Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Board Paper

4th December 2014

Paper Title	**The Morgan Parry Foundation**
Paper Reference:	NRW B B 88.14
Paper Sponsored By:	Emyr Roberts (Chief Executive)
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Purpose of Paper:	To update NRW Board members on the establishment of a charity, to be named The Morgan Parry Foundation, in commemoration of Morgan Parry contribution to the Environment Sector and to Sustainability in its broader sense.
Recommendation:	i. That NRW Board confirms that NRW should now make a donation of £5,000, as agreed at the NRW Board meeting on the 12th February 2014 ii. To agree that NRW takes further steps to develop an internal approach to recognising the contribution of teams and individuals to increasing and improving the use of Welsh language within the organisation.
Decision Required:	To agree and endorse the recommendations.

Impact:	**Impact on the environment**: The use of funds by The Morgan Parry Foundation, as set out in this paper, will encourage more people to adopt more environmentally sustainable ways of living. **Impact on the economy**: The use of funds by The Morgan Parry Foundation, as set out in this paper, will encourage more people to adopt more economically sustainable ways of living that acknowledge and reflect the need to live within environmental limits.

	Impact on the community: The use of funds by The Morgan Parry Foundation, as set out in this paper, will encourage more people to research, communicate, understand and adopt ways of living more sustainably within our current and future communities. It will also aid greater understanding of the integral role of cultural aspects in the way people choose to engage with and benefit from the natural environment. **Impact on knowledge**: The use of funds by The Morgan Parry Foundation, as set out in this paper, will encourage more people to research and share knowledge about ways of living more sustainably. These will help people, communities, organisations and decision makers make better decisions fir current and future generations.

THE MORGAN PARRY FOUNDATION

Issues and background

1. The NRW Board agreed in principle, at its meeting on the 12th February 2014 to donate £5,000 to a fund which was established in memory of Morgan Parry and administered, at least initially, by the North Wales Wildlife Trust. The NRW Board requested further information on the purpose and governance of the fund before committing to transfer the funds.

2. As work on developing the fund has been continuing in recent months, NRW has also reflected and considered that it would be appropriate to develop a way of celebrating the contribution being made by NRW staff, year on year, to increase and enhance the use of the Welsh language in the workplace. This subject was close to Morgan's heart and is also important to Morgan's family.

3. This paper provides NRW Board members with an update on the development of the fund and requests Board agreement to commit to making a donation of £5,000 to The Morgan Parrry Foundation, via a Special Payment under our Framework Document with WG. It also asks NRW Board to support the idea of acknowledging Morgan Parry's contribution to the cultural aspects of Welsh culture and landscapes, as part of a wider suite of proposals being considered at the moment.

Background and Context

4. The late Morgan Parry passed away on 4th January 2014, after a short and brave battle against cancer. He was a passionate advocate for the natural environment and culture of Wales and one of his great personal missions was to encourage people to adopt more sustainable ways of living. He was appointed to the NRW Board from 1st November 2012, and was Chairman of the Countryside Council for Wales from March 2010.

5. To commemorate Morgan Parry's contribution, a fund was set up in his name shortly after his death. Dr.Roger Thomas, former Chief Executive of Countryside Council for Wales, has been responsible for developing the thinking about how this fund could be developed and governed.

In its 12th February 2014 NRW Board meeting members agreed to donate £5,000 to the Fund. The Board however requested further information on the Trust's purpose, and governance before transferring the donation to the fund.

6. The remainder of the paper mainly sets out the information requested by NRW Board to allow it to commit £5,000 to the Fund. The information on the Foundation's purpose, objectives, governance and finances is based on the final draft of the Morgan Parry Foundation Articles of Association which will be confirmed at the meeting of the Trustees before the end of November 2014.

Developing an approach to make effective use of the fund set up in memory of Morgan Parry.

Determining the best model for future use of the fund.

7. Having considered different models for establishing a charity, D.R. Thomas, in consultation with Jane Davidson, WWF Cymru and the family of the late Morgan Parry, and through informal discussion with NRW, is proposing to establish a trust which will be called The Morgan Parry Foundation.

Purpose and activities of the Foundation

8. The purpose of the Foundation will be to encourage the people of Wales to move towards living within environmental limits, for the public benefit of current and future generations.

The Foundation will achieve its objectives by:

(i) promoting competitions on specific themes chosen by the Trustees and within the broad topic of 'living within environmental limits'.

(ii) Targeting the competitions, at the Trustees' discretion in any given year, at specific age groups such as those in school, those in apprenticeships or those in further or higher education.

