

## North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 26 March 2012.

**Present:** Mrs V Arnold, J Bailey, M Bowes, B Briggs, Mrs J Frank, D Hugill, D C Jeffels, M Knaggs, P Lawson, Mrs J Mitchell, S Scoffin, G H Simpson, B Suthers, R I Thompson, H Tindall

**Apologies:** T Lawn, E Sanderson, Mrs C Seymour, Mrs H Swiers, P Wheeler

**Officers in attendance:** Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Irene Brannon (Director of Corporate Services), Richard Gunton (Director of Park Service), Chris France (Director of Planning), Julie Lawrence (Director of Projects), John Raine (Principal Accountant NYCC), Sarah Housden (Policy Manger), Andrea McMillan (Planning Policy Officer), Rebecca Thompson (Conservation Project Officer), Simon Bassindale (Senior Ranger), Fiona Farnell (Committees Officer)

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

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#### 09/12 Minutes

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 10/12 Minutes of Special Authority

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2012, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 11/12 Public Question Time

There were no questions from Members of the public.

#### 12/12 Members Interests

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

The Chair presented the Monitoring Officer with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her and her team for all the work they had done for the Authority.

#### 13/12 Exclusion of the public

**Resolved:**

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 16 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 & 2 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

## 14/12 Treasury Management and The Prudential Code for Capital Finance

Considered:

The report of the Treasurer. This item was presented by John Raine.

In answer to questions from Members the Principal Accountant noted that there were no changes envisaged from the Localism Act and that it was a requirement that the Treasury Management Strategy be reviewed annually.

The Chief Executive noted that some National Park Authorities had borrowed money and that this may be something to think about in the future.

### **Resolved:**

That Members:

- i. Adopted the practices required by the revised Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Service as revised in November 2011.
- ii. Approved the Annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13 as detailed in Appendix 1, including the Prudential Indicators set out in Section 3, and the Minimum Revenue Provision policy set out in Section 9 of that Strategy.
- iii. Adopted the Annual Investment Strategy agreed by the County Council for 2012/13.
- iv. Approved the affordable borrowing limit of £335k for 2012/13, under section 3(i) of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Paragraph 3(iv) of the Appendix 1.
- v. Confirm the delegation to the Treasurer, as agreed in previous years, for the following matters:
  - a. Any need to effect changes between the separate agreed limits for borrowing and other long term liabilities (such as finance leases) in accordance with option appraisal, value for money or other relevant factors. This applies to the Prudential Indicators in paragraph 3 (iv) and 3(v) of the appendix 1.
  - b. Decisions to borrow from the PWLB and money markets at the most advantageous rate, as set out in Paragraphs 5.6 of Appendix 1.

## 15/12 Budget Estimate 2012/13

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services

In answer to a question from a Member the Director confirmed that approximately an additional £10k had been received from car parking income which was a slight improvement on targets and that Officers were monitoring this closely.

In response to questions raised by Members the Chief Executive answered:

- The County Council had withdrawn £50k funding for public rights of way, which was not this Authority's statutory function, however it was noted that this had been done due to the huge sums that the County Council had to save.
- Believed that the principle of charging full cost for Planning applications would be established probably with a slight increase to start, moving towards full cost recovery after several years.

The Chief Executive noted that dependent upon external financial influences going against the Authority further difficult decisions on budgets may need to be made.

**Resolved:**

Members approved the start budget 2012/13 as attached at the Appendix to the report.

**16/12 Review of National Park Management Plan**

Considered:

The report of the Policy Manager

Members made the following comments/asked the following questions:

- Happy with the direction of travel.
- Will a rough desktop version be available for the May meeting?
- Have further affordable housing sites been identified within the National Park?
- Forest plantation activity had the potential to be damaging.
- What concerns did the RSPB have?
- At the present time worried about the effects that no rain is having on the moorland.

