

## North York Moors National Park Authority

16 December 2013

### On the Record

#### 1. Minutes from National Parks England (NPE)

A copy of the minutes of NPE held on 2 October 2013 is at **Appendix 1**.

#### 2. Draft minutes from UK ANPA AGM and Executive Meeting

A copy of the minutes of UK ANPA AGM held on 3 July 2013 is at **Appendix 2**.

#### 3. Minutes from Primary Land Users Group

A copy of the minutes of the Primary Land Users Group held on 1 October 2013 is at **Appendix 3**.

#### 4. Public Rights of Way Legal Events

1. Bridleway 60 and Footpath 205 Bilsdale Midcable (Crossett Bank) Definitive Map Modification Order 2013
2. Footpath 507 Hackness (Wrench Green) Extinguishment Order 2013
3. Footpath 27 Hackness (Wrench Green) Diversion Order 2013
4. Footpath 662 Fylingdales (Coast to Coast Walk – Graystone Hills, Low Moor & Normanby Hill Top) Diversion Order 2013

#### Background

Letters to Legal Services on:

<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
1. 10/10/2013	KHG/5050/4/00/MOD 60
2. 26/09/2013	EAW/5050/3/17/EXT 507
3. 26/09/2013	EAW/5050/3/17/DIV 27
4. 10/10/2013	EAW/5050/3/13/DIV 662

#### b) Public Path Orders taking effect after their date of confirmation

<u>ID</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Took effect on</u>	<u>Description</u>
1302	5/12/CR 8	22/8/2013	1/11/2013	Footpath 210 Farndale East Creation Order and Footpath 8 Diversion Order (Hollin Lodge)
1303	5/12/DIV 16	22/8/2013	1/11/2013	Footpath 16 Farndale East Diversion Order (Duck House)
1323	5/13/DIV 8	28/8/2013	1/11/2013	Footpath 8 Farndale West Diversion Order (Olive House)

1324	5/13/DIV 510	28/8/2013	19/11/2013	Footpath 510 Farndale West Diversion Order (Toad Hole)
1327	3/10/DIV 98	20/3/2013	29/11/2013	Footpath 97 & Bridleways 98 & 503 Egton and Footpath 217 & Bridleway 1 Goathland Diversion Order (West Beck, Beck Hole)

**c) Temporary Closure of Public Rights of Way**

- (i) Public Footpaths Nos 26 & 28 Roxby and 8 Easington Emergency closure for 21 days from 16 October to enable safe replacement of bridge decks and handrails following flood damage along both Easington and Roxby Becks.

Contact Officer:

Karl Gerhardsen, Head of Recreation and Access. Tel: 01439 772700

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND  
MEETING**

**Minutes of meeting held on 2 October 2013 between 1.00-4.00pm at Local Government House,  
London**

**Items listed in order of discussion**

<b>Present</b>		
<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>
Stephen Johnson		Broads Authority
Bill Hitchens (by telephone)		Dartmoor NPA
Andrea Davis		Exmoor NPA
	Richard Leafe	Lake District NPA
Julian Johnson	Alison Barnes	New Forest NPA
Jim Bailey (Chair)		North York Moors NPA
	Tony Gates (By telephone)	Northumberland NPA
Tony Favell		Peak District NPA
Margaret Paren		South Downs NPA
Peter Charlesworth	David Butterworth	Yorkshire Dales NPA
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Paul Hamblin	National Parks England	
Amanda Brace	National Parks England	
Meriel Martin (minutes)	National Parks England	
Anne Robinson	Campaign for National Parks (Items 1-5 and 12)	
Helen Jackson	Campaign for National Parks (Items 1-5 and 12)	

**AGM**

Item		Agreed Actions
1.	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>  The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to CNP Chair Anne Robinson and CNP Chief Executive Helen Jackson.	
2.	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Bill Jefferson (Lake District), John Riddle (Northumberland), John Packman (Broads), Kevin Bishop (Dartmoor), Nigel Stone (Exmoor), Andy Wilson (North York Moors), Jim Dixon (Peak District) and Trevor Beattie (South Downs).	
3.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	<b>Approve minutes of meeting held on 4 July 2013</b>  The minutes were <b>approved</b> .	
5.	<b>Matters arising</b>  <u>Meeting Richard Benyon MP</u> The Chair and PH gave feedback from the most recent meeting with the Minister (3 Sept 2013) . The Chair noted the success of Love Your National Parks initiative and the need to consider how best we can capitalise on this in our ongoing work.	

