



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 4 Dec 2018

Present: Jim Bailey, Mike Conlon, Catriona Cook, Catherine Cussons, Janet Frank, Helen Gundry, Peter Hutchinson, Muriel Mitchell, Heather Moorhouse, John Richardson, Philip Thurlow, George Winn-Darley.

Apologies: Val Arnold, Alison Fuller

Officers in Attendance: Andy Wilson, Richard Gunton, Michael Graham, Debbie Trafford, Vanessa Burgess

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

Richard Gunton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

14/18 Election of Chair

John Richardson was elected Chair.

15/18 Election of Deputy Chair

Catriona Cook was elected as Deputy Chair

The Chair welcomed Philip Thurlow, Heather Moorhouse and Dick Brew to the meeting.

16/18 Public Minutes

The Chair shared with members two additional supporting papers in relation to the minutes of the meeting of 13 June 2018 as follows:

- E-mail from Alison Fuller with a number of comments in relation to the Minutes (points 2/18 and 11/18)
- List of proposed amendments to the Minutes from Mr T Ratcliffe (points 4/18, 5/18 and 13/18)

After a brief discussion members agreed:

- To receive a brief update on the Cinder Path from Richard Gunton at the meeting (2/18)
- That the TRO - Seggimire Lane prohibits all motor vehicles except solo motor cycles (11/18)
- To the addition of the following text at point 4/18 – That the NYCC officers would report further on the wording in official land searches regarding the user rights on UURs since the current wording leads to confusion
- To the addition of text at point 5/18 – That historical user evidence would remain admissible.

- Members agreed to disregard Mr Ratcliffe's amendment suggested at point 13/18

After accepting the amendments as indicated above, the public minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 13 June 2018**, were then confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

17/18 **Matters Arising**

Permissive Access Licence – Negotiations are still ongoing.

Mowing Grass Verges – The Authority's Conservation Dept. to include a note on this in Moors Messenger, spring 2019

Guidelines for the organisation of recreational events – Debbie Trafford has already received some feedback on this draft document from Members.

Action: Members to get any additional comments to Debbie Trafford as soon as possible.

Creation of a public or permissive bridlepath – Debbie Trafford and Catriona Cook to further discuss.

Action: Debbie Trafford to provide members with a brief written update.

UUR's BES Executive Members Group Report – Debbie Trafford updated members of the changes taking place at NYCC regarding the new Countryside Access Team, with Ben Jackson acting as our main contact.

Action: Vanessa Burgess to recirculate the BES report which was originally e-mailed to Members on 26 June 2018 (action completed 5/12/2018)

NYMNPA website – inclusion of accessibility information – Links to Moorsbus website have now been included on the Easy Access page of the Authority's website.

Letter of support – Malton/Pickering Cycle Route – Debbie Trafford advised that she was happy to write a letter of support.

Action: Helen Gundry to speak to Howard to progress.

Update on Cinder Path – Richard Gunton updated members with the following:

- The original plan was strongly objected to
- NYMNPA have been very involved in Overview and Scrutiny group meetings set up by SBC
- A new draft has now been produced which the Authority is very pleased with.
- Proposed surface, within the NP area, has only one small stretch of tarmac
- Remainder of the surface is unsealed and made up of recycled material (Ultitrec)
- Additional work has been done on the Ecological value of the path, plus a group established to oversee this element. Budget has been set aside for further Eco study.
- The width of the path will vary between 3 metres and 1.5 metres
- Code of Conduct/Event Management information, specifically targeted at race cyclists
- Amended draft plan to Overview & Scrutiny on 5 December 2018
- £70K set aside for maintenance

- £20K set aside for Ecology
- Bids for capital works

18/18 **Tree/Animal Diseases/Bio-Security**

A copy of the Bio-Security Policy for NP Staff was shared with LAF members at the meeting.

Discussion followed and the following comments were made:

- Airborne diseases hard to control
- NP plans to promote the issue with the Public – info sharing via social media, linking to other organisation’s websites such as the Forestry Commission
- Lack of wash-down facilities, some facilities only open during facility opening hours
- Use of signage at significant ‘honey pot’ areas
- Targeting information at particular forums/media sites, then need to change attitudes increase awareness of issue
- Biggest risk – those travelling long distances between sites
- Tree diseases - combination of more international traffic and climate change beginning to have a profound effect

Action: Debbie Trafford to further investigate targeted groups and agree some joint actions with the Forestry Commission.

Before moving on to Item 9, Andy Wilson spoke briefly about the forthcoming National Park Review.

