

Date: 28 September 2021

Report: NON ATTENDANCE OF A MEMBER AT MEETINGS

Purpose of the report

1. To seek Members' instructions in respect of non - attendance of a Member, Mr Ian McPherson, at meetings of the Planning Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Members are asked to determine:
 - a) whether in respect of Standing Orders, they wish to take any action regarding Mr McPherson's non - attendance, and
 - b) whether to bring Mr McPherson's non - attendance to the attention of the Secretary of State at Defra (Mr McPherson's appointing body).

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

Background

4. The Authority's Standing Orders 3.2 [b] provide that:

'...if a Member is absent from meetings of the Authority, or a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Authority for three consecutive meetings of the Authority or the particular Committee or Sub-Committee, the Chief Executive shall bring the failure to attend those meetings to the attention of the Member and to the person or body which appointed the Member unless the Authority is satisfied that circumstances do not warrant that course of action.'

5. Mr McPherson last attended a meeting of the Planning Committee on the 4th May 2020. Since that date he has missed 3 meetings of the Committee.
6. Having contacted Mr McPherson to discuss this paper, he has explained that, in the light of the Covid pandemic, he is facing difficulties in attending any indoor meeting to

meet his current work commitments – including those of the National Park Authority. This is solely down to his personal health issues in managing his response to the Covid pandemic and does not apply to remote meetings.

7. Mr McPherson is keen to continue to carry out his role as a full Member of the Authority as soon as practicable, including remaining as a parish appointee to the Planning Committee. His hope is that, over the coming weeks, the impact of the pandemic is lessened in order that his own ability to move around more freely will enable his return to a fuller involvement in the work of the Authority. In his capacity as Member Champion for the Natural Environment, he continues to attend meetings of the Land Management Section and Conservation & Community Directorate Management Team meetings and meetings of the Biodiversity and Woodland Forums, as well as continuing to chair meetings of the Farming & Land Management Policy Group, all of which have so far been held by virtual conferencing.

Conclusion

8. Members are requested to review Mr McPherson's non - attendance at meetings of the Planning Committee and to recommend whether or not it be brought to the attention of Defra - his appointing body.

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

3 Sept 2021

Background documents:

[Standing Orders of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority](#)