	<p><u>Policy aspects of ANPA Conference</u></p> <p>The value of discussions with the Secretary of State at the conference was recognised. It was <b>agreed</b> that a letter would be sent to thank the Secretary of State for his input to the conference, and to emphasise the NPE view on the current permitted development rights consultation. NPE was also in contact with CLG to arrange a discussion with CLG Minister Nick Boles MP following the recent Westminster Hall debate on planning.</p>	PH
12.	<p><b>Feedback from CNP on current issues and programme of work</b></p> <p>HJ offered support from CNP in making use of the Landscape Declaration that had come out of the ANPA Conference; and explained that CNP would be meeting with Richard Benyon MP on 23 October.</p> <p>HJ gave a presentation summarising CNP's plans for the coming year and the key issues of focus in the coming months. There followed a discussion highlighting the valuable role of CNP in keeping apprised of the situation of National Parks in Wales and Scotland.</p> <p>AR and HJ left the meeting at this point.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Spending Round Update</b></p> <p>PH gave a brief update, noting that an autumn announcement was expected; and there followed a discussion of the latest available intelligence on likely outcomes. It was <b>agreed</b> that PH should make contact with Tom Surrey (Defra) to push for meaningful engagement ahead of a decision, as was promised. ABa would reinforce this message with Sarah Hendry (Defra) during her visit to the New Forest on 23 October. It was recognised that some National Parks will also be pursuing individual conversations (for example in relation to the Lakes and Dales extensions).</p>	PH ABa
7.	<p><b>NPE Business Plan and Resources Update</b></p> <p>PH apologies for the late tabling of the paper, which outlined current priorities for NPE and next steps on Love Your National Parks. It was <b>agreed</b> that consideration should be given in good time to the next refresh of the Business Plan, and how this might coincide better with the Business Plan process for National Parks UK.</p> <p>BH and TG left the meeting at this point.</p>	PH / JP
8.	<p><b>BT Openreach Initiative</b></p> <p>PH introduced the paper. The recommendation to approve the Accord was <b>agreed</b>, subject to an amendment in the final paragraph under 'Deployment of fixed fibre' to read "National Parks or AONBs"; and strengthening in relation to Section 62 and similar duties. Delegated authority was given to PH and Nigel Stone (Exmoor NPA) to make any necessary changes to the Accord with the other proposed signatories.</p>	PH / NS
9.	<p><b>Coastal Concordat</b></p> <p>PH explained the approach that had been made to NPE on this, and that given the late stage it was unlikely that very significant changes could be made. It was <b>agreed</b> that NPE would sign up to the Concordat providing the following points were fed back to the organisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wording in the 'Background' section should refer to "<u>relevant</u> local planning authorities" rather than "coastal local planning authorities"</li> <li>• NPE has concerns about the impact of the first point of contact system (i.e. the first point of contact will become the responsible body)</li> <li>• There are training implications for existing planning staff</li> <li>• NPAs do not have capacity to act as pilots</li> </ul>	PH
10.	<p><b>Landscape Declaration</b></p> <p>MM introduced the item and sought feedback on how NPE might use or promote the</p>	