George Winn-Darley declared an interest in the Fire Severity Index – as a member of the England and Wales Wild Fire Forum

19/18 **Fire Severity Index**

Debbie Trafford updated members, stating that the Fire Severity Index (FSI) was used to indicate potential severity of a fire rather than likelihood of a fire starting. It takes into account a number of factors such as wind speed and recent weather conditions etc. Level 5 is the highest level of risk which if reached triggers Open Access Closures. A review of the FSI is due to be conducted by NE before April 2019.

Action: Debbie Trafford to report back on FSI at the June meeting

20/18 **Ways to increase the use of public transport in the National Park**

Helen Gundry tabled a report at the meeting.

Andy Wilson, CEO advised the meeting that a 40% reduction in core funding, led to Authority members decision to de-prioritise transport/Moorsbus. NYMNPA funding now goes on targeted transport for schools and community groups on Teesside. Comments regarding public transport would be welcomed by the NP Review Panel.

Action: Helen Gundry to draft some suggested text to enhance Public transport information and raise awareness of available options on the NYMNPA website.

Action: Richard Gunton to provide Mike Conlon with information on the NYMNPA’s targeted transport scheme.

21/18 Terms of Reference (item missed off agenda front sheet, but document discussed prior to DAG update).

Members asked that point 3.9 of the TOR document be amended to: 'It is anticipated that members will have a general interest in all matters being discussed at the LAF. However any direct personal interests in agenda items are to be declared to the Chair'.

Action: Members to send any comments on the TOR document to Debbie Trafford by the end of January 2019.

Action: Vanessa Burgess to send members an updated LAF member contact list including breakdown of interest groups.

22/18 Disability Advisory Group Update

David Brewster updated members, commenting on the following:

- Group considers accessibility but also the built environment and access to volunteers service
- More realistic target in the Business Plan in relation to accessibility
- Forge Valley – (Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise, SBC and NYMNP). The need to keep the facility maintained including replacement of the boardwalk, consultation re: accessibility, agreeing standards to access.

Debbie Trafford reminded the meeting of the ambitious target in the current Business Plan, to increase accessible routes 5km per year. LAF members will be asked for input on this work as part of the June LAF meeting.

23/18 Operation Owl Update

Debbie Trafford gave members a brief update:

- North Yorkshire Police have now delivered 15 Operation Owl presentations
- The number of Wildlife Crime Officers have increased
- National operation to raise awareness
- New lead for Raptor Persecution Team – Superintendent Nick Lyle
- NYMNP pulling together a draft strategy on Raptor Persecution, LAF members will be asked to comment in due course.

Andy Wilson commented on the high level of public interest in the Raptor issue and that a full range of raptors should be present in the NYMNP.

Members commented on:

- Varying stats/surveys available on raptor numbers
- Increasing tension between groups/interested parties
- Illegal persecution needs to stop
- Awareness raising of issue

24/18 Livestock Worrying –Sub Group Update

Discussion took place on the following:

- Role of North Yorkshire Police
- 5 forces police report and supporting the report

- Communication – Dog walking areas
- Engaging with dog walkers – awareness raising; Website, posters, dog-friendly accommodation providers, caravan sites, Dogs Trust event
- Promotion - network of dog-friendly walking areas
- Encourage public to report livestock worrying incidents to the Police
- Parish Forum presentations

Action: Debbie Trafford to arrange another meeting with the sub group to discuss further, Plus discuss format/content of presentations to Parish Forums.

Peter Hutchinson left the meeting at 12.25pm

25/18 Ongoing NYCC UUR Work

A brief discussion took place on possible funding opportunities to help maintain UUR's.

Action: Debbie Trafford to invite Ben Jackson to next LAF meeting

26/18 Ryedale Cycle Forum/Moorsbus Update

Helen Gundry tabled a report at the meeting

27/18 Items for future meetings

National Park Review, Bio Security, Fire Severity Index, LAF Terms of Reference, DAG, Livestock worrying, Ryedale Cycle Forum/Moorsbus, Access targets – Business Plan.

The Chair thanked Richard Gunton, Director of Park Services for all his hard work over the years and wished him well for his retirement.

28/18 Any Other Business

On behalf of Elizabeth Kirk, former LAF member – Catriona Cook asked Officers about dedication of a bridleway on Levisham Estate, in case the Authority sold the land.

Officers stated that the Authority had no intention of selling Levisham Estate, but the Authority would look at the impact of access.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12 June 2019 to include lunch and an afternoon site visit details of which would be made available at a later date.

..... (Chair)
12 June 2019