

Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel Minutes Microsoft Teams 10.00 – 12.00 Thursday, 22nd April 2021

Item	Draft Minutes
1.0	<p>Apologies/Introductions</p> <p>Present: Anne Carney, WHSCU Sarah Askham, WHSCU (notes) Henry Oliver, Avebury Steering Committee (Chair) Hugh Morrison, Stonehenge Steering Committee Colin Shell, ASAHRG Jan Tomlin, National Trust Nichola Tasker, English Heritage Ross Simmonds, Historic England David Redfern, Wiltshire Council Allison Bucknell, Wiltshire Council</p> <p>Apologies: Jessica Gibbons Cllr. Richard Clewer</p>
2.0	<p>Minutes of last meeting Matters Arising</p> <p>Action: Panel members to suggest members for the Management Plan Review project board to AC.</p> <p>29th January 2021 WHSPP minutes agreed.</p>
3.0	<p>Recruitment of WHSPP Chair</p> <p>All members received the paper entitled Recruitment of a new Chair for the World Heritage Site (WHS) Partnership Panel and the Candidate’s Brief prior to the meeting, which were put together by HO and Sue Clarke at the North Wessex Downs AONB. HO thanked partners for their input.</p>

HO proposed the agreement of 3 matters for this agenda item: agreement to the overall recruitment process, agreement on what topic the candidate will speak on for the presentation, and, agreement to who will sit on the selection panel.

1. Agreement to the overall recruitment process.

All members agreed with the recruitment process outlined in the paper for the WHSPP chair

2. Agreement on what topic the candidate will speak to for the presentation to the Partnership Panel.

NT stated that the presentation should allow the candidate to demonstrate how they could bring together conflicting views. Either the presentation or the questions should include something around leadership, varied interests and collaborative approach.

RS suggested that the presentation should demonstrate understanding of the vision and the breadth of the work involved in the WHS. RS agreed with NT and suggested the following question for the presentation: "What skills are you bringing to make you the best fit for the role?".

AB suggested that shortlisted applicants could be asked to submit a paper prior to interview, to allow for a shorter presentation. AB suggested that the presentation or questions should allow the candidate to demonstrate how they could use their skill set to deliver the WHS 5-year vision.

CS stated that the presentation or the questions should give the candidate an opportunity to show their understanding of the WHS designation.

HM stated that diplomacy and people skills were essential for the role and that the presentation and questions should demonstrate these.

HO stated that a full list of questions will be agreed with the selection panel before the interview.

Members agreed that the candidate should be given 15 minutes for the presentation, followed by a further 15 minutes for questions.

Action: HO and AC to come up with wording for the presentation and questions for Partnership Panel members to comment on prior to the interview.

3. Agreement to who will sit on the selection panel.

JT proposed that both chairs of the WHS steering committees should have been included. HM agreed that it would be helpful to have the support of the Stonehenge Committee.

All agreed that the panel should have 7 members – the addition to the proposed 6 being a representative of the Stonehenge WHS Steering Committee.

	<p>Action: HM to discuss with HO nomination for someone to represent the Stonehenge WHS Steering committee on the selection panel.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <p>HO stated that he was hoping to go public with an advert in a few weeks and reassured members that there was still time to get the wording for the presentation and questions correct.</p> <p>It is planned to advertise the role for 4 weeks, with virtual interviews planned for the end of June/ early July depending on capacity and candidate availability.</p> <p>NT asked if the week of the 21st June could be avoided given the summer solstice and the deadline for the A303 Judicial Review.</p> <p>Action: HO to identify a couple of dates for the presentation and questions and bring back to the Partnership Panel.</p>
4.0	<p>WHSCU Work Update</p> <p>All members received a written work update for the Coordination Unit and a draft timetable for the Management Plan review prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Alongside the written update a verbal update was given by AC and SA regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting study - Trust Transition Project - Exploring the World Heritage Site and Beyond - The Burrowing Animals Strategy - Condition Survey - WHS Management Plan Review - The Ridgeway National Trial - The B4003 and Damage to the West Kennet Avenue. <p>Partner Comments:</p> <p>JT highlighted that there were serious concerns regarding ongoing camping on the ridgeway. The National Trust and Avebury Parish Council are meeting with Cllr. Clewer in order to share these concerns as there is lots of illegality and a regular presence that seems to be becoming increasingly tolerated. The concerns are not just over the damage to archaeology, but also the removal of tranquillity and the feeling of safety for those who wish to walk along the ridgeway – it is a huge imposition on the WHS and progress on the matter feels slow.</p> <p>HM wished to mirror JT’s concerns with reference to byway 12 ad 11 now that the TRO has been removed.</p> <p>DR stated that he felt partners frustrations and asked what Wiltshire Polices views were on the matter.</p>

	<p>JT stated that the National Trust were working closely with Wiltshire Police, but enforcement action needed to be taken by Wiltshire Council in order to fully stop the problem.</p> <p>AB stated that she shared everyone’s frustrations but highlighted that Wiltshire Council must follow legal processes which do slow things down. AB will ask for an update from the officers to give to partners.</p> <p>Action: AB to obtain an update from Wiltshire Council officers and circulate to members.</p> <p>CS asked if any members knew if the new aggressive camping legislation would cover the problems faced on either side of the byway within the WHS?</p> <p>Action: SA to circulate new legislation to partners.</p>
5.0	<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>HM gave an update for the Stonehenge Steering Committee. There has been difficulty with road issues and byways in the WHS.</p> <p>CS gave an update for ASAHRG. Fieldwork has been able to start at Folly Hill and excavations to further examine stake holes will take place.</p> <p>JT gave an update for the National Trust. Countryside sites and landscapes remain open and will be reopening other facilities and sites in line with government guidelines.</p> <p>NT gave an update for English Heritage. Stonehenge is now open, with the indoor exhibition space opening in mid-May. EH is currently working with Wiltshire Council and other partners to ensure the Solstice (21st June) can be delivered peacefully, effectively and safely.</p> <p>RS gave an update for Historic England. A Judicial Review statement was submitted, and HE is in close liaison with Highways England regarding the road scheme. HE is working on small grants to Wiltshire Police in order to help with heritage crime – it covers a wider area than the WHS, but it will hopefully raise the issue of heritage crime and help with police presence in the WHS.</p> <p>DR and AB gave an update for Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council are moving away from their response phase to Covid-19 and a degree of normality is coming back to the workplace.</p> <p>HO gave an update for the Avebury Steering Committee and NWDAONB. There is a new chair of the NWDAONB partnership, and a habitat survey has been commissioned through the Ridgeway Partnership. This is to identify areas for conservation, enhancement and restoration of chalk grassland from the Thames Valley to West Kennet.</p>
6.0	<p>Date of next meetings</p> <p>- 16th July 10.30am – 12.30pm</p>

	- 21 st October 10.30am – 12.30pm
7.0	AOB Nothing to report.