	<p>Declaration; noting that the Declaration is UK wide and therefore any final sign off or changes would need to be at a UK level. Andy Wilson (North York Moors NPA) was thanked for the work he and his team had put in to this. The following points were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest amended version should be circulated, and UK NPA Chairs should be given an opportunity to input to any further rewording needed (as agreed at the Conference)</li> <li>• Responsibility for disseminating or using the Declaration should be delegated to Andy Wilson, MM and Sarah Bryan (Exmoor NPA) as landscape leads</li> </ul>	<p><b>AW</b></p> <p><b>AW / MM</b></p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>National Parks and LEPS – analysis of relationships</b></p> <p>The paper was received and noted.</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>Dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>The dates were noted as:</p> <p>a) 23 October – APPG meeting on Farming (attendance optional)</p> <p>2014</p> <p>b) 5 February – NPE Board meeting (London)</p> <p>c) 26 March – NPE Board meeting (London)</p> <p>d) 3 July – NPE Board meeting and AGM (Pembrokeshire)</p> <p>e) 21 October – NPE Board meeting (venue tbc)</p>	

# NATIONAL PARKS

## Britain's breathing spaces

PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL PRYDAIN

Lle i enaid gael llonydd

PÀIRCEAN NÀISEANTA

Àiteachan analachadh bhreatainn

UK Association of National Park Authorities, 126 Bute Street, Cardiff Bay, CF10 5LE

Tel: 029 2049 9966 Fax: 029 2049 9980 Email: admin@anpa.gov.uk www.nationalparks.gov.uk

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

### DRAFT MINUTES - UK ANPA AGM and Executive Meeting

Wednesday 3 July 2013

Low Wood Bay Hotel, Windermere, Lake District

#### Attending

Broads	Stephen Johnson, Chair; John Packman CEO
Cairngorms	Duncan Bryden, Chair
Dartmoor	Bill Hitchins, Chair; Kevin Bishop, CEO
Exmoor	John Dyke, Outgoing Chair; Nigel Stone, CEO
Lake District	Bill Jefferson, Chair; Richard Leafe CEO
Loch Lomond & the Trossachs	Owen McKee, Deputy Chair; Gordon Watson, Director of Visitor Experience & Rural Development
New Forest	Julian Johnson, Chair; Alison Barnes, CEO
North York Moors	Jim Bailey, Chair; Andy Wilson CEO
Northumberland	John Riddle, Chair; Tony Gates CEO
Peak District	Tony Favell, Chair; Jim Dixon, CEO (Lead Officer UK ANPA)
Pembrokeshire Coast	Mike James, Chair; Tegryn Jones CEO
Snowdonia	Caerwyn Roberts, Chair; Aneurin Phillips, CEO
South Downs	Margaret Paren, Chair; Trevor Beattie, CEO
Yorkshire Dales	Peter Charlesworth, Chair; David Butterworth, CEO

#### Observers, speakers, guests

Sandie Dawe	Chief Executive, Visit Britain
Lauren Campbell / Laure de Brauer	Airwick / Reckitt Benckiser
Kathryn Cook	UK Director, UK ANPA (minutes)
Paul Hamblin	Director, National Parks England
Greg Pycroft	Welsh Policy Officer, National Parks Wales
Charlotte Westney	Portal Manager, UK National Parks

Item	PART ONE - AGM BUSINESS	Agreed Actions
1. 1.1	<p>Caerwyn Roberts took the Chair for the first part of the meeting in his capacity as Deputy Lead Officer for UK ANPA.</p> <p><b>Elections</b>  <b>Election of UK ANPA Chair</b>            Tony Favell put himself forward for UK ANPA Chair for a one year term - July 2013 - July 2014. John Riddle had also put himself forward but on the understanding that he would withdraw if another volunteer was forthcoming as he had already served a 3 year term as UK ANPA chair. TF therefore was the only nominee.</p> <p>BH queried the fact that both Chair and Lead Officer were from the same NPA. JD responded that there was nothing in the constitution to prevent this and he didn't see this as an issue so long as the rest of the Board were comfortable. This was noted and TF was voted in as Chairman by 14 NPAs - Dartmoor abstained.</p> <p>Tony Favell thanked CR for facilitating the start of the meeting and resumed the Chair for the rest of the meeting.</p>	

