

North York Moors National Park Authority

21 September 2015

On the Record

1. **Committee Dates Jan-Jun 2016**

A copy of the Provisional Committee Meeting Dates, January-June 2016, for Members' approval appear at **Appendix 1**. Members are also asked to note the two dates shown in red, which may or may not be used for training/information sharing purposes.

2. **Committee Membership Vacancies – 2015/16**

A list of Committee Membership vacancies for 2015/16 appear at **Appendix 2**. The Authority requires one additional Unitary/District or NYCC member for each of the Committee vacancies shown in red, plus one additional member for the outside body organisation as indicated. Any relevant member wishing to fill any of these vacancies should make it known to the Chair either prior to or during the discussion of this item. A vote will take place if required.

3. **Minutes from National Parks England AGM and June Meeting**

The NPE AGM and June meeting took place on 10 June 2015 the minutes from these two meetings appear at **Appendix 3**.

4. **Minutes from the North York Moors Local Access Forum**

The North York Moors Local Access Forum met on the 9 June 2015 the minutes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 4**.

5. **Notes from the Conservation & Land Management Forum**

The CLM Forum met on 9 July 2015 the notes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 5**.

6. **Draft Minutes National Parks UK AGM & Executive meeting**

The NP UK AGM & Executive meeting took place on 8 June 2015 the draft minutes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 6**.

7. **Draft Minutes UK ANPA Executive Meeting**

The UK ANPA Executive meeting took place on 5 February 2015 the draft minutes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 7**.

9. **Local Government North Yorkshire, York & East Riding Housing Board**

Since the last Housing Board report tabled at the June NPA meeting, Members received an update on developments in affordable housing, the emerging Housing Strategy and our role in this work at Planning Committee in July. The Housing Strategy is to be launched on 14 September followed by a Board meeting and an update on this will be tabled at the next NPA Meeting in December”.

Alison Fisher
September 2015

10. Miscellaneous Items

a) Public Rights of Way Legal Events

1. Diversion of Footpath Farndale East (Mercer's Bridge)
2. Diversion of Footpath 8 Nawton (West Sleightholmedale Farm)

Background

Letters to Legal Services on:

Date	File Reference
1. 7/08/2015	5050/5/12/DIV 21
2. 24/06/2015	5050/5/26/DIV 8

b) Emergency Closure of Public Footpath

Public Footpath 312017 Eskdaleside cum UGGLEBARNBY (Zetland House) from 7 July 2015 for 21 days due to a large fallen tree and restricted access for clearance. An alternative route was available via two public footpaths, Tom Bell and Seggimire Lanes.

c) Public Path Orders taking effect after their Date of Confirmation

ID	Reference	Confirmed	Took effect on	Description
1377	3/27/DIV 53	4/3/2015	14/05/2015	Diversion of Footpaths 3 & 5 Newholm cum Dunsley (The Granary)
1339	5/13/MOD	13/03/2015	14/05/2015	Diversion of Bridleway 10 & Footpath 510 Farndale West (Horn End)

d) Gates/Stiles Authorised under s 147 HA 80

1. Stile on Fylingdales FP 39 at Croft Farm Grid Reference NZ 9410 0501
2. Gate on Fylingdales FP 39 at Croft Farm Grid Reference NZ 9401 0503
3. 4' gate on Danby FP 511 south-east of Clitherbecks Farm at NZ 71580 09938

Contact Officer:
Karl Gerhardsen
Head of Recreation and Park Management
Tel: 01439 772700

Provisional Committee Dates Jan - Jun 2016

Meeting	Date of Meeting
January	
Planning Site Visit	Wednesday 6 January
Planning Committee	Thursday 14 January
February	
FRAS Committee	Monday 1 February
Planning Site Visit	Friday 5 February
Planning Committee	Thursday 18 February
March	
Planning Site Visit	Friday 4 March
Members Training Day	Wednesday 9 March
Planning Committee	Thursday 17 March
NPA	Monday 21 March
April	
Planning Site Visit	Friday 1 April
PLUG	Tuesday 12 April
Planning Committee	Thursday 21 April
ARB Forum	Monday 25 April
Members Evening Seminar	Date tbc
May	
Planning Site Visit	Friday 6 May
CLM	Thursday 12 May
Planning Committee	Thursday 19 May
June	
Planning Site Visit	Friday 3 June
FRAS Committee	Monday 6 June
Local Access Forum	Tuesday 14 June
Planning Committee	Thursday 16 June
NPA/AGM	Monday 27 June

Urgency Committee

Membership

Ex Officio Members: The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority

	Secretary Of State	Secretary Of State (Parish)	Unitary/District	NYCC
Names		Mr Sanderson Mrs Dent		Mrs Patmore Vacant
No Of Members	2		2	
Total Membership	4			
Quorum	3 (includes at least one Secretary of State and one Local Authority Member)			

Development Plan Working Group

Membership

Ex-Officio Members: The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority and Chair of Planning Committee

	Secretary Of State	Secretary Of State (Parish)	Unitary/District	NYCC
Names	Ms Oswald Mr Walker Mrs Fisher	Mrs Dent	Mr Hugill Mr Bailey	Mr Griffiths Vacant Mrs Moorhouse
No Of Members	4		5	
Total Membership	9			
Quorum	3 (includes at least one Secretary of State and one Local Authority Member)			

Management Plan Working Group

Membership

	Secretary Of State	Secretary Of State (Parish)	Unitary/District	NYCC
Names	Mr Walker	Mr Bowes Mrs Dent	Mr Hugill	Mrs Moorhouse Mrs Patmore Vacant
No: of Members	3		4	
Total Membership	5 Members plus the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority			
Quorum	3 (includes at least one Secretary of State and one Local Authority Member)			

- **North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum Executive** (3 representatives and 1 substitute) – Mr Jeffels, Mr Dick, **Vacant** (Sub – Mr Atkinson)

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND
AGM**

**Minutes of meeting held on 10 June 2015 between 9.00-9.20am at the Forest Lodge Hotel,
Lyndhurst, New Forest**

Present		
<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>
Peter Harper	John Packman	Broads Authority
Andrea Davis	Kevin Bishop	Dartmoor NPA
Mike McKinley	Nigel Stone	Exmoor NPA
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre	Richard Leafe	Lake District NPA
Jim Bailey (Chair)		New Forest NPA
John Riddle	Tony Gates	North York Moors NPA
Lesley Roberts	Sarah Fowler	Northumberland NPA
Margaret Paren	Trevor Beattie	Peak District NPA
Peter Charlesworth	David Butterworth	South Downs NPA
		Yorkshire Dales NPA
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Paul Hamblin (minutes)	National Parks England	
Amanda Brace (AB)	National Parks England	