In answer to questions from Members, Officers commented as follows:

- It may be possible to get a draft layout and design ready for the May meeting.
- 77 units were approved under 'exception sites' within the last 5 years, no quota sites have been delivered as they have not come forward, there are still opportunities for exception site and the target in the Management Plan is considered to be realistic.
- Officers will look at the text on forest policy, as possibly too sympathetic to production at expense of biodiversity.
- The RSPB were asking for wording to be added to each policy with regards to Special Protection Areas and Special Areas for Conservation. However Officers have added wording to the habitat regulation policy.

A Member noted that drought conditions on the moor could be covered under bullet point 3 on page 34.

**Resolved:**

1. That the draft of the new Management Plan in Appendix 1 be endorsed as a basis for producing the final version of the Plan.
2. That Members provided any comments on the draft that they would wish to see incorporated into the final version.
3. That Members noted the remaining steps needed to finalise and adopt the new Management Plan.

**17/12 Business Plan 2012 – 2015**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services. A powerpoint presentation was shown a copy of which appears in the minute book. Both the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Park Services presented this item.

The Directors answered Members questions on the report as follows:

- As part of an NYCC local transport bid the Authority have agreed to run a service from the Park and Ride at Whitby along the Esk Valley to include the Moors National Park Centre.
- The Authority is not turning away volunteers. Unfortunately some volunteer groups are full, but volunteers are not turned away but directed to other groups which have capacity.
- Monitoring of car park with regards to useage and displacement is carried out.

Members also made the following comments:

- Email correspondence needed to acknowledged.
- Planning correspondence should be answered in a timely fashion.
- It was very nice to meet the volunteers at their annual meeting.
- Could the wonderful photographs displayed on the wall be made into a book to be sold?

**Action – An article to be added to the next Volunteers Newsletter stating why some volunteers are unable to go with the group of their choice.**

#### **Business Plan Task and Finish Group**

**Woodland and Grassland** – Members supported prioritisation of work on ‘planted ancient woodland sites’, were supportive of ‘Connectivity’ and noted that the Authority needed to be mindful of grant opportunities available to the Authority.

**Agricultural Production** – Members agreed that traditional skills were important; keen on bee line; noted that the Authority needed to be mindful of grant opportunities available to the Authority.

**Affordable Housing** – Members agreed that the Authority should aim for a ‘minimum’ of 15 houses per annum with Officer to select the wording; confirmed that affordable housing was a priority.

**Renewable Energy** – In answer to a question from a Member the Director of Park Services confirmed that a fish pass had been incorporated into the scheme on the Esk Valley and that monitoring of the scheme would be taking place.

**Mobile/Broadband** – Members confirmed that broadband and mobile were important and much needed to help boost business in the area.

**Action – Neighbourhood planning to be added to the agenda for the Annual Planning event.**

**Resolved:**

Members noted and commented on the content of the report.

#### 18/12 **Revision of the Authority’s Standing Orders**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Projects.

The Director informed Members that the Chair and Deputy Chair had both noted that it would be helpful if the wording 'and in agreement with the Chair' be taken out of 2d in the attached appendix.

Members agreed that this deletion should be made.

**Recommended:**

1. That Members approve the proposed changes to the Standing Orders outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That Members agreed the changes to the Standing Orders take effect at the June 2012 full Authority meeting.

**Resolved:**

1. That Members approved the proposed changes to the Standing Orders outlined in Appendix 1 of the report with the following amendment being made to 2d.
  - 2d. The Deputy Chair of the Authority is able to deputise for the Chair as appropriate.
2. That Members agreed the changes to the Standing Orders take effect at the June 2012 full Authority meeting.

## 19/12 **Revision of the Authority's Scheme of Delegation**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Projects

The Chief Executive brought to Members attention that it was not the whole Scheme of Delegation but just the sections called 'Introduction, General Provisions and Annexes A & D' as set out in the Appendix attached to the report.

The Director noted that an amendment needed to be made to the recommendation at points i and iii to include 'to take effect from the June full Authority meeting'. The Monitoring Officer highlighted the point that there would be a few days between the full Authority meeting in June and 1 July when the new Standards regime comes into effect.