	<p><b>Election of Lead Officer</b>  KC reported that there had been no volunteers to take on the role of Lead Officer. JD confirmed that he was happy to continue in the Lead Officer role for another year. AP put himself forward to take on the Lead Officer role from July 2014. Chairs ratified JD as Lead Officer for another one year term and noted AP's offer to succeed JD in July 2014. TF thanked JD for continuing with the role for a further year.</p> <p><b>Election of Deputy Chair(s)</b></p> <p>Wales - TF confirmed that Snowdonia were the lead Park for National Parks Wales – and that therefore Caerwyn Roberts would therefore be the Deputy Chair for Wales. This was ratified by Chairs.</p> <p>Scotland – Duncan Bryden volunteered to take on the role of lead Chair for the Scottish Parks and was ratified by Chairs as Deputy Chair for Scotland.</p> <p>TF thanked CR and DB for their continued support.</p>	
<p><b>1.2</b></p>	<p><b>Introductions and apologies for absence</b></p> <p>TF noted that there had been a number of changes to the composition of the Board following recent National Park Authority AGMs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TF welcomed Peter Charlesworth to the Executive and explained that Peter had replaced Carl Lis as Chair of the Yorkshire Dales NPA at their recent AGM. TF extended thanks to Carl for his time and support on the Executive - especially during his 3 years as Chairmen.</li> <li>- TF also welcomed Mike James who had recently replaced Tony Brinsden as Chair of Pembrokeshire Coast NPA. TF extended thanks to Tony for his time and support on the Executive.</li> </ul> <p>TF congratulated all other Chairs on their re-election and asked if there were any other AGM changes anticipated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- John Dyke explained that Andrea Davies had been elected the new Chair for Exmoor but had been unable to attend the meeting so he was attending in her place. TF thanked JD for his support over the years.</li> </ul> <p>TF also welcomed Gordon Watson and Owen McKee, Deputy Chair - who were representing Loch Lomond and the Trossachs NPA.</p> <p>KC noted apologies as follows: John Cook and Julie James - Brecon Beacons; Grant Moir - Cairngorms; Helen Jackson &amp; Anne Robinson – CNP; Fiona Logan and Linda McKay - Loch Lomond and the Trossachs; Catherine Graham Harrison and David Henshilwood - Natural England.</p>	<p><b>KC to pass on thanks to CL &amp; TB</b></p> <p><b>KC to update email listings and portal records</b></p>
<p><b>1.3</b> <b>1.3.i</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of the last meetings</b></p> <p><b>UK ANPA AGM and Executive July 2012</b></p> <p>TF referred Chairs to the July 2012 draft Minutes confirming that all actions had been followed up and anything requiring further discussion had been noted on the current agenda. TF asked for any matter arising not already noted on the agenda. None were forthcoming and the minutes were <b>approved</b> without further comment.</p>	<p><b>AJ to upload full set of papers to</b></p>

