Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Executive Board

Minutes

Tuesday 24 March 2026, 10:30am-12:30pm
Avebury Social Centre
Minutes agreed: 16.07.26

Chair: Sarah Nichols **SN** (WHS Executive Board Chair).

Present: Claire Selman **CS** (WHS Coordination Unit), Cllr Jill Turner **JillT** (Avebury WHS Parishes), Laura Corbett **LC** (Avebury WHS Farmers), Rachel Hosier **RH** (Stonehenge WHS Farmers), Cllr Alan Hagger **AH** (Stonehenge WHS Towns & Parishes), Jan Tomlin **JanT** (National Trust), Steve Bax **SB** (English Heritage Trust), Lynn Trigwell **LT** (Wiltshire Council), Howard Davies **HD** (Consultant, Guest).

Minutes: George Downs **GD** (WHS Coordination Unit)**.**

Apologies: Andy Miller (WHS Expert & Stakeholder Group Chair), Ross Simmonds (Historic England), Cllr Paul Sample (Wiltshire Council).

Abbreviations: United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organisation **UNESCO**, Coordination Unit **CU**, World Heritage Site **WHS**, National Lottery Heritage Fund **NLHF**, Outstanding Universal Value **OUV,** Management Plan **MP**, North Wessex Downs **NWD**, Executive Board **EB**, Expert & Stakeholder Group **ESG,** Terms of Reference **ToR,** International Council on Monuments & Sites **ICOMOS**, International Union for Conservation of Nature **IUCN**.

Item	Decisions
5.0	Accept ESG recommendation to agree the Delivery Plan for the WHS Management Plan Review.
6.0	EB minutes to generally be approved via email within six weeks.

Item	Action log	Lead	Completion / notes
3.0	Refine Action Plan for EB agreement via email, ahead of ESG circulation.	**CU**	**Consider at meeting**
4.0	Draft letter of support for EB members to review regarding parish requests on highways at Avebury.	**JillT**	**Completed**
4.0	Update partners regarding a meeting with Wiltshire Council about byways at Stonehenge and Avebury.	**CU**	**Meeting details forthcoming**

1.0	**Welcome**
1.1	**SN** thanked Hugh Morrison for his service to the partnership and welcomed RH as the new EB member representing Stonehenge Farmers. HD is attending to help embed the partnership governance and is not a permanent attendee. Apologies were noted (listed above). The meeting was recorded as quorate (two thirds). No declarations of interest were made.
1.2	Minutes of 14.11.25 meeting were agreed without amendment. Members reviewed the previous actions and noted the following: • A meeting with Wiltshire Council Highways will be discussed at agenda item 4.0. • EB Resourcing Subgroup ToR will be drafted following a working group meeting in April.
2.0	**Executive Board Member Roundtable**
	Members reflected on the networks, expertise, and resources their organisations could contribute to strengthening WHS partnership work. Contributions included: • **LT** noted Wiltshire Council networks/forums/working groups: farming, climate, nature recovery, forestry, and strategic partnerships including with government departments. • **JanT** noted that the National Trust Wiltshire Landscape portfolio is taking on additional

