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC. He highlighted the successes and gave details of current projects and events that were coming up. Simon also provided an update on the Business Plan.</p>	
7.2	<p>Surrey Hills Society In Gordon Jackson’s absence, Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, as a Trustee of the Society, gave a brief background on the Society for the benefit of new Members. Sarah Jane said she could not add much to the report but wanted to highlight the great honour of the Surrey Hills Society being awarded The Queens Award for Voluntary Service.</p>	
7.3	<p>Surrey Hills Trust Fund In Gordon Jackson’s absence, Rob Fairbanks gave a brief update and said that the Trust Fund is still developing a strategy for raising funds and working out priorities for awarding funds. Rob also highlighted the Surrey Hills Challenge and Festival of Sport that will be happening in September which are developing to raise money for the Trust Fund.</p>	
7.4	The Members noted the work of the Surrey Hills Family.	

8		SURREY HILLS PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL TOUR	
	8.1	Rob Fairbanks explained the background to the annual Partnership Tour and provided an outline for the upcoming Tour on 5 th July, which was agreed by the AONB Board. Denise Furlonger would be sending out the notice of the meeting.	DF
9		ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	9.1	Mike Goodman said that in the past the Agenda has been decided by the Chairman and Rob Fairbanks. Instead he requested that if Members have issues that they would like adding to the agenda they should request them in advance. It was agreed that Denise Furlonger should send notice four weeks before the meetings as a reminder.	DF
	9.2	It was agreed that it would be useful to invite one of the Partners along to give a presentation to the AGM in September.	
	9.3	Susan Parker requested meeting dates for 2020. Rob Fairbanks responded that the dates are usually agreed at the AGM in September.	
	9.4	Hazel Watson enquired if there was any flexibility over the time of the meeting in September as she is not available in the afternoon. Rob Fairbanks to look into it.	RF
	9.5	Mike Goodman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the meeting.	
10		DATES FOR 2019 MEETINGS	
		Friday 5 th July 2019 - Partnership Tour Wednesday 4 th September 2019 - Surrey Hills Board AGM Wednesday 27 th November 2019 - Surrey Hills Symposium Wednesday 4 th December 2019 - Surrey Hills Board	

The above minutes are a true record of the Surrey Hills Board meeting held on Wednesday 19th June 2019.

Signature of Chairman

Date