<p><b>1.3.ii</b></p>	<p><b>UK ANPA Executive January 2013 - Video Conference Meeting</b>  TF referred the Board to draft Minutes of the January 2013 video conference noting that all action points had been completed or scheduled for action. TF asked for any amendments/comments - none were forthcoming.   The minutes were <b>approved</b> without comment.</p>	<p><b>extranet post migration (to include approved minutes)</b></p>
<p><b>1.4.</b></p>	<p><b>UK ANPA Work Programme 2010–13 - Highlights /Achievements Summary Report</b>   TF referred Chairs to KC’s report which summarised the key achievements in the third and final year of the 2010-2013 work plan.   KC asked Chairs to note the report highlighting the great progress made to date especially in terms of website / social media reach and media coverage.   TF congratulated KC and the team for sustaining such exceptional results in spite the financial challenges of the past three years. JD and the Board reiterated this.</p>	
<p><b>1.5</b></p> <p><b>1.5.i</b></p> <p><b>1.5.ii</b></p>	<p><b>Finance and General Purposes Committee Report</b>   TF referred Chairs to the F&amp;GP report and end of year accounts prepared by Medina Lynch and circulated in the papers. TF emphasised that in light of the financial challenges and staff turnover of the past 12 months KC and the UK ANPA team have done extremely well to achieve such a positive end of year position and to have managed to sustain a significant level of agency funding for the forthcoming year.   KC summarised the key points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surplus of <b>£28,894</b> achieved and accrued to the 2013/14 budget as agreed at the January 2013 Executive. KC further explained that this was a few thousand more than projected in March as the team had managed to make further savings.</li> <li>• ANPA Reserve currently £43,526 – suggested reserve for wind up costs £35,758</li> <li>• Agency update - Interim claim procedure continues to ensure all agencies have paid their grants in full by the end of the financial year.</li> <li>• Anticipated funding for 2013/14 - £12k NRW / £20k NE - representing a cut of £7k from the original bid.</li> </ul> <p><b>End of Year UK ANPA Accounts (2012/13)</b>   Chairs thanked Kathryn and Andy for their exceptional efforts in delivering the full work plan whilst ensuring a very positive financial outcome. The UK ANPA End of Year Accounts were <b>approved</b> by Chairs without further comment.</p> <p><b>End of Year Portal Accounts (2012/13)</b>   TF referred Chairs to UK ANPA Portal End of Year accounts and proposed their approval. Chairs <b>approved</b> the Portal Accounts without comment.</p> <p><b>Ratification of accountants for 2013/14 financial year</b>   TF explained that Medina Lynch Accountants of Cardiff had done an excellent job of the accounts at a very competitive rate again this year and proposed that they be re-appointed for the 2013-14 financial year. This was <b>approved</b>.</p>	<p><b>KC to chase up written conf. from NE / CCW</b></p> <p><b>AJ to inform Medina Lynch</b></p>

	<p><b>Presentation - Sandie Dawe CEO Visit Britain</b> - TF welcomed Sandie Dawe, whose presentation covered: what Visit Britain are hoping to achieve with the GREAT campaign &amp; new strategy and where the UK National Park Family fit into this strategy</p> <p>TF thanked SD for taking the time out of her hectic schedule to join us. JD followed up on this later in the meeting.</p>	
	<p><b>MEETING PART TWO – GENERAL EXECUTIVE BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>2.1</b></p>	<p><b>Incorporation - Final sign off</b></p> <p>TF referred Chairs to the final draft Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Incorporation Progress report detailing recommendations A–K which he confirmed required final approval from Chairs. KC reminded Chairs of the reasons behind pursuing the incorporation process; summarised the steps taken thus far as detailed in the report; and explained that the following amendments had been implemented in line with feedback from the May JNPOG meeting: National Parks UK implemented as company title (in line with NPW / NPE; Term ‘policies’ in 3.1 of the Memorandum removed; ENPAA references amended to NPE in all documents.</p> <p>KC also explained that she had sought legal advice on whether purposes/objects could be changed in the future should Chairs ever consider seeking charitable status - and that this had been confirmed. KC further explained that recommendations A-J had already been approved by F&amp;GP and JNPOG - clarifying that K is an additional one.</p> <p>KC sought feedback from Chairs which is summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BH sought clarification on whether the <b>Portal</b> would be transferred to the new company. KC/CW confirmed that the Portal was set up under a separate agreement between all 15 NPAs and funded separately – it was only the accounts that were administered by UK ANPA;</li> <li>- BH suggested that a <b>Deed of Transfer</b> should be drawn up to clarify what would and would not be transferred and also suggested it should be signed by all NPAs. JD queried whether this was strictly necessary as the process seemed fairly straightforward - a view shared by the independent lawyer. KC agreed to seek further legal advice on this issue.</li> <li>- BH also suggested a ‘<b>conflict policy</b>’ be included in the articles to protect Directors from being pulled in different directions. KB further explained that such a policy would set out certain criteria for Directors to be released from their company law obligations on a temporary basis so as to be able to prioritise the interests of their constituent body. KC agreed to seek legal advice on this point from Bearings West.</li> <li>- DB queried whether advice should be sought from the <b>Charity Commission</b> (OSCR in Scotland) on whether the new company objects would comply with the charity test before incorporation so they would not have to be altered at a future date and whether the articles / memo take into account any possible differences with regard to Scotland as there is a different <b>legal context</b>. KC agreed to run both these queries past BW.</li> </ul> <p>TF referred Chairs back to the recommendations A-K and proposed that they be approved in their entirety. The proposals were unanimously agreed (BH - subject to the queries above being considered).</p>	<p><b>KC to run all queries past Bearings West</b></p>