(iii) Awarding a grant(s) to the winner(s) of the competition(s) judged by an Adjudicating Committee to be the best work submitted; this grant to will be used solely for the purpose of undertaking research to further public understanding of reducing the impact of our lives on the planet.

(iv) disseminating the research findings widely, with the objective of advancing knowledge and understanding of the general public so that this guides their future decisions and actions.

(v) The Trustees reserve the right to achieve the charitable objects of the Foundation through other means.

Its powers will enable it to raise funds through donations, sponsored activities and grant applications and may work with other organisations to achieve the Trust's objects. Trustees will not have the powers to borrow money or to buy or sell property, other than property donated to the Trust.

Governance arrangements

8 (i.). **Trustees**: The Trust will comprise six Trustees, initially appointed through their interest in establishing The Morgan Parry Foundation and with the approval of the family of the late Morgan Parry. Trustees will initially be appointed for four years, with a possible extension for a further four year period.

New Trustees will be appointed from persons having an interest in sustainable living and with skills that have been identified as requirements by the board of Trustees.

The trustees of The Morgan Parry foundation will meet a minimum of twice per year, with the first meeting to be held no later than 30 November 2014. The Trustees will appoint, at their first meeting, one from within their number to act as Chair and one to act as Secretary-Treasurer. A meeting shall be quorate if a minimum of two trustees are present. Each Trustee will have one vote, with the Chair having an additional casting vote for use if and when necessary. Other than the annual meeting, and in keeping with our charitable purpose, all other trustee meetings will be held via audio conference.

8. (ii).**The Annual Adjudicating Panel** : An annual Adjudicating Committee of three members will be appointed by the Trustees from persons with knowledge and expertise in the specific subject of that year's competition(s).

8. (iii) **Finances :** The financial matters of the Trust will be managed from day to day by the Secretary-Treasurer, who will be one of the two signatories – alongside the Chair – of the bank account. The Trust's bank account will be placed with a bank focused on ethical investment. Financial accounts will be presented to each Trust.

8. (iii) **Conflict of interest**: Trustees will not derive any personal financial benefit from their association with the Trust other than the reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in pursuing the business of the Foundation.

8. (iv) **Amendments and dissolution** : Any amendments to the Trust Deed and in the case of the need arising to dissolve the Trust, the Trustees will be guided by Charity commission guidelines.

Next Steps

9. **Confirmation of Articles and launch of Foundation and fund.**
The articles will be confirmed at first meeting of the trustees of the Morgan Parry Foundation, which is to be held before the end of November 2014.

10**. Launch of the Foundation.**
The Trustees will discuss the launch of the Foundation at its first meeting. NRW will support this communication activity, as one of the main funders of the Foundation.

11. **Increase the current size of the fund, prior to launch**:
Both WWF and Welsh Government made a verbal commitments early in 2014 that they would contribute to the fund, have been awaiting the developments outlined above regarding the purpose and governance of the Foundation.
12, **Develop NRW's own internal and lasting tribute to Morgan Parry:**
At this stage we are considering developing an approach that recognises team and individual contribution to enhancing the use of the Welsh language within our organisational activities, with a view to launching this in the New Year as part of the staff recognition scheme.

Risks

13. The risks associated with donating to this fund are minimal. The initial trustees responsible for managing the fund will be Jane Davidson as Chair and D.R. Thomas as Treasurer. Both are experienced individuals and are personally committed to ensuring the

Foundation is a fitting tribute to Morgan Parry. NRW has decided that no staff members will be involved with the Foundation at Trustee level because of the potential long term impact on people's workloads and conflict of interest. However, individual members of staff may serve on annual adjudicating panels for the competitions, if invited to do so, and with agreement of line managers.

Financial and staff Implications

14. NRW's one-off contribution of £5,000 to the Morgan Parry Foundation will be made through a special payment under the Framework Agreement with Welsh Government before the Foundation is launched.

15. The internal NRW project to commemorate Morgan Parry, is currently being explored and will need further development before it can be costed and communicated effectively.

Communications

16. Communication and marketing will be crucial for the success and effectiveness of the fund, and NRW will support the publicity given to the fund.

Equality Impact Assessment

17. Equality issues will be fully reflected in the work of the Foundation, given its core sustainability purpose.

Recommendation

18. NRW Board agrees to make a one-off contribution of £5,000 to the Morgan Parry Foundation, via a special payment under the framework agreement with Welsh Government.

19. NRW Board agreed that staff should develop a specific project within NRW to commemorate Morgan Parry, focused primarily on Welsh language and culture, as part of a staff recognition scheme.