AGM

Item		Agreed Actions
1.	Welcome and introductions The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies Apologies were received from Jacquie Burgess (Broads Authority), Alison Barnes (New Forest), Andy Wilson (North York Moors), Meriel Harrison (NPE)	
3.	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	Election of Chair for National Parks England Jim Bailey was re-elected as Chair unopposed, with Andrea Davis proposing and Peter Harper seconding the motion.	
5.	Election of Deputy Chair(s) for National Parks England Lesley Roberts was elected as Deputy Chair, having been proposed by Mike McKinley with Andrea Davis seconding the motion. Peter Harper was also elected Deputy Chair, having been proposed by Peter Charlesworth with the motion seconded by Jim Bailey.	
6.	Approve minutes of the last AGM The minutes were approved .	
7.	Approval of Stephen Moulds of Moulds & Co. as NPE's Auditors PH explained that Moulds & Co. had been the auditor for National Parks England for a	

	<p>number of years. There had been no problems with them over this time; they were familiar with our accounts, and had the necessary certificates. The recommendation to agree Moulds & Co. as auditors for the accounts was agreed. PH noted that the arrangement would be reviewed again in the Autumn to ensure continuing value for money.</p>	<p>PH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Approve NPE's Accounts 2014/15</p> <p>PH introduced the covering paper and noted that NPE was due to set a balanced budget over the four year period. The Accounts covered the Unrestricted Fund and two Restricted Funds. NPE staff have continued to make financial savings. Funds in the <i>Love Your National Parks</i> Restricted Fund are already allocated for 15/16, whilst funds in the <i>Income Generation</i> Restricted Fund would be spent through the 'See National Parks' initiative, subject to some further testing of the business model proposed. The accounts were approved.</p> <p>PH thanked the North York Moors NPA and its staff for their continued assistance and provision of financial services to National Parks England.</p>	

**Minutes of meeting held on 10 June 2015 between 9.20-12.30pm at Forest Lodge Hotel,
Lyndhurst, New Forest**

Items listed in order of discussion

Present		
<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>
Peter Harper (PHr)	John Packman	Broads Authority
Andrea Davis	Kevin Bishop	Dartmoor NPA
Mike McKinley	Nigel Stone	Exmoor NPA
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre	Richard Leafe	Lake District NPA
Jim Bailey (Chair)		New Forest NPA
John Riddle	Tony Gates	North York Moors NPA
Lesley Roberts	Sarah Fowler	Northumberland NPA
Margaret Paren	Trevor Beattie	Peak District NPA
Peter Charlesworth	David Butterworth	South Downs NPA
		Yorkshire Dales NPA
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Paul Hamblin (PH) (minutes)	National Parks England	
Amanda Brace (AB)	National Parks England	
<u>Apologies</u>		
Meriel Harrison	National Parks England	
Jacquie Burgess	Broads Authority	
Andy Wilson	North York Moors NPA	
Alison Barnes	New Forest NPA	

Item		Agreed Actions
9.	Approve minutes of meeting held on 04 February 2015 The minutes were approved . All actions had been completed or were on the agenda.	
10.	Matters arising There were no matters arising.	
11.	Engaging with the new Government / Parliament PH introduced the paper that covered changes in the Government, Ministers and Parliament following the General Election – all of which were important context for discussions over the Spending Review. <u>New Government and Manifesto Commitments</u> The paper provided analysis on the current political drivers, and on the implications of the commitments contained in the Conservative party manifesto for National Parks. PHr encouraged NPE not to get drawn into divisive debates on hunting/ Bovine TB. Whilst noting the opportunities to work with Government, the Board focused on three potentially damaging areas. Fracking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views were expressed that drilling for shale gas was likely to be a new and controversial topic that some NPAs would inevitably need to respond to because of local calls or planning applications. Others counselled against taking a public position on what is a polarised debate. NPE's position should be led by the environmental impacts of fracking from surrounding areas rather than an academic argument over whether something is 'in' or 'under' a National Park. 	

- The need to protect underwater aquifers was critical, though the lead responsibility for this lies with Environment Agency (not NPAs).
- Positions adopted with regard to this development type could have wider implications for other developments proposed for under national parks.
- Individual NPAs would consider individual applications for exploration on their own merits, but NPE did have a role in influencing the framework within which that happened. The South Downs had had early experience of dealing with these types of application. They had devised a number of criteria that could be applied. MP offered to share the legal advice they had received on this to other NPAs.
- The Board **agreed** that NPE would engage with DECC and CLG but in a private advisory capacity, pointing out the potential environmental impacts from shale gas exploration and the need, therefore, for developments outside National Parks that involve fracturing underneath a National Park to be considered against the major development test.

MP

Transport

- The manifesto included commitments for major road expansion. PH reminded the Board of NPE's Policy Position Statement on *Transport* that had previously been agreed by the Board. The intention was to follow the approach in this (such as new roads in NPs being an option of last resort) in national discussions, but not to comment on the merits of individual schemes. This was **agreed**.

Housing

- There was a need for NPE to adopt a position regarding 'Right to Buy' that included an exception for small rural sites owned by Housing Associations – in a similar way that NPE had approached previous proposals for barn conversions.
- This is a rural, not just National Park issue – though the effects might be more acute (or disproportionate) in National Parks.
- Some CLA members were apoplectic over the losses that they would experience from previously releasing sites for development under a more constrained policy environment.
- NPE could align itself with CLA, but it would be important to offer something positive to Ministers at the same time, perhaps around self-build in smaller settlements.
- The Right to Buy policy has drawn criticism from Housing Associations, where high value homes would be bought, and in all probability would deliver low value housing elsewhere. By leading to the fracturing of a HA's property portfolio it would also drive up their management costs.
- There was no tie-in between where the houses are sold, and where the proceeds are spent, meaning most will be spent on low value housing in urban areas. There should be a requirement for the proceeds to be spent in rural areas, and National Parks in particular.
- The language used was important – for some NPs, shortages of local-needs housing was the key issue, whilst for others it was lack of affordable housing.
- The Board **agreed** that we would liaise with CLA and Housing Associations on Right to Buy; collate data on the number of properties potentially affected in National Parks; keep Defra Minister Rory Stewart MP informed of the implications; and develop a package as a basis for discussion with Government.

NPE Narrative for the Budget and Spending Review

The Board examined how to position NPAs in the forthcoming discussions with Defra over budget decisions. PH explained that the NPE Office was liaising with NPA and Defra Communication teams to encourage Ministers to visit National Parks. We were also seeking to increase positive news coverage of NPA activity, and the publication of two NPE publications with (hopefully) Ministerial support should help.

The paper included a Draft Narrative that the Board were invited to comment on. This had been developed by NPOs and PH thanked them for their support in driving this forward. It was a high level document to help frame discussions with Government, but in addition significant more detailed work was being undertaken by NPOs to justify its contents.