2.2	<p><b>Corporate Sponsorship / Partnership Strategy</b></p>	
2.2.i	<p><b>Airwick Partnership Proposal</b></p> <p>KC reported that she had recently been approached by Airwick to consider a partnership with the UK National Parks similar to the one they have with the US National Park Foundation. KC explained that the proposal - to develop a range of fragrances 'inspired by' the UK's National Parks - promised to increase our brand awareness and generate some much needed income.</p> <p>KC further explained that she had taken the proposal to both F&amp;GP &amp; JNPOG in the first instance in order that key concerns could be raised and addressed prior to this meeting - to enable Chairs to make a fully informed decision. KC confirmed that the key issues /legal points raised by both groups had been addressed and were summarised in the report.</p> <p>KC asked Chairs to note the following in particular: as a result of negotiations RB had agreed to increase royalties to 1.5p per product and had also agreed to a guaranteed minimum payment of £50k payable in Jan 2014; the US National Park Foundation had recently signed up for another two year term; in terms of CSR / Environmental credentials RB perform highly on a number of global corporate sustainability indices &amp; have a very comprehensive strategy with clear measurable targets and annual performance monitoring. Both the 2011 and 2012 Sustainability reports were included in the papers.</p> <p>A discussion ensued which is summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it was noted that the funding agencies absence demonstrated a lack of commitment to future work and that the Board needed to seriously consider alternative sources of income;</li> <li>- there was a discussion around synergies between Airwick and UK NPs – especially in terms of the fragrance issue - KC reiterated that the key message is that the range is ‘inspired by’ and ‘a celebration of’ NPs – rather than a ‘grown in’ message;</li> <li>- it was acknowledged that RB had responded positively &amp; comprehensively to all queries;</li> <li>- it was noted that only 8 NPAs featured in the first term and the question was posed whether RB would be willing to consider featuring all 15; KC responded that she had raised this issue &amp; RB had said they would be willing to consider this over the longer term – however it would be dependant upon the success of the first 8 in the range – KC also reiterated that ALL Parks would benefit from raising awareness of the overall BBS brand;</li> <li>- many views were expressed as to how the monies should be spent - KC suggested this was a discussion for the future and asked Chairs to remain focussed on whether or not to go ahead with the partnership - so we can commit to it and maximise the potential;</li> <li>- it was strongly felt that any partnership should not preclude NPAs working with small local enterprises;</li> <li>- it was felt that the partnership should be time limited;</li> <li>- there was general agreement that this opportunity was too good to miss.</li> </ul> <p><b>Airwick presentation</b> - At this point TF welcomed Laure de Brauer and Lauren Campbell who gave a general presentation on Airwick and the Reckitt Benckiser brand. TF thanked them for their enthusiasm and interest in working with the UK National Park Family before asking them to leave the room in order that Chairs could vote.</p> <p>TF proposed a vote in favour of approving the partnership subject to it not precluding NPAs from working with small local enterprises and also subject to the initial term being limited to 2 years. 13 Chairs voted in favour of this proposal / Dartmoor abstained.</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- footnote to include an explanation of the NP Scotland purposes (DB);</li> <li>- ENPAA references to be updated to NPE now in effect (PH);</li> <li>- UK ANPA references to be amended to National Parks UK.</li> </ul> <p>KC to make relevant amendments and circulate for approval.</p> <p><b>Media Coverage</b> - KC asked Chairs to note the significant media coverage AVE to date which currently stands at £407,404 - already double the annual AVE achieved in past years. KC went on to explain that this figure would be further enhanced by the 'supercharged' National Parks Week campaign detailed in the report at Annex C. TF congratulated KC and the team on their sterling efforts.</p> <p><b>Portal Update</b> - Charlotte Westney, Portal Manager gave a brief update on the Portal. CW explained that she would be going on maternity leave in August and Tom Chadwin from Northumberland NPA would be taking on the role for 15 months. CW thanked TG for his support. CW went on to detail progress with the migration project - explaining that the UK National Parks site was the last to be migrated before she went on leave.</p> <p><b>Conference:</b> JB gave a brief update on the Landscape Conference – explaining that the preparations were going well. JB encouraged Chairs and NPOs to attend.</p>	
<p><b>2.4</b></p> <p><b>2.4.i</b></p> <p><b>2.4.ii</b></p> <p><b>2.4.iii</b></p>	<p><b>Country Reports</b></p> <p><b>National Parks England</b> – PH gave a brief verbal overview of NPE activity. Highlighting: Love your NPs campaign and Valuing England's National Parks report which had both been very well received. IUCN categorisation - PH reported that the final submission of the 'Statement of Compliance' to IUCN UK had been agreed which ensured continued international recognition for National Parks across the UK by IUCN.</p> <p><b>Scotland</b> –. GW referred Chairs to his written report on behalf of the two Scottish Parks - highlighting that both had benefited greatly from 'shovel ready' capital allocations which had helped them invest significantly to improve visitor infrastructure. DB went on to explain that both Parks had fared well compared to English and Welsh NPAs and also in comparison to other public bodies in Scotland - sustaining only limited cuts of 2% year on year to core GIA budgets. DB noted that the current spending review had highlighted National Parks very positively - deeming them as worth investing in. DB highlighted that the next spending review had been bought forward to 2014/15 and a harsher settlement is anticipated. DB also noted that next year would be the 10th anniversary and also the Year of Natural Scotland. The report was noted without further comment.</p> <p><b>National Parks Wales</b> – TF referred Chairs to GP's written report which provided an update on the work undertaken by NPW and gave an overview of developments from within Wales. GP added that the Protected Landscapes Wales Policy Statement had been released in draft form. SJ suggested the opportunity be taken to lobby government at 10th July reception. AP agreed to take this forward. AP added that the Commission established by the First Minister to examine public service governance and delivery and the proposed review of NPAs in Wales meant that NPW are entering a very volatile period.</p> <p>The report was noted without further comment.</p>	<p><b>AP to take forward</b></p>

