



Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Partnership Panel Meeting

Minutes

Microsoft Teams

29th January 2021, 2pm – 4pm

Present:

- Alistair Sommerlad, Chair
- Nicola Snashall, National Trust
- Alison Bucknell, Wiltshire Council
- Jessica Gibbons, Wiltshire Council
- CLlr. Richard Clewer, Wiltshire Council
- Helen Woodhouse, Historic England
- Nichola Tasker, English Heritage
- Henry Oliver, Avebury WHS Steering Committee
- Hugh Morrison, Stonehenge WHS Steering Committee
- Colin Shell, ASAHRG
- Anne Carney, WHSCU
- Sarah Askham, WHSCU (Notes)

Draft Minutes

1.	<p>Apologies/ Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologies from David Redfern, Wiltshire Council, Jan Tomlin, National Trust and Ross Simmonds, Historic England.
2.	<p>Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ross Simmonds is in place for Rebecca Barrett whilst she is on maternity leave. - Minutes of the November 2020 meeting were discussed, amended and agreed. - All comments regarding draft minutes to be sent to SA when minutes are distributed so amendments can be made prior to meetings. - Procedures regarding the redaction of minutes was discussed and agreed. Partners must state when comments are not to be included in the minutes and highlight when key points need to be included. - Partners are entreated to respond to meeting invites and doodle polls in good time.

3.

WHSCU Work Plan

- AC presented the Work Plan for the WHSCU for the first quarter of 2021. The work plan is detailed on the excel spreadsheet that was circulated prior to the meeting.
- The way meeting minutes are recorded for governance groups was discussed.

Action: SA and AC to look for an online platform where documents can be uploaded and commented on.

Action: Partners are to email comments on the work plan to AC or SA.

Setting Study Update

- Final version of the draft brief has been approved, however there were some further suggestions. These comments are to be added to the brief and circulated. The consultant should be engaged by the end of March.

Condition Survey Update

- Going to tender in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Contributions towards the project would be welcome, but a specific percentage of funding is not being sought. Staff time would also be welcome.
- HW stated that the additional adjustment to the project design is due to COVID restrictions. It was hoped that this project could make the most of volunteering and community engagement, so this has had to be re-examined so that this may delivered more safely.

Panel Comments

- The Partnership Panel discussed the work plan and the two project updates.
- Shorter, concise meeting minutes were agreed upon and support for the work plan was given. It was noted that the unit should look at some contingency in the work plan and select which projects could be deprioritised if necessary.

Transition Project Update

- Following discussions with the NLHF case officer AC had a few suggested changes to the project timeline.
- As there is no project manager in post for the project, but funding available in the project budget AC pointed out that a decision needed to be made as to whether to recruit a new project manager or for the unit to manage the project.

Action: AC and AS to present more details on suggested amendments to the Transition Project board members.

Management Plan Review

- Starting April 2021 and aiming for document to be produced Autumn 2022. A project board needs to be set up.
- Panel members discussed the Management Plan review and suggested that the work plan may need some adjustment for any potential matter arising from the MP review.
- Designated funds projects (Exploring the World Heritage Site and Burrowing Animals) were discussed in relation to the MP review. These reports have not been endorsed by the Partnership Panel and Steering Committees; however, the next actions are to review the recommendations produced in the final documents.

Action: Panel members to suggest members for the project board to AC.

4. Partner Updates

Avebury Steering Committee – No meetings have taken place since the last Avebury WHS Committee meeting in November 2020.

Stonehenge Steering Committee – HM updated the partners on the Stonehenge Steering Committee meeting in November 2020.

Wiltshire Council – RC gave an update to panel members on the status of the byways and stated that something should be on place for 1st of May. JG updated members on Wiltshire Councils response to COVID-19 and the ongoing recovery work.

ASAHRG - No meetings have taken place since the last panel.

English Heritage – NT updated panel members on the status of Stonehenge, which is currently closed. A303 protests are causing trouble on site and it is anticipated more incidences will happen. EHT are working to monitor the situation.

Historic England – HW noted some staffing changes: RB is on maternity leave and RS is stepping up as Regional Director. Historic England has also seen a rise in heritage crime and is responding with joint collaborative approaches to address it.

National Trust – NS stated that Avebury is currently closed, but the wider landscape is open in both halves of the WHS. The NT are focussing on protection due to heritage crime and countryside teams are still on site.

5.	AOB Panel members wanted to thank AS for all his work over the last 7 years.
6.	Date of Next Meeting April 22 nd 10am – 12pm. Action: SA to send placeholder.