

## North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 27 June 2016.

### Present:

Leslie Atkinson, Jim Bailey, Malcolm Bowes, Guy Coulson, Ena Dent, Michael Dick, Alison Fisher, Janet Frank, David Hugill, David Jeffels, Heather Moorhouse, Caroline Patmore, Clive Pearson, John Ritchie, Ted Sanderson, Andrew Scott, Jeremy Walker. Andy Breckon (Independent Member)

**Apologies:** Christopher Massey, Sarah Oswald

### Officers in Attendance:

Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Richard Gunton (Director of Park Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), David Renwick (Director of Conservation), Paul Fellows (Head of Strategic Policy), Ian Nicholls (Assistant Director of Corporate Services), Graham Stubbs (Head of Volunteer Service), Rebecca Thompson (Natural Environment Team Leader), Vanessa Burgess (Committees & Customer Services Officer), Vicky Taylor (Administration Assistant, Customer Services), Lisa Dixon (Monitoring Officer), Karen Iveson (S151 Officer, NYCC).

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### Copies of All Documents Considered Are In The Minute Book

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#### 26/16 Election of Chair

**Resolved:**

That Mr Jim Bailey be elected Chair of the Authority, to take office until the Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

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### Jim Bailey In The Chair

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The Chair thanked Members for their continuing support.

#### 27/16 Election of Deputy Chair

**Resolved:**

That Mr Malcolm Bowes be elected Deputy Chair of the Authority, to take office until the Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

The Deputy Chair thanked Members for their support and the Chair for all his work both as Chair of the NYMNPA and as Chair of National Parks England.

#### 28/16 Minutes

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2016, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The Chief Executive, Andy Wilson, informed Members of the recent death of Mr George Sigsworth, a former Chair of the Authority, and asked members to mark his passing with a moment of silent reflection.

#### 29/16 **Public Question Time**

There were no questions from Members of the public.

#### 30/16 **Members Interests**

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interests relating to any agenda item prior to its consideration.

#### 31/16 **Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved:**

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 24 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2,3,4 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

#### 32/16 **Membership of Committees and Outside Bodies**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer

Members commented on the List of Outside Bodies and asked about the procedure/process for choosing the bodies on the list. Members asked if the list could be reviewed in time for next year.

**Action:** Members to make VB/AMW aware of any additional Organisations on which they represent the Authority. Officers to bring findings back to Sept NPA.

**Resolved:**

a. Members agreed Membership of the Committees and Working Groups as follows:

**Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee**

**Secretary of State Members:** Mr Scott, Mr Walker, Mr Sanderson, Mrs Dent

**Local Authority Members:** Mr Jeffels, Mr Dick, Mrs Patmore, Mr Massey, Mr Bailey

**Conservation and Land Management Forum**

**Secretary of State Members:** Ms Fisher, Mrs Dent, Mr Atkinson

**Local Authority Members:** Mr Coulson, Mr Jeffels, Mrs Frank

**Awareness, Recreation and Business Forum**

**Secretary of State Members:** Mr Scott, Ms Oswald, Mrs Dent

**Local Authority Members:** Mr Pearson, Mr Dick, Mr Ritchie

**Urgency Committee**

**Secretary of State Members:** Mr Sanderson, Mr Walker

**Local Authority Members:** Mrs Patmore, Dr Massey

**Development Plan Working Group**

**Secretary of State Members:** Ms Oswald, Mr Walker, Ms Fisher, Mrs Dent

**Local Authority:** Mr Hugill, Mr Coulson, Mrs Frank, Mrs Patmore, Mr Ritchie

### **Management Plan Working Group**

**Secretary of State Members:** Mr Walker, Mr Scott, Mr Bowes

**Local Authority Members:** Mr Bailey, Dr Massey, Mr Ritchie, Mrs Patmore

### **Personnel Appeals Panel**

**Secretary of State Members:** Mr Walker, Ms Oswald

**Local Authority Members:** Mr Pearson, Mrs Patmore

### **Primary Land Users Group**

**Secretary of State Members:** Mrs Dent, Mr Sanderson, Mr Atkinson

**Local Authority Members:** Mrs Frank, Mr Pearson, Mrs Moorhouse

b. The Authority's representation on outside bodies be agreed as follows:

- **Campaign for National Parks** (1 representative) – Mr Jeffels
- **Local Access Forum** (1 representative) – Mr Atkinson
- **Local Government North Yorkshire, York & East Riding Housing Board** (1 representative and 1 substitute) – Ms Fisher (Substitute: Mr Ritchie)
- **Minerals and Waste Plan – Joint Member Working Group** (2 representatives and 2 substitutes) – Mr Hugill, Ms Fisher (Substitutes: Mr Atkinson, Mrs Patmore)
- **National Park Management Plan Implementation Group** (1 representative and 1 substitute) – Mr Walker (Substitute: Mrs Patmore)
- **NYM Disability Advisory Group** (1 representative) – Ms Oswald
- **RAF Fylingdales Liaison Group** (Authority Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Chair of Planning and 2 Members) – Mr Sanderson, Mr Scott
- **Tourism Advisory Board** (1 representative) – Mr Pearson
- **Spatial Planning and Transport Board** (1 representative and 1 substitute) – Mr Scott (Substitute: Mr Ritchie)
- **Welcome to Yorkshire** (1 representative) – Mr Coulson

## 33/16 **Volunteer Strategy Update**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Park Services.

Richard Gunton updated members:

- Volunteer numbers continue to grow
- Visitor Centre Volunteers working well
- Introduction of 'Better Impact' software – volunteers have own skills page, well received so far
- Health and Safety policy framework in place with support from Ian Nicholls
- Training programme for volunteer leaders – due to rollout in Autumn
- Still on target with Volunteer Strategy

Members commented that they were pleased to hear staff were embracing the changes and well done to all. The work being undertaken was a good example to share with other organisations. Members requested a breakdown on the demographics of volunteers.

**Action:** Richard Gunton to action the request for Demographics information.

Members asked about Special needs volunteers and Community Payback schemes.

Richard Gunton informed members that the numbers of special needs volunteers had been disappointing, due mainly to changes in social service funding, and pulling groups together had been very difficult. Moorswork, the independent social enterprise set up to provide opportunities, had also been less successful than hoped.

Regarding Community Payback schemes, Graham Stubbs informed members that there had been good links in the past, but there had been recent delivery issues which had caused problems, but the Authority was hoping to pursue again now changes to schemes were settling down.

**Resolved:** the report was noted and Members commented on the delivery of the Volunteer Strategy.

### 34/16 **Government's 8-Point Plan for England's National Parks**

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive.

Andy Wilson reported that the 8 point plan was encouraging and asked members to give thought re: opportunities/ideas. The Authority was already committed to developing work with regard to apprenticeships. The 8 point plan was silent on Planning, but the Authority wasn't constrained by the Plan.

Members commented on:

- Welcome development, Govt should be encouraged to take seriously not just Defra
- More information on Planning would have been helpful
- Wider focus than simply Tourism and Apprentices, issues around broadband, telecommunications too
- Include Fishing, Marine Environment, Natural Environment – Geology of NP
- Increase tourism, but not to the detriment of the NP
- Connecting with Nature, including work with Young Farmers
- Currently good support from Ministers, message re: contribution of NP's
- Learning/Education, NYMNPA already some successes.

#### **Jeremy Walker left the meeting at 11.50am**

The Chief Executive commented on Fish/Marine work, saying that perhaps the Authority could seek external funding. Good progress was being made by NP family working together at a National level.

**Resolved:** Members discussed the subjects raised in the paper and commented on the 8 Point Plan. Members highlighted additional subjects they wished officers to develop further as part of the Business Plan process.

### 35/16 **Customer Service Excellence**

Considered:

The report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services.

Ian Nicholls presented members with some examples of good work/practice in relation to CSE:

- Woodling Houses at the Moors Centre
- Short films, explaining works undertaken by the Authority – shown on U tube
- Use of social media – to advertise volunteer work tasks
- Information sharing with the Public – Planning, PRow etc

Members asked Ian Nicholls to convey their thanks to staff, for all the good work. Members were very supportive of CSE.

**Resolved:** Members; Noted the contents of the report and the current work being done to ensure that the CSE standard is used effectively to continue to improve service delivery.  
Confirmed that they wished the continuation of work on CSE to be provisionally included in the Business Plan subject to the resources outlined in Paragraph 4.3 not being exceeded.

### 36/16 **Business Plan**

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Services

Karen Iveson, S151 Officer, NYCC updated members advising that savings had been made, so there were funds available to allocate to programmes/projects. Coastal marine work could be included. Members were supportive of a % to be ring fenced for grants. Andy Wilson informed members that a ring fenced figure for grants would be approximately 10%. It was agreed that this figure would be added to the list of agreed principles, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

**Resolved:** Members commented on the contents of the report, approved the work undertaken to date and agreed to a figure of 10% being included in the wording of the draft agreed principles in relation to grants.

### 37/16 **Development Plan WG Report – Verbal Update**

Malcolm Bowes, Chair of Development Plan WG updated members on the first meeting of the Working Group, saying that the general feeling of the group was a need to concentrate on affordable housing and that much discussion centred on changing demographics. The Chair encouraged non group members to attend if they wished.