	areas with a focus on restoring nature, often with mutual benefits for archaeology. • **JillT** noted her background in health service development and roles in Royal Society for Public Health, University of the Third Age, and Marlborough Health & Wellbeing Group. • **AH** noted his background in criminal justice and social care, his role as a unitary Councillor, and links between Amesbury and parishes in the Stonehenge area. • **LC** noted the following: o Background in Avebury family farming and rural resource management. o Priorities include income diversification, re-investing countryside stewardship income back to the farm, and monitoring government funding. o Collective experiences of family innovation including establishing the UK's first farmer-led Nature Improvement Area group; key role in the roll out of farming cluster groups, and past engagement at ministerial level. o Cherhill to Chiseldon cluster is a highly influential, well-connected group and regularly meets locally. o Agronomists, ornithologists, and agri-environmentalists often support farming. o Successful agri-environmental planning cannot be too rigidly fixed to policy requirements. • **RH** noted the ability for farmers to be conduits to/from both visitors and residents, to pick up feedback and to identify issues early-on before they develop. • **SB** noted his commercial background forms part of his perspective at English Heritage: o Large team locally with wide expertise nationally: marketing, fundraising, sustainability, maintenance, conservation, etc. o Properties sit at the heart of communities, so priorities include strengthening local connections/engagement and learning from farmers and residents. o Fundraising advisers are adapting to the fact that NLHF now have a much more competitive "London & South" funding region. o Historic properties are seeking to be more financially self-sufficient by generating income, due to decreasing government grants. **HD** thanked members and noted how these contributions can inform how the emerging relationship between the EB and the ESG takes shape.
3.0	**WHS Partnership Action Plan**
	Members reviewed the draft Action Plan developed from the Theory of Change workshop. Subsequent work was undertaken by HD, SN and the CU. Discussion focused on: • Ensuring prioritisation (e.g., high–medium–low or colour-coded) with action verbs. • Annualising actions so the partnership can focus on achievable 2026-27 delivery; this would avoid an overly ambitious multi-year plan without clarity on sequencing. • Aligning Partnership actions and MP actions – distinguishing operational and strategic. • Including reporting and monitoring mechanisms and ensuring the plan is agile. • Need for shared outcomes and a framework that supports transparency with the ESG. • Ensuring the plan reflects organisational capacity, sequential dependencies, realistic timelines, and that any resourcing is for worthwhile projects.
ACTION	The CU will refine the Action Plan for EB agreement via email, ahead of circulation to the ESG.
4.0	**Report back from Expert & Stakeholder Group**
	ESG recommendations on highways & byways were presented: • The closure of the B4003 on heritage protection and safety grounds. • Pressing for effective traffic calming interventions in Avebury (A4, A4361). • Byways meeting between Stonehenge farmers & Highways Cabinet Member/Director.

ACTIONS	Members made the following contributions regarding highway & byway impacts: • Byway challenges include increasing antisocial behaviour, waste issues, and enforcement difficulties. Farmers remain concerned about safety, intimidation, and lack of progress on long-standing issues: there are already powers in place to halt/reduce antisocial behaviour and prohibited/illegal activities through proactive enforcement. WHS farmers urge these powers to be put into action. • Following evidence submitted to Wiltshire Council by byway stakeholders, a meeting is needed to ensure feedback and a progress update, also regarding the Ridgeway. • Community suggestions on achievable short-term measures could include temporary pedestrianisation of B4003 during solstice, noting that full closure may not be totally supported locally so further consideration is required. • Importance of a holistic approach to highways & byways management across the WHS. • EB can support parish requests, particularly in light of the A4 speed limit review. Actions included: • **JillT** will draft a letter of support for EB members to review regarding parish requests on highways at Avebury. • The CU will update partners regarding a meeting with Wiltshire Council about byways at Stonehenge and Avebury.
5.0	**WHS Management Plan Review**
DECISION	Members reviewed the Delivery Plan recommended by the ESG. Key points included: • EB's formal role in approving the draft MP before public and UNESCO consultation. • Clarified timescales, organisational responsibilities, and endorsement pathways, such as early Cabinet-level engagement with Wiltshire Council. • Staggered agreement processes for sections of the draft MP. • Historic England guidance and other recent WHS MPs will inform drafting. • The MP Review is the CU's main focus of work. EB members accepted the ESG recommendation to agree the Delivery Plan.
6.0	**Executive Board Minutes Agreement Procedure**
DECISION	To enable the ESG ahead of each meeting to have sight of agreed EB minutes, EB members accepted that minutes will generally be approved via email within six weeks.
7.0	**AOB**
	Items of Any Other Business included: • Marlborough Downs nature event on 23.04.26, 6pm, Marlborough Rugby Club. • Upcoming restructuring within Wiltshire Council following budget approval. • Summer solstice coincides with Amesbury's three-day carnival.
8.0	**Confirmation of Actions / Next Steps**
	Decisions and actions were confirmed (see tables above).
9.0	**Next Executive Board Meeting**
	Thursday 16 July 2026, 10:30–12:30, venue details will follow.

Meeting ended: 12:30pm