**Recommendation:**

That:

- i. Members approve the final draft Scheme of Delegation (sections: 'Introduction', 'General Provisions' and 'Annexes A and D').
- ii. Those powers currently delegated to the Directors of Information, Education and Visitor Services and Recreation and Park Management are transferred to the new Director of Park Services with immediate effect, and that:
- iii. Members approve the wording in paragraph 2.6a) be included into the Monitoring Officer's role detailed in the Members' Handbook.

**Resolved:**

That:

- i. Members approved the final draft Scheme of Delegation (sections: 'Introduction', 'General Provisions' and 'Annexes A and D') to take effect from the June 2012 full Authority meeting.
- ii. Those powers currently delegated to the Directors of Information, Education and Visitor Services and Recreation and Park Management are transferred to the new Director of Park Services with immediate effect, and that:
- iii. Members approved the wording in paragraph 2.6a) be included into the Monitoring Officer's role detailed in the Members' Handbook to take effect from the June 2012 full Authority meeting.

**20/12 Landscape Intervention Fund Grant for the Removal of Unsightly Buildings on Carlton Moor**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services. A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made the following comments:

- The steel could be classed as revenue.
- Support the principle of removing the buildings.
- Heather restoration will need to take place.
- The runway should be classed as local heritage.
- This is an eyesore which needs to be removed and the site restored back to moorland.
- Surely the liability is with the owner.

In answer to questions from Members the Director confirmed that discussions were still ongoing with the owner and that the Gliding Club were not in a position to assist financially.

During the discussions several members expressed their reluctance to see a 100% grant being given. Members asked Officers to have further discussions with the landowner and report back at a future meeting.

**Recommendation:**

That Members approve the allocation of up to £35,000 in grant aid to the owner of Carlton Moor to secure the removal of the derelict buildings associated with the former Carlton Moor Gliding Club.

**Resolved:**

Members supported in principle the removal of the buildings and the giving of a grant to the landowner, but requested that Officers have further discussion with the landowner and bring a report back to Members for a final decision.

**21/12 Feedback and Update from Volunteers**

The Director of Park Services informed Members that since the last time volunteers came to the Authority meeting, the Authority had been able to assist with their requests which were; a new mobile display unit at Robin Hood's Bay and a

Volunteers Handbook which had been developed and was under constant review and improvement.

The Director introduced the three volunteers – Tony Stephenson, Elspeth De Montes and Marshal Best.

Tony Stephenson spoke about the partnership formed between the Authority and the military with regards to assisting with the rehabilitation of service personnel.

Elsbeth Demont spoke of how working with the volunteer services had helped her.

Marshal Best spoke of his experience as a volunteer in the 'Inspired by ..... Gallery'.

The Chair thanked all the volunteers for coming and expressed how proud the Authority was for the contributions they were all making.

#### 22/12 **Parish Forum**

Considered:

The report of the PA to Chief Executive

**Resolved:**

That the issues raised at Parish Forums be noted.

#### 23/12 **On the Record**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer.

The Officer noted that an email would be sent to Members with regards to the forthcoming ANPA Workshop.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

#### 24/12 **Other Business**

The Chairman ruled that a Member could raise the following item as a matter of urgency, in order to try to resolve.

A Member raised a complaint about the voting procedure which took place on Item 6 at the Special Authority Meeting held in February.

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"  
at the meeting of the National Park Authority  
on 26 March 2011**

**Staff Performance Appraisal Scheme**

Jim Bailey informed Members that the assessment was carried out in two parts; firstly reviewing the objectives set for 2011/12 and then setting objectives for 2012/13. The panel agreed that all the objectives for 2011/12 had been achieved. The panel agreed that the Chief Executives Natural England role was a major part of his personal development, with all additional work for this role being undertaken in his own time.

Members wished to thank the Chief Executive for all his work.