There followed a wide ranging discussion. Specifically in relation to the narrative:

- It was important the narrative didn't pull its punches in terms of damage to the landscape from future cuts
- Reference to continuing independent NPAs with planning powers was welcomed.
- The narrative could be strengthened by referring to the need for a plan to address future financial challenges. Such a Plan need not be spelt out in the narrative, but should include (for example) a commitment to a 5 year budget.
- The narrative should also recognise that National Parks are 'much loved' and major drivers for the economy,

Other wider points made were:

- The members of one NPA had already indicated they felt the NPA could not withstand any further cuts, and others expressed the need to be more bullish.
- In contrast, discussions with Defra Arms Length Bodies suggested they all appreciated that the backdrop was of further financial austerity and cuts. Whilst some Directors argued the need to be realistic in terms of the challenges facing the country, others challenged the minute contribution cuts to NPG would make.
- EA and (to a lesser extent) NE dominate Defra's budget, but thereafter NPAs collectively are a larger fish in a smaller pond. We should, therefore, expect to be having private conversations with Defra Ministers like the other larger bodies.
- Generally we have a good story to tell to Defra in terms of how we have managed the cuts to date, but they need to recognise that we need time for other actions that might realise other sources of revenue to come on stream.
- One of the ways Defra could help would be enter into discussions with HMT on 'invest to save' proposals for the NPAs. This would be a positive message for NPAs, and for Defra to go to Treasury with.
- Not all NPAs are in the same situation of vulnerability. Collectively, we should be aiming for "thriveability" not just "survivability" of NPAs.
- There was support for adopting a position that because it takes time for these income generating activities to produce new revenue, NPAs should be protected from cuts in the short term. But that needs to include a different dialogue with Defra about how NPAs can become more resilient, and less reliant on NPG.
- There was criticism of the late notice by Defra of the level of NPG for 15/16 and the lurch year by year which was de-stabilizing for small independent organisations like NPAs.
- It's important that Defra feel the need to find a solution to NPA funding rather than just adopting a laissez-faire attitude.
- There is an issue of scale and time. NPAs are small scale and couldn't cope with significant cuts. They need time to change; and Ministers need to understand that the management of the landscape is a long term job (not turned on and off like a tap) and therefore needs a long term commitment.
- PH gave an update on discussions with Defra regarding the potential for NPAs to gain a Power of Competence or Functionally Specific Power of Competence. Lord de Mauley, in a personal capacity, had agreed to seek a meeting with the relevant CLG Minister to discuss this prior to Committee stage of the *Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill*.
- Mixed views were expressed as to whether Natural England might be supportive towards NPAs in terms of NPG.
- Directors shared thoughts on who they would approach with the narrative.
- Ultimately this would be a Ministerial decision. NPE needed to be clear what our ask is; to demonstrate public support for it; and help others to convey it.

After further discussion, three broad areas of activity were **agreed**:

- 1) We need to secure political will to look after National Parks. To achieve this, Chairs need to engage in the political process using the agreed narrative. This would also include working with independent partners who can convey why National Parks are valuable and act as our advocates.
- 2) We need to plan for National Parks to become more financially resilient given the reality of austerity. To achieve this, NPOs need to engage with Defra officials looking at scale, changes, and longer term approaches.
- 3) We need to engage NPA Members and staff. To achieve this, Chairs and CEOs would need to support this work back at base.

	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>It was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs agreed with the principles set out in the narrative in the paper. • NS and PH would revise the narrative in light of the discussion and circulate to Chairs/ NPOs. Chairs agreed that comments would be to wordsmith it, rather than challenge the principles within it. • Chairs would also be asked to send to the NPE Office an explanation of how they intended to use the narrative. • Chairs/ NPOs were asked to review Annex III – MPs with Government Positions whose constituencies fall inside National Parks and provide any corrections to PH. <p>The Chair reinforced the importance of all keeping to a consistent message. And of sharing intelligence with the NPE office, including of what Directors are doing – in order to help ensure our efforts are joined up and effective.</p>	<p>NS / PH</p> <p>All Chairs</p> <p>All Chairs</p> <p>All Chairs</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Working with National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB)</p> <p>PH introduced the paper that highlighted recent engagement between NPE and the NAAONB. The relationship was generally good at a local level but Defra Ministers were perhaps less aware of the significant joint working and engagement at a national level too. Following a meeting of the Chairs of NPE and NAAONB it was recommended that a Joint Accord be prepared. The draft Accord was agreed by the Board. PH would communicate that to NAAONB. The Chair commented that the Accord looked at our similarities, without compromising our differences. It presented a powerful message of NPAs and AONBs being on the same page, where we can.</p> <p>AB then introduced a new publication, <i>So Much More than the View – England’s AONBs and National Parks</i>. This had been born out of joint meetings with the NAAONB and was a first tangible demonstration of joint working, as set out in the Accord. It would be launched on 17 June, and AB was working with NPA and AONB Communicators on a co-ordinated plan to generate media coverage. The publication had already been received by the Secretary of State. The Board complemented AB on the publication, and the Chair encouraged NPAs to get involved and support the launch of it.</p>	<p>PH</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>National Parks and Health – current activity and opportunities</p> <p>The item was for information. KB asked about plans for consulting NPAs in advance of committing NPAs to providing any match funding as part of a bid to the BIG lottery. PH agreed to discuss the need for prior discussion with NPAs with the author for the first stage of the partnership bid.</p>	<p>PH</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>NPE Executive Director’s Update</p> <p>The paper which gave an update on delivery of the NPE Business Plan was received without discussion.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p>Notes of E-NPOG Meeting 04.03.15</p> <p>The notes were received without discussion.</p>	
<p>16.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The Chair noted that this would be John Riddle’s last Board meeting as he was stepping down as Northumberland NPA Chair at their forthcoming AGM. The Chair thanked JR for his enthusiasm and commitment to support National Parks and NPE over many years. JR indicated he will continue to be a NNPA Member; and thanked everyone for their</p>	

	<p>friendship and efforts to protect National Parks.</p> <p>The Chair also expressed the Board's appreciation to OC and ABa for all their hard work in facilitating three very full, educational, and enjoyable days.</p>	
<p>17.</p>	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>The date for the next Board meeting was confirmed as the morning of 14th October immediately before the National Parks' Conference. Natural England's Chair, Andrew Sells, had agreed to join part of the meeting.</p> <p>Dates for meetings of the NPE Board in 2016 would be circulated in the Autumn.</p>	<p>MH</p>



North York Moors

Local Access Forum

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate,
Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Tuesday 9 June 2015.

Present: Catherine Cussons, Bryn Griffiths, Peter Hay, Peter Hutchinson, Elizabeth Kirk, John Richardson, Brian Walker

Apologies: Val Arnold, Catriona Cook, George Dawson, Muriel Mitchell, George Winn-Darley

Officers in Attendance: Vanessa Burgess, Karl Gerhardsen, Naomi Green, Caroline Skelly

Visitors: Aileen Gatland (Disability), Helen Gundry (Moorsbus), Terry Ratcliffe (Cycling)

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

In the absence of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Acting Chair Muriel Mitchell, John Richardson kindly chaired the meeting, welcoming members, officers and visitors.

1/15 **Minutes**

The public minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 2 December 2014** were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2/15 **Matters Arising**

Point 17/14 of the minutes – Potash. Members were informed that the date for the Special Planning meeting to consider Potash had now been set for 30 June. An additional day, 1 July had also been set aside in case the meeting needed to carry over into a second day.

Point 18/14 of the minutes – URMAG. Bryn Griffiths advised members that the work of URMAG had now finished, but he felt that it would be good for members to receive an update at the next meeting regarding progress made to date by NYCC relating to traffic regulations.