Director of Planning, Chris France, said it had been a useful first meeting and that a paper on the implications of the 2016 Housing and Planning Act would be presented to members at the July Planning Committee.

**Action:** Vanessa Burgess to send copies of the notes from the Development Plan WG meeting on 9 June 2016, to all members.

### 38/16 **Scawling Wood**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Conservation and the Woodland Officer.

David Renwick, Director of Conservation gave a presentation to members regarding the issue relating to Scawling Wood:

- Major issue – loss of remnant ancient woodland features
- Seeking full restoration, NP Management Plan Policy E38
- UK Forestry standard – maintain ancient woodland going forward

NYMNPA objected to the application as it would lead to loss of ancient woodland features. The Forestry Commission are to re-visit the application

### **Andrew Scott left the meeting at 12.35pm**

Members asked about the mechanics of the grant process and voiced concerns about retrospective work. David Renwick agreed with members, stating that a much clearer process was needed.

**Resolved:** Members: Confirmed their support for the officers' letter of objection. Asked officers to continue to pursue the issue vigorously, including by examining what legal and representational options are open to the NPA in the event of a felling licence being granted. Expressed their support for the need for better consultation arrangements. Agreed that any solution to the issue must be one which does ensure the survival of the remaining ancient woodland features.

### 39/16 **Aislaby Moor**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Conservation.

David Renwick explained to members, the issue at Aislaby Moor and the options available to the Authority if legal action was required.

Members voiced their agreement to the proposed recommendations.

**Action:** David Renwick, to arrange light touch review of mapping by aerial photo in the first instance.

**Resolved:** Members: Were made aware of the issue and the action taken to date. They agreed that:  
The Authority should support Natural England in using its powers under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Agriculture) 2006 regulations.  
The Authority should investigate further the use of its own powers under Town and Country Planning Act 1990 with respect to impact on amenity at the site and unauthorised development.  
The Authority should consider the making of a statutory instrument to effect powers under Section 42 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 relating to the enforcement of loss of Section 3 moorland and heathland, once information is gathered on other possible losses.

### 40/16 **SBC Toilets – Verbal Update**

**The following Members/Officers declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest – D Jeffels, G Coulson, J Ritchie, C Pearson and Lisa Dixon (Monitoring Officer)**

Richard Gunton, Director of Park Services updated members on the current situation, saying that the Authority was in regular contact with SBC and had expressed their desire to see that facilities remain open. Talks were also taking place with PC's to see if any wished to take over the running of facilities in their Parish area.

**41/16 Cleveland Way Funding – Verbal Update**

Richard Gunton, Director of Park Services updated members on the current situation regarding Cleveland Way funding:

- Meeting with Natural England on 9 June, need for 50% savings
- Natural England have confirmed 100% funding for this year, but work needed to replace funding for next year
- 75% of total cost would be hard to maintain.

**Action:** Richard Gunton to inform members re: outcome

**42/16 Feedback from Lead Members on Forums – Verbal Update (J Walker, FRASC, Alison Fisher, CLM)**

Caroline Patmore, updated members on the June FRAS Committee on behalf of the Chair, Jeremy Walker.

Alison Fisher gave members a written report from CLM, at the meeting. A copy can be found in the minute book.

Jim Bailey, Authority Chair, thanked CLM members for supporting the Rye catchment work, saying it was a good opportunity.

**43/16 Parish Forum**

Considered:

The report of the PA to the Chief Executive

**Resolved:** The issues raised at Parish Forums were noted.

**44/16 On the Record**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer.

Ian Nicholls, Assistant Director of Corporate Services, informed members of the change to admin processes related to the issuing of payslips, saying that the changes would help to reduce staff time spent on processing.

**Action:** Ian Nicholls to send note to members

Members were informed that National Parks England had appointed a new Chair. Malcolm Bowes, Deputy Chair of the Authority, thanked Jim Bailey, Authority Chair for all his hard work in the role of Chair of National Parks England. Jim Bailey informed members that the Authority was still one SoS member short, the vacancy would be carried forward to the next round of applications. The process for which would begin again in the Autumn.

**Resolved:** the report was noted

45/16 **Reports from Members on Outside Bodies**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer

Alison Fisher circulated her written update from the Tourism Advisory Board meeting.

<b>Resolved:</b> the report was noted.
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46/16 **Long Service Presentation to Janet Frank**

Jim Bailey, Chair of the Authority presented Janet Frank with a card and gift in recognition of her long service as Authority Member for Ryedale DC.

..... (Chair)  
3 October 2016

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"  
at the meeting of the Authority  
on 27 June 2016**

**Private Minutes**

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2016, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.