<p><b>2.5</b></p>	<p><b>All Party Parliamentary Group on National Parks</b></p> <p>PH gave a brief verbal update. AB asked about transparency - PH confirmed that the group were 'on safe ground' as regards this issue.</p>	
<p><b>2.6</b></p>	<p><b>Any other urgent business</b></p> <p><b>2012/13 Meeting and Events Listing</b> (Circulated in advance for information)</p> <p>Noted without comment</p> <p><b>2014 AGM</b></p> <p>TF thanked RL and the Lake District team for hosting the 2013 AGM and suggested this format (meeting /field trip) be taken forward. TF asked for a volunteer to host the 2014 meeting - TJ offered to host in Pembrokeshire Coast NPA. TF thanked TJ for his support.</p> <p><b>Visit Britain</b> – Following on from Sandie Dawe’s presentation the previous day – JD proposed that we should continue to work towards an ambitious programme jointly with Visit Britain, seeking funds from a variety of places and using the opportunity to promote what we see as The National Parks Special Qualities. JD further suggested that UK ANPA play a leadership role in the GREAT countryside campaign – clarifying that he sees this as complementary to the work we're already doing with the nations and local partnerships.</p> <p>This approach was unanimously <b>approved</b> by Chairs.</p>	<p><b>KC to liaise with TJ as regards date and field trip</b></p> <p><b>JD to feed back to SD and take forward</b></p>

## North York Moors National Park Authority Primary Land Users Group

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on **Tuesday 1 October 2013.**