Item 8 on the agenda – Multi user groups was considered next, to accommodate the speaker, Terry Ratcliffe

3/15 **Multi User Routes – Terry Ratcliffe**

Members discussed the brief paper originating from the North Yorkshire LAF relating to their list of principles, in particular Principle 1 – that new access, where possible, should be multi-user.

Terry Ratcliffe informed Members that an article for publication, on this subject had been sent to CTC Magazine, but that it had been rejected. Terry told Members that user groups needed to work together on this subject, so that groups were aware of each other's needs.

Members agreed that there were huge gaps in understanding between groups and that education for all was vital if things were to improve and that there needed to be greater tolerance between the groups and greater consistency of message across all group

literature. Members also discussed the importance of correct surfacing for multi user routes.

One member suggested that a joint user seminar might be a possible way forward to help address this issue and asked if the National Park would be willing to act as a facilitator to host such a seminar.

Karl Gerhardsen told members he considered the idea of a seminar a good one and suggested it might be a suitable subject for the Access, Recreation and Business Forum to consider.

Action: KHG to discuss possibility of a seminar as a future ARB forum item with Richard Gunton.

4/15 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Caroline Skelly**

Caroline Skelly gave members a presentation on CIL.

Members asked several questions about the charging process relating to CIL.

Caroline advised members that charges are set out in developers timescales and that developers can ask for money back in s106 agreements if the Local Authority hasn't carried out the work. Also Local Authorities can charge both s106 and CIL, depending on the development and the site.

5/15 **LSTF (Missing Links) Project – Naomi Green**

Naomi Green gave members a presentation on the Missing Links Project which formed part of Local Sustainability Transport Fund Project. Naomi talked members through a number of schemes to show how the funding had been put to good use and the differences made in relation to access.

Members thanked Naomi for her excellent presentation and the good work achieved by the team.

6/15 **Coastal Access Sub-Group update – Elizabeth Kirk**

Elizabeth Kirk advised Members that two NYM LAF members and two NYCC LAF members met to discuss the Coastal report. As a result of the meeting, a response was sent to Natural England. No formal reply has been received back yet from Natural England, only a standard letter confirming receipt of the LAF's response.

Karl Gerhardsen thanked the sub-group for sending a response. Karl informed members that there was only one objection to the Coastal Access report from Filey Brigg concerning spreading room at Boulby. Issue re: roll back land, unfair if goes onto another landowners land.

7/15 **Deregulation Act – John Richardson**

John Richardson updated members on the Deregulation Act, as part of a brief report, item 9 of the agenda, including the likely relaxation of constraints on motor sport events held on public highways

Karl Gerhardsen informed Members that the Act could potentially lead to the opening up of more roads for use by individuals, groups etc which are currently restricted. It was seen as a good achievement by the stakeholder working group, the group will also be involved with the secondary legislation.

8/15 **Update on changes in ROW management – Karl Gerhardsen**

Karl issued members with an advice note (copy of which can be found in the minute book) and updated members on the recent restructuring as follows:

- Staff who were made redundant had now left and the restructuring within the department is now complete, though it is still early days to say how well the department will cope with the losses/changes, things will take a while to settle down.
- The department needs to make more use of volunteers and as such the Authority is changing 3 land rovers to pickups so staff can transport volunteers.
- Surface mowing: hopefully enough funds available to do the same level as last year. But there was also a need to encourage land owners to do more on their own land.

Members expressed concerns about:

- Volunteers being expected to take on greater responsibilities within their voluntary roles.
- Sustainability of volunteers and how to manage them long term

Karl advised members that there would still be a strong core of staff to support, lead and shoulder responsibility for volunteers. Also the Authority's new Volunteers Strategy was looking at associate volunteering, with other organisations such as scouts. Karl told members that the Authority needed to be better able to network with other groups to share volunteers.

Members offered further suggestions for associate volunteer groups such as young farmers and those taking part in Duke of Edinburgh schemes.

9/15 Items for future meetings:

Coastal Access outcome

Update on progress re: traffic regulations

Action: Karl Gerhardsen to research success of Scottish Outdoor Access

10/15 **Any Other Business**

There were four items of A.O.B:

- **Big Pathwatch Project (Ramblers)** – e-mail received advising on project to be launched on 13 July, an initiative aimed at motivating communities to survey the rights of way network and then report the findings via the Ramblers purpose-built app or website.

Members asked that an e-mail be sent to the Ramblers commending them on the project and requesting that they make sure their volunteers are well briefed, especially in relation to height/width requirements of paths to accommodate other users.

Action: Vanessa Burgess to send e-mail to Ramblers

- **Moorsbus Services 2015 (Friends of Moorsbus)** – Helen Gundry, Friends of Moorsbus was invited to the meeting to update members on the progress which had been made in relation to Moorsbus and the planned bus service for 2015. Helen informed members that with donations received, they had enough funds to operate 12 Sunday services over the Summer months, plus the August Bank Holiday via two bus companies at either end of the NYM National Park, so offering quite a comprehensive service coverage across the park. Helen said the group was keen to offer more service days and incorporate Rosedale in the route. Helen asked members /officers to help promote the service over the coming weeks.

Action: All members/officers to promote the Moorsbus Service within their own networks.

- **Malton-Pickering Cycle Route (Ryedale District Council)** – members discussed the contents of a draft report from Ryedale District Council on a proposed cycle route between Norton/Malton and Pickering. Members commented on: the absence of equestrian interest, high costs of proposed surfacing, plus the need for routes to be done to "highways" standard.

Action: John Richardson, as Acting Chair, to prepare a suitable response to be sent to Ryedale District Council regarding their draft cycle route proposal. Vanessa Burgess to share with LAF members, prior to sending final copy.

- LAF Letter to Rt Hon David Cameron MP – Muriel Mitchell. Due to illness Muriel was unable to attend the meeting to give an update on this item. Progress on this will be shared with members at a later date.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1 December 2015, 10am - NYMNPA Committee Room.

..... (Chair)
1 December 2015

**North York Moors National Park Authority
Conservation and Land Management Forum – Thursday 9 July 2015
Dales and Moors Farm Innovation Project**

Present:

George Allison - Farmer involved in Project
Jim Bailey - North York Moors NPA
Richard Bell - Promar International
Malcolm Bowes - North York Moors NPA
Sophie Bridges - Farmer involved in Project
Graham Bulmer - Farming & Rural Business Projects
Ena Dent - North York Moors NPA
Dennis Easton - Farmer involved in Project
Alison Fisher - North York Moors NPA

Janet Frank - North York Moors NPA
Jane Harrison - Country Land & Business Association
David Hugill - North York Moors NPA
Peter Johnson – YNY&ER Local Enterprise Partnership
Guy Prudom – Farmer involved in Project
David Renwick - North York Moors NPA
Karen Stanley - Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife Partnership
Rebecca Thompson - North York Moors NPA
Ami Walker - North York Moors NPA

Apologies:

Kevin and Sue Atkinson – Farmers involved in Project
Leslie Atkinson – North York Moors NPA
John Beech – North York Moors NPA
Colin Bentley – Farmer involved in Project
Paul Burgess – Nidderdale AONB
Trevor Dale – Farmer involved in Project
Michael Dick – North York Moors NPA
Lucinda Douglas – NFU
Philip Dunn – Farmer involved in Project
Jonathan Easton – Farmer involved in Project
Dorothy Fairburn – Country Land & Business Association
James Farrar – YNY&ER Local Enterprise Partnership
Joe and Peter Garbutt – Farmers involved in Project
Jane Goodchild – Farmer involved in Project
Robin Hall – Farmer involved in Project
Paul Harper – The Farmer Network
Jonathan Hill – Promar International

Joe Holmes – Farmer involved in Project
Paul Jackson – Howardian Hills AONB
Andrew Kelly – Farmer involved in Project
Andrew Leeming - YNY&ER Local Enterprise Partnership
Mervyn Lewis – Askham Bryan College
Philip Makin – Farmer involved in Project
Jonathan Murray – Farmer involved in Project
Alan and Shaun Myers – Farmers involved in Project
Laurie Norris – NFU
Peter and Jeanette Richardson – Farmers involved in Project
Stephen Sanderson – Farmer involved in Project
Adrian Shepherd – Yorkshire Dales NPA
Jane Sullivan – National Centre for the Uplands, Newton Rigg College
Peter Turnbull – Farmer involved in Project
Anthony White – Farmer involved in Project

Alison Fisher was elected Chair of the Conservation and Land Management Forum to take office until the first meeting of Forum following the Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

1. Welcome and Introductions**2. What challenges do farmers face in this area?**

- **Succession and support for young farmers.** Farms are struggling to support two generations, and to be able to keep younger generations on the farm people are needing to find additional work or set up new businesses, alongside farming. Part time farming is becoming more common and this shows a willingness to adapt and pick up on opportunities in order to maintain succession and keep the farm going. Training and skills development is important for young farmers to keep up with fast changing technologies and new knowledge that can assist farming.
- **High reliance on agri-environment scheme income.** The expected reduction in the amount of support available through Countryside Stewardship compared with Environment Stewardship which it replaces will have an impact on many farm businesses. The imminent decline in the level of support may mean farmers in the North York Moors turn to more intensive methods to make a living. There is concern that ecologically valuable habitat areas and the species they sustain may be lost without alternative support. The NPA believes maintaining the balance between environmental and business objectives for sustainable farming is crucial for the North York Moors. The message to Defra needs to be that land management in this area has direct and wide ranging consequences on small business

viability, environmental interests, landscape conservation, flood risk benefits, community cohesion and tourism promotion.

- **Unprofitable livestock (pure swaledale/suckler cows).** There was discussion over the potential loss of swaledale/swaledale cross sheep and associated shepherding on the moorland of the North York Moors because like most horned sheep they are currently unprofitable. It was suggested that LEADER funding may be available (from 2016) to help farming/small business projects with an economic focus, such as ram referencing.
- **Increasing rents and high land prices.** This is inevitable with the current shortage of land available and the demand from people willing to pay the higher amounts.
- **Broadband, mobile and IT issues.** The unreliability of connection is a problem. Being able to access online information in order to take advantage of the Basic Payment Scheme and Countryside Stewardship opportunities is already important and will only become more so.
- **Resilience** i.e. having the ability and capacity to adapt to the current challenges.

Other challenges include:

- Want of innovation and infrastructure.
- Difficulties in accessing support for diversification
- High power and machinery costs, compared with benchmark figures
- Limitations to exploiting renewable energy possibilities (PV, AD, biofuel, wind) e.g. because of connection types.
- Lack of branding and marketing of local products which could engender a premium price.
- Footpaths, through farmyards in particular, with associated biosecurity risks and threats to stock.

There was a discussion over whether food production is still important in the North York Moors. It was suggested that agricultural support helps production as well as biodiversity. The Government's 25 year food strategy includes increasing the level of food security. The NPA is keen to see this happening in a sustainable way and considers the North York Moors is still a working landscape. Farming needs to remain viable in the National Park in order to deliver long term National Park Management Plan objectives.

3. How did the Dales and Moors Farm Innovation Project come into being?

The project was a pilot initiative developed by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to address farm business sustainability in protected landscapes. Partners include North York Moors NPA, Yorkshire Dales NPA, and the Nidderdale and Howardian Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The project has been funded by the European Social Fund and delivered through the Skills Funding Agency under the Skills Funding for the Workforce programme. The project is co-ordinated and monitored by Newton Rigg College/National Centre for the Uplands.

4. What has the Project set out to do?

The particular funding stream used delivers learning aims. The aim of the project was to assist farmers to develop a whole farm plan by providing environmental and business advice and skills, as well as to identify relevant skills gaps and how to address these. The idea is that the plans will be a catalyst for action and signpost funding sources. The farmers invited to take part in the North York Moors were mainly ones that the NPA had worked with in the past. 20 farmers from the area accepted including 1 from the Howardian Hills AONB.

5. What has the Project delivered so far?

The NPA used contractors (Farming & Rural Business Projects, and Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife Partnership) to take each farmer through the enrolment process; this was followed by a first visit by an environmental adviser (NPA or Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife Partnership) and a business adviser (Promar International). The advisers used the information gathered and SWOT analysis carried out with the farmer to draw up a draft farm plan. The second visit by the environmental and business advisers resulted in an agreed three year action plan for the farmer

and their farm. There were also two group meetings for the advisers and participants to discuss common issues and challenges. Among the themes which came out of the meetings was the recognition of the value of working together to access opportunities and the need to maintain links with agencies like Natural England and the NPA.

The pilot project delivered free learning and expert advice to farmers, which would normally need to be paid for, culminating in a farm plan. Each farmer who was enrolled also gets a City and Guild qualification, which might be useful in particular to the younger generation to validate their knowledge and skills in business situations.

The business advice received by the farmers was particularly useful in terms of benchmarking, interpreting accounts and advising on ways forward. In the pilot the environmental advice was not quite as useful probably because the NPA had worked with the farmers before and therefore the farmers were already conservation minded. If the project was repeated and the NPA targeted new people then the potential value of the environmental advice would increase. It would also mean the NPA would learn more about areas of the North York Moors where it had worked less.

Some of the options discussed with farmers included:

- Maintaining financial awareness of their business and taking every chance to remove any unnecessary fiscal burden.
- Embracing technology and innovation e.g. EID (electronic identification).
- Reducing energy bills by developing alternative energy sources and storage e.g. hydro, wind, solar and wood.
- Providing on-farm tourist accommodation / glamping facilities etc.
- Sustaining traditional farm buildings which aren't suitable for modern agriculture; it was suggested that the future of these buildings in National Parks will depend on new grant availability and profitable farms.
- Local registered organic slaughter facilities to achieve best premiums, although it was felt that there was unlikely to be enough demand in this area to support such a facility.

A lot of the stock from the North York Moors are store stock sold on to be fattened up outside the area and therefore are part of a wider supply chain beyond the confines of the National Park. As long as the fattened stock market makes a profit that means this type of stock have a value and there is little incentive or need to look for other markets.

6. What are the key findings from the Project? (See also Item 2)

The project helped focus people's minds on the future environmental and financial management of their farms and to consider the two concepts together.

