

*Alliance
for
National Parks
Cymru*



*Cynghrair
Parciau
Cenedlaethol
Cymru*

The Alliance for National Parks Cymru

(hereafter referred to as the 'Alliance')

Background.

Despite the lengthy negotiations and detailed work by all parties to establish CNP Cymru, it became clear that, given the wide ranging legislative and policy proposals being made by the Welsh Government which could affect the position of the Welsh National Parks, it was necessary for a body based in Wales to take on the mantle of coordinating the voluntary sector's response and in particular the delivery of the campaign 'National Parks Matter'. As a consequence, the three Park Societies and CPRW became convinced that a new body rooted in Wales was required, to defend and promote National Parks and AONBs in Wales. In establishing this body, it was hoped that it could work closely with NAAONBs in Wales and also with CNP, as a companion to, but separate from it.

Proposal.

As a consequence, at a meeting of CNP Cymru on 25 February 2014, a proposal was put to:-

1. establish a new independent Alliance to defend and promote National Parks and Protected Landscapes in Wales; the body to be titled Alliance for National Parks Cymru.
2. The three Welsh Park Societies and CPRW to draft terms of reference for the new body, to be considered at an early meeting of CNP's partner organisations currently represented on CNP Cymru.
3. CNP be requested to disband CNP Cymru.

With the exception of the abstention of at least one of the CNP Trustees, the proposal was passed unanimously. None voted against.

Introduction

Whilst representing the interests of both the National Parks and AONBs in Wales, the Alliance recognises that National Parks and other Protected Landscapes including the marine environment and the Heritage Coasts are different in certain respects not least by the way in which they are governed according to different statutory legislation. This may be reflected in the Alliance's approach according to the circumstances prevailing at the time. All are, however, regarded as special places comprising extremely important parts of Wales' National Assets and therefore fall within the Alliance's remit.

Terms of reference

1. Mission

The Alliance's mission is to:-

- conserve, protect, enhance & celebrate the three National Parks and other Protected Landscapes of Wales
- ensure that the National parks and other Protected Landscapes can be enjoyed by all, both now and in the future, whether they be living in them, working in them or just visiting them

2. Aims

In furtherance of its mission in respect of National Parks and other Protected Landscapes, the Alliance aims to:

- promote a greater understanding by demonstrating the sustainable benefits they can bring to the health of society, the environment and the economy of Wales
- facilitate greater appreciation of and access to them
- strengthen the support and challenge threats to them
- encourage society and Government to become more committed to look after them

3. Purposes of the Alliance

In respect of National parks and other Protected Landscapes:

- To be a strong watchdog and advocacy body to protect and promote them.
- To build a wider partnership understanding of and support for them 'through membership of the Alliance
- To represent a collective, independent voice for voluntary sector interests in them.
- To lead and represent the collective interests of the Alliance's members and stakeholders in Wales for them, advising upon and influencing policy at the highest political levels, including the Welsh Government
- To develop positive relationships with key stakeholders, funders and the wider public to support the work of the Alliance in Wales, in particular with the NPAs, NRW, CNP, National Parks Wales and Welsh Government.

4. Its work

The work of the Alliance will be guided by a plan to be agreed annually; the plan will set out:

- The issues to be addressed during the year and the relative priority to be given to each issue
- How each issue will be addressed [including PR, publicity, etc]
- Who will lead on and who will participate in delivering individual tasks
- The resources required
- Partnership working required
- An ongoing process for monitoring and review, throughout the year; such process to include both internal and external developments so as to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility for the Alliance to respond appropriately to changing circumstances as and when they occur.

5. Membership

The Alliance has been formed because there are very real tasks to perform. It is not merely a ‘talking shop’. Therefore, membership of the Alliance implies a commitment from member organisations to work together in partnership towards common goals as efficiently as possible by harnessing all available resources and expertise.

Founding Members of the Alliance

- the 3 Welsh National Park Societies, represented by the Chairs together with other members nominated by each Society (Brecon Beacons Parks Society, Cymdeithas Eryri Snowdonia Society, Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park)
- CPRW
- National Association for AONB’s

Subscribing and co-opted Members of the Alliance

- The Chair (if not already a member in his/her own right)
- National Trust Wales
- Ramblers Wales
- YHA Wales
- Any other appropriate Wales based body which has a vested interest in National Parks and other Protected Landscapes

Co-opted Advisors & Stakeholders

- Co-opted National Park Authority advisors from the 3 Welsh National Park Authorities
- Invited stakeholder bodies and advisors e.g. Natural Resources Wales, Campaign for National Parks, National Parks Wales.

6. Voting Rights

The Chair shall endeavour to determine the collective view of Alliance members by consensus. In the event that a vote becomes necessary, voting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote.

The Chair.

The Chair is entitled to one vote except in the case of an equality of votes when the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

Founding Members

Each appointed representative present (up to a maximum of two per founding member) is entitled to one vote.

Subscribing and co-opted Members

Each subscribing and co-opted member organisation of the Alliance has one vote;

Co-opted Advisors & Stakeholders

Co-opted Advisors & Stakeholders have observer status for the purpose of voting.

7. Executive Committee

The 'Founding Members' of the Alliance, together with the Chair, will form the Executive Committee who will be responsible for the affairs of the Alliance. They may co-opt additional members should they so wish.

The Executive Committee may co-opt additional support to assist in the aims, specific projects or the day to day running of the Alliance, its financial affairs and any of its Campaigns. The financial affairs will be conducted in accordance with the Alliance's Financial Protocol.

The Executive Committee shall meet as and when required and generally not less than four times a year and three shall form a quorum.

8. Sub-Committees

The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees and co-opt additional support to serve on them for such purposes as they think desirable. Sub-committees shall not have plenary powers and shall report to the Executive committee at such times as is considered necessary by either the Sub-committee or decided by the Executive.

The Executive will appoint a Chair of such Sub-committee who will be responsible for reporting the views of the Sub-committee to the Executive, as appropriate.

If necessary, voting in a Sub-committee will be in accordance with the principles laid down in 6. Above.

9. The Chair of the Alliance

A Chair will be elected annually by the Alliance's Executive who, if circumstances permit, will normally consult with the membership of the Alliance. Upon election, the Chair will become a member of the Executive if not already on the Executive in his/her own right.

10. Meetings

- Meetings will be held as and when required but generally at least every four months.
- An annual schedule of meetings and venues will be agreed in advance, if practicable
- meetings will review progress against agreed shared priorities and objectives

N.B. As a new organisation, initially the resources available to the Alliance will be those contributed solely by its members. Each of the 'Founding Members' have already agreed in one form or another, a significant annual contribution and it is hoped that other members ('Subscribing Members') will also wish to make an annual subscription/contribution to help towards, amongst other things, the considerable costs of hiring appropriate meeting rooms, etc.

In due course, it is the aspiration of the founding members that the Alliance should achieve charitable status.

It should also be noted that any member organisations named in these Terms of Reference includes any subsequent changes to the name or structure of that organisation unless the Alliance considers it no longer appropriate.