The amount of 'learner' registration paperwork could have been off putting; the help provided to the farmers to fill this in was invaluable. It is unlikely that most of the required paperwork can be avoided in the future but there are ways to reduce the burden on the farmer. The time of year is always important, delays in the initial procurement meant that the pilot then unfortunately ran into lambing time. The NPA and LEP agreed that for any future project the funding process and the delivery process would need to be rationalised.

Local alternatives to returning to intensification need to be facilitated through networks of farmers and agencies working together to identify the shared issues and to access opportunities to address them.

7. Next steps

The LEP has a wide-ranging strategy for Protected Landscapes which is being used by the NPA as a coordinated framework to devise new projects and access suitable funding for this area.

There will be a report on the pilot project produced with recommendations for the future. The NPA and the LEP will need to decide which recommendations to pick up on and how to deliver them.

There was support at the meeting for running the project again, and the same funding may still be available to enable this. As well as the suggestion of targeting farmers the NPA has not previously worked with, it was also suggested targeting farmers whose Environmental Stewardship agreements are due to finish.

In addition it was proposed that in one or two years' time the farmers involved in the pilot should be revisited and their plans reviewed. It was suggested that the same advisers could be used to provide continuity and maintain confidentiality. The NPA and the LEP are very keen to help see the plans actioned and progress made, and this potential not lost. Active networks of farmers in the North York Moors enable communication, provide mutual support and can grasp opportunities.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial to try and bring a Defra minister to the area to explain the challenges and issues farmers are facing here.

8. Conclusions

There was full agreement that the Project was a good thing to be involved with and has created a useful networking opportunity for sharing knowledge which can be built on into the future. It has highlighted practical steps that can be taken to improve the resilience of farm businesses along with the enhancement of the environment. The most important thing in taking the Project forward is to ensure there is support to deliver on the plans produced.

David Renwick thanked the LEP for their positive support for the pilot and the provision of funding, the Contractors and NPA Officers for their hard work delivering an emerging project, and crucially the farmers for taking part and engaging positively in the process.

The next meeting will take place on 8 December 2015 and will include an update on TEL.

NATIONAL PARKS

Britain's breathing spaces

PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL PRYDAIN
Lle i enaid gael llonydd
PÁIRCEAN NÁISEANTA
Áiteachan analachadh bhreatainn

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UK ANPA is an unincorporated association. VAT registration number 891 7386 75

Item	PART ONE - AGM BUSINESS	Agreed Actions																																														
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DRAFT MINUTES – National Parks UK AGM and Executive Meeting</u> <u>Monday 8th June 2015 – 5.15pm – 6.30pm</u> <u>Hurst Castle, New Forest National Park</u></p> <p>Attending – NPAs</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Brecon Beacons</td><td>Geraint Hopkins, Chair; John Cook CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>Broads</td><td>Jacque Burgess, Chair; John Packman CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>Cairngorms</td><td>Duncan Bryden, Chair ; Grant Moir, CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>Dartmoor</td><td>Peter Harper, Chair; Kevin Bishop, CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>Exmoor</td><td>Andrea Davies, Chair; Nigel Stone, CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>Lake District</td><td>Mike McKinley, Chair; Richard Leafe CEO (Lead Officer NPUK)</td></tr> <tr><td>Loch Lomond and the Trossachs</td><td>Willie Nesbitt;</td></tr> <tr><td>New Forest</td><td>Oliver Crosswaite Eyre, Chair;</td></tr> <tr><td>North York Moors</td><td>Jim Bailey, Chair;</td></tr> <tr><td>Northumberland</td><td>John Riddle, Chair; Tony Gates CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>Peak District</td><td>Lesley Roberts, Chair;</td></tr> <tr><td>Pembrokeshire Coast</td><td>Mike James, Chair; Tegryn Jones CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>Snowdonia</td><td>Caerwyn Roberts, Chair; Emyr Williams, CEO</td></tr> <tr><td>South Downs</td><td>Margaret Paren, Chair;</td></tr> <tr><td>Yorkshire Dales</td><td>Peter Charlesworth, Chair; David Butterworth, CEO</td></tr> </table> <p>Attending – observers, speakers and guests</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Kathryn Cook</td><td>UK Director, National Parks UK</td></tr> <tr><td>Paul Hamblin</td><td>Director, National Parks England</td></tr> </table> <p>Apologies</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Linda McKay, Chair</td><td>Loch Lomond & the Trossachs</td></tr> <tr><td>Gordon Watson, CEO</td><td>Loch Lomond & the Trossachs</td></tr> <tr><td>Alison Barnes, CEO</td><td>New Forest</td></tr> <tr><td>Andy Wilson CEO</td><td>North York Moors</td></tr> <tr><td>Sarah Fowler, CEO</td><td>Peak District</td></tr> <tr><td>Trevor Beattie, CEO</td><td>South Downs</td></tr> </table>	Brecon Beacons	Geraint Hopkins, Chair; John Cook CEO	Broads	Jacque Burgess, Chair; John Packman CEO	Cairngorms	Duncan Bryden, Chair ; Grant Moir, CEO	Dartmoor	Peter Harper, Chair; Kevin Bishop, CEO	Exmoor	Andrea Davies, Chair; Nigel Stone, CEO	Lake District	Mike McKinley, Chair; Richard Leafe CEO (Lead Officer NPUK)	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs	Willie Nesbitt;	New Forest	Oliver Crosswaite Eyre, Chair;	North York Moors	Jim Bailey, Chair;	Northumberland	John Riddle, Chair; Tony Gates CEO	Peak District	Lesley Roberts, Chair;	Pembrokeshire Coast	Mike James, Chair; Tegryn Jones CEO	Snowdonia	Caerwyn Roberts, Chair; Emyr Williams, CEO	South Downs	Margaret Paren, Chair;	Yorkshire Dales	Peter Charlesworth, Chair; David Butterworth, CEO	Kathryn Cook	UK Director, National Parks UK	Paul Hamblin	Director, National Parks England	Linda McKay, Chair	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs	Gordon Watson, CEO	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs	Alison Barnes, CEO	New Forest	Andy Wilson CEO	North York Moors	Sarah Fowler, CEO	Peak District	Trevor Beattie, CEO	South Downs	
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1. 1.1	<p>John Riddle (JR) took the Chair as outgoing National Parks UK Chair until a new Chair was elected. JR welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked the New Forest NPA for hosting.</p> <p><u>Elections</u></p> <p><u>Election of National Parks UK Chair</u></p> <p>JR explained that he was stepping down as Chair of Northumberland NPA after 14 years of service, so therefore will also step down as Chair of National Parks UK as of today (8 June).</p> <p>JR explained that one nomination had been received from Peter Charlesworth – Yorkshire Dales NPA Chairman – there had been no further expressions of interest to date. JR asked if there were any other Chairs willing to put themselves forward -</p>																																															

	<p>none were forthcoming. Jim Bailey (JBa) proposed Peter Charlesworth (PC) AS THE NEW Chair for NPUK – this was seconded by Mike McKinley (MM).</p> <p>Peter Charlesworth was elected as new National Parks UK Chair for the 2015/16 term. PC took over the Chairing of the meeting at this point.</p> <p>PC thanked JR for his efforts during his time as Chair of NPUK – this was echoed by the Board. PC also asked Chairs to note that he would be standing down as Chair of Yorkshire Dales in March 2016 unless his term was extended by DEFRA.</p> <p><u>Ratification of Lead Officer</u></p> <p>PC asked Chairs to ratify Richard Leafe as Lead Officer of NPUK for a second term. This was approved.</p> <p><u>Ratification of Deputy Chairs for National Parks UK</u></p> <p>KC explained that because NPUK is being Chaired by a representative of an English National Park, the Deputy Chair roles therefore come from Scotland and Wales. PC asked Chairs to ratify the Deputy Chairs for the 2015/16 Term as follows:</p> <p>Deputy Chair for NPUK (Wales Rep) – Mike James (it was noted that MJ was up for re-election on 17 June – KC to follow this up after 17th with TJ if necessary.</p> <p>Deputy Chair for NPUK (Scotland Rep) – Duncan Bryden - DB explained that he would be stepping down at the Cairngorms AGM end of June and that a new Convenor would be elected to take up post in September. DB said that the Scottish Parks would decide between themselves and advise KC thereafter. KC to follow up with Scottish National Parks thereafter.</p> <p>This decision was ratified by the Executive.</p>	<p>KC to follow up with TJ</p> <p>KC to follow up with Scottish NPAs in Sept</p>
1.2	<p><u>Introductions and apologies for absence</u></p> <p>PC welcomed Jacquie Burgess to her first meeting in her official capacity as new Chair of the Broads Authority. PC also welcomed Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre to his first NPUK meeting.</p> <p>KC noted apologies as listed on the agenda plus late apologies from Andy Wilson and Alison Barnes.</p>	
1.3 1.3.i 1.3.ii	<p><u>Minutes of the last meetings</u></p> <p>UK ANPA AGM and Executive June 2014</p> <p>PC explained that the June minutes had been originally circulated in July 2014 and approved at the February 2015 meeting and were therefore for noting only.</p> <p>UK ANPA Executive February 2015 – London</p> <p>KC apologised for the late circulation of the minutes which was due to a laptop error which meant they had to be re-drafted from scratch – KC to circulate a copy with the current meeting minutes – Chairs to comment by email.</p>	<p>KC to circulate minutes /Chairs to comment by email</p>
1.4.	<p><u>NP UK Work Programme 2013–16 - Highlights Summary & Full Annual Report</u></p> <p>PC referred Chairs to KC’s report circulate3d with the papers. KC explained that the front page summarised the key achievements in 2014/15 the second year of the 2013-2016 work plan. KC further explained that she had also included a full annual report detailing all the projects within the work plan especially for the benefit of new Chairs.</p> <p>The report was noted without comment.</p>	

<p>1.5</p> <p>1.5.i</p> <p>1.5.ii</p> <p>1.5.iii</p> <p>1.5.iv</p> <p>1.5.v</p>	<p><u>Finance and General Purposes Committee Report</u></p> <p>UK ANPA End of Year Accounts 2014-15.</p> <p>KC reported that a breakeven position had been achieved including monies accrued to the 2015/16 budget and denoted under the relevant lines.</p> <p>PC asked Chairs to note this considerable achievement in view of the difficulties faced over the past year – including the loss of NPW Officer post and related income (£7.5k annually).</p> <p>UK ANPA Accounts were approved.</p> <p>Portal Accounts 2014-15</p> <p>PC presented the Portal accounts and asked for any comments and approval.</p> <p>The Portal Accounts were approved without comment.</p> <p>Updated Budget 2015/16</p> <p>KC asked Chairs to note that the updated budget included the slight increase in subscriptions to £7,750 agreed at the February 2015 executive; accrued funds from 14/15 denoted in the relevant columns and the revised agency funding levels: Natural England £10k; Natural Resources Wales £12k.</p> <p>KC further explained that NE had said they would withdraw their funding altogether for 2015/16 however after negotiation with Liz Newton David Henshilwood had been in touch to report that NE would continue to fund the Member Induction Courses.</p> <p>KC asked Chairs to note that the exact level of funding was yet to be confirmed but she is pushing for this to be at the past level of £10k.</p> <p>F&GP Meeting notes</p> <p>PC asked Chairs to note the full meeting notes from the April F&GP meeting.</p> <p>F&GP Chair's role – JR raised the issue of Chairing the F&GP Committee. Historically this had always been the Lead Officer for UK ANPA however he felt this approach was too 'officer led' and suggested Chairs consider changing the protocol and proposed that going forward the Committee be chaired by the NPUK Chair.</p> <p>Both RL and PC responded that they were relaxed about this and it was agreed that going forward F&GP be chaired by the NPUK Chair – LR seconded.</p> <p>As a member of F&GP Duncan Bryden suggested the committee review the existing ToR to refresh the remit and clarify the purpose of the committee. Mike James also suggested the minutes be circulated to the whole board after each F&GP meeting instead of waiting until the next UK Meeting to ensure Chairs are kept abreast of discussions.</p> <p>KC to take the above recommendations forward with F&GP.</p>	<p>KC to continue to work with NE/NRW to finalize grant applications</p> <p>F&GP to review ToR;</p> <p>NPUK chairman to Chair future meetings;</p> <p>F&GP mins to be circulated to full board after meetings</p>
	<p>MEETING PART TWO – GENERAL EXECUTIVE BUSINESS</p>	
<p>2.1</p>	<p><u>NP UK Work Programme 2013-16 – Joint Activities Progress Report</u></p> <p>KC referred Chairs to her written report detailing progress in the first two months of the current work plan.</p> <p>Member Induction Courses - KC asked Chairs/CEOs to note the date of the forthcoming September Course and encourage their new members to attend.</p> <p>JR reported that feedback from the local members who attended the</p>	<p>CEOs/ Chairs to promote 2015/16</p>

	<p>Northumberland course was that they would find it more beneficial had they attended a different location. KC responded that she always discourages attendance from local members as one of the key points of value for new members is to experience a different National Park and understand the generic and unique challenges they face. KC reiterated that it would be helpful if this message was emphasised by Chairs and CEOs so members get maximum benefit from the courses.</p> <p>The report was taken as read without further comment.</p>	<p>courses but discourage attendance at courses hosted in their own NP.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Corporate Partnerships – AirWick</u></p> <p>KC referred Chairs to her Air Wick update paper circulated in advance of the meeting and summarised the key highlights of the past year for the benefit of new Chairs.</p> <p>KC reported that she had chased up the royalties timeframe for 2015 and that the next instalment would be due shortly.</p> <p>KC reported that AirWick had decided not to renew the contract in 2016 due to two key reasons: 1) In 2014 RB changed the structure of their marketing teams and as a result AirWick will now be managed from the USA; 2) their new range Life Scents launched in early 2015 resulted in stronger growth to the brand than the NP range – 4% as compared to 2%.</p> <p>Chairs suggested feedback be sought from RB as to why 2% growth wasn't sufficient. Chairs also thought it might be opportune for RB to be invited to attend a future NPP meeting in order that the new board gain an insight into the partnership.</p>	<p>KC to follow up with AirWick and the Chair of NPP Board – Stephen Curl.</p>
2.3	<p><u>National Parks Partnerships Ltd – Progress Report</u></p> <p>Company Model and Structure</p> <p>Tony Gates (TG) gave a summary on work to date on the Company Model and Set up which had been taken forward following the January 2014 CEOs away day by an elected task and finish group. TG highlighted that Chairs had given a very clear steer that they wanted a separate legal structure to be established along with a separate board including external private sector representation to enable the new company to be more agile and responsive. TG had engaged Ward Hadaway solicitors to provide advice and draft the necessary documentation. TG had brought a paper setting out the options to Chairs in Autumn 2014 and thereafter the decision was made to pursue the CLG company structure.</p> <p>TG reminded Chairs that there had been a clear preference expressed to keep the new venture attached to the UK National Parks and to ensure that the 15 NPs had a degree of control. TG went on to clarify the position reached - Articles of Association have been agreed along with a Member's Agreement; separate licensing agreements and a separate legal agreement as regards distribution of the proceeds of the new company. TG handed over to KB to explain the tax situation which has recently arisen.</p> <p>KB summarised the tax advise issue – explaining that he had sought three tenders and following discussions with F&GP and JNPOG RL had authorised KB commissioning the advise from Bishop Fleming for a fee of £12k. KB had received Bishop Fleming's draft report on Friday 5th June – hence why no report had been tabled with the papers – KB circulated the draft report at the start of the meeting. KB explained that all three companies who tendered had queried why a CLG model had been chosen when an LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) was the more tax efficient model and had the added advantage of start up funds being contributed by way of partnership capital not as income.</p>	

<p>KB summarised the detail of the report and asked Chairs to consider / approve the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) agree to KB concluding the work with Bishop Fleming; 2) determine a process for deciding whether to proceed with the CLG model or to register the new company as a LLP; 3) agree that the money provided to the new company (be it a CLG or LLP) and / or to NPUK to set up the new company be in the form of a loan. 4) Agree that the NPUK Articles be amended to insert an appropriate dissolution clause. <p>TG expressed the preference to complete the tax advise and get the value of the Intellectual Property resolved before proceeding. TG also highlighted that the Board and the NPA legal teams needed to fully understand the implications of an LLP model as against a CLG.</p> <p>RL urged flexibility and asked Chairs to hold off making a decision until the full facts are known. RL also highlighted that the situation is now more complicated than the simple linear process we had before with the main NPUK Board. RL further explained that the new company board now has a life of its own and its members (especially interim chair Steve Curl) are already exploring ideas as to how best to set up the company. RL emphasised that although the board are fairly easy about the situation it was important that the Chairs find a way to handle this new dynamic and engage positively with their considerable knowledge and experience. RL emphasised that if nothing else it is essential that we verbally brief the new Board on the latest advice and our plans in order that we can then consider their input at NPUK level.</p> <p>Margaret Paren (MP) made the point that NPs have signed up to a completely different animal in the CLG and it has taken a great deal of time and effort to get to this point – do we really want to start unravelling the work done to date?</p> <p>Jim Bailey (JBa) and Jacquie Burgess (JBU) both agreed with MP's point and urged the board to keep the momentum in the same direction instead of unpicking decisions made over the past 18 months.</p> <p>PC summarised that ultimately Chairs needed to decide whether to proceed as a CLG or LLP. PC felt that the decision could not be taken at the meeting as Chairs weren't in full receipt of the facts and hadn't had chance to digest the contents of the report and the implications of the recommendations.</p> <p>PH suggested we proceed by email discussion. PC responded that email and/or video conference format would be preferable. PH suggested the October Conference in Dartmoor be the deadline for resolving these issues and having a further face to face discussion if necessary.</p> <p>KB explained that once we give the go ahead to Bishops Fleming the completed report would be due in approx. 4 weeks time (second week of July).</p> <p>Agreement was reached as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Chairs agreed to conclude the work on tax advice with Bishop Fleming – KB to take forward and keep AB/KC/TG/RL/PC informed – this motion was proposed by Duncan Bryden and seconded by Mike McKinley. 2) The decision as regards whether to proceed with the CLG model or LLP model was deferred until the full facts are known and the implications fully understood. This will be discussed further at the October Conference if necessary. 	<p>KB to conclude tax advice with Bishop Fleming & circulate report to AB/KC/TG/RL/PC</p>
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	<p>3) It was agreed that the money provided to the new company and / or NPUK to set up the company is in the form of a loan</p> <p>4) It was agreed that NPUK should look into amending their articles to insert an appropriate dissolution clause. KC noted that this may require a written resolution. RL/KC to take forward</p> <p>NPP Expenditure – KC highlighted the financial summary circulated at the meeting which detailed expenditure to date from the £150k NPP Budget. KC asked Chairs to note the balance of £119,579 – this was noted without further comment.</p> <p>NPP – NED Recruitment</p> <p>KC reported that the sub group – Lesley Roberts; Jim Bailey; Mike James and Duncan Bryden – had appointed a board of 10 for the new company – 6 internal appointments and 4 private sector NEDs. KC referred Chairs to the biography listing included in the papers. KC explained that since recruitment Tony McInnes has resigned from his post as Head of Commercial Development at LLTT NPA and that Grant Moir had agreed to represent Scotland on the Board in the interim period. KC explained that the Board had met for the first time earlier that day (8th June) and asked Peter Harper to report back in his capacity as one of the Executive Directors.</p> <p>PH went on to explain that there was great enthusiasm and commitment amongst the board and a great energy at their initial meeting. PH emphasised that the Board are keen to get on with the job in hand and have agreed to meet on a monthly basis for the initial six months.</p> <p>CW queried if it was appropriate to publish the Board biographies on the UK National Parks website – RL responded that we need to resolve the issues surrounding company model and structure before publishing this on the website. CW to note.</p> <p>Lesley Roberts as Chair of the sub group thanked Alison Barnes for driving the process forward. Mike James thanked the Peak District NP for hosting.</p>	<p>Recommendations to be drawn up for consideration by full board.</p> <p>RL/KC to look into amending NPUK articles</p> <p>Summer F&GP to be scheduled if nec.</p>
2.4	<p>Due to time restrictions the following items were cut short.</p> <p>Jersey Visit – PC explained briefly that he had attended a dinner over in Jersey and had felt that Jersey NP weren't in a position to come on board as a member of the NP Family just yet as they had a distinct lack of resources and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Feedback to be given to Jersey</p>
2.5	<p>Country Reports - PC directed Chairs to the written reports compiled by National Parks England; National Parks Wales and the Scottish NPAs which had been circulated in advance. PC asked for the reports to be taken as read and for any comments to be sent via email to the relevant officers.</p>	<p>Chairs to email any comments</p>
2.6	<p>All Party Parliamentary Group on National Parks</p> <p>PC referred Chairs to the APPG report drafted by Meriel Martin and circulated with the papers - and again asked for comments by email please.</p>	<p>Chairs to email any comments</p>
2.7	<p>Any other business</p> <p>No items for AOB raised.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 6.25pm.</p>	