### Present:

Country Landowners Association	Jane Harrison
National Farmers Union	Ron Foster, Martin Burt
Royal Forestry Society	William Woods
National Gamekeepers Organisation	Jimmy Shuttlewood
National Trust	Eleanor Baxendale
Forestry Commission	Crispin Thorn
Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust	Henrietta Appleton
Natural England	Lee McQue, David Shaw
Moorland Association	George Winn-Darley

National Park Authority Members:	Phillip Wheeler
	Malcolm Bowes
	Janet Frank
	Hawson Simpson

National Park Authority Staff:	David Renwick
	Karl Gerhardson
	Rachel Pickering
	Julie McLinden

### Apologies:

Robert Sword (Moorland Association and Country Business and Landowners Association), Clive Welford (Black Faced Sheep Breeders Association), James Holt (Confederation of Forest Industries), Alan Eves (Forestry Commission), Iain McDonnell (Environment Agency), Peter Wilson (National Gamekeepers Organisation), Ted Sanderson (National Park Authority Member), David Hugill (National Park Authority Member), Dorothy Fairburn (Country Business and Landowners Association)

---

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

---

#### 11/13 Election of Chairman

**Resolved:**

That Phillip Wheeler be elected Chair of the Primary Land Users Group to take office until the first meeting of the Group following the Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

---

### P Wheeler In The Chair

---

#### 12/13 Election of Deputy Chairman

**Resolved:**

That Martin Burt be elected Deputy Chair of the Primary Land Users Group, to

take office until the first meeting of the Group following the Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

13/13 **Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 April 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/13 **Matters Arising**

• **Update on Moorland Working Group – verbal update by David Renwick**

There had been confusion as to future direction of the Moorland Working Group. An option was accepted to continue the Group, meeting once a year to discuss moorland issues in detail which it isn't possible to do within PLUG. A meeting of the reconstituted Group took place earlier today.

The minutes of the Moorland Working Group will be circulated. The next meeting of the Moorland Working Group will follow the autumn PLUG meeting next year.

15/13 **Signage for Legal Traps - verbal update by David Renwick**

- The issue of damage to legal CROW traps was raised at the last meeting and it has been agreed that the National Park Authority will allow its logo to be used on signage on the traps explaining their moorland management purpose, so long as certain conditions are met, which will be set out in writing before the logo is issued.
- The Police have also agreed their logo can be attached as well as their non-emergency contact number to report damage or misuse.
- Before the signage can be used the National Park Authority will require a letter of assurance from the Gamekeepers Association that the signs will only be used legally. Such a letter has already been received from the Moorland Association.

16/13 **Action to Combat Unauthorised Motor Vehicles – verbal update by Karl Gerhardsen**

A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

- There have been several complaints from the public reporting a flurry of illegal motorbike activity at Bank Foot and Captains Cook monument. Misuse has also become apparent by the public at Snilesworth and there is misunderstanding as to where the public can go.
- There has been media publicity for damage to stone trods by 4x4 vehicles at Littlebeck and in a SSSI (Special Site of Scientific Interest) through Arncliffe Woods. The vehicle became stuck and was abandoned and Rangers and Police responded quickly resulting in the vehicle being impounded. Rapid condemnation from LARA (Motoring Organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association) followed.

- Further damage to SSSI moorland and Scheduled Monuments occurred when three 4x4s drove along the south-eastern side of Fylingdales Moor.
- National Park Rangers work closely with North Yorkshire Police Authority to monitor activity but at present the Authority does not have powers to tackle the problem. A difficulty exists in prosecuting unauthorised vehicles, as at present, the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) is reluctant to take the legal process forward.

Members made the following comments:

- There was also a problem on Hawnby Estate where vehicles were abandoned. In April at Wykeham Forest a driver accepted a £60 fixed penalty notice and this may be the way forward, although clearly it is not a big enough fine.
- It was agreed that a harder deterrent is needed and a bigger fine required for any vehicle found. Can PLUG encourage the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) to be more pro-active in pursuing prosecution?

**Action:**

- **Director of Parks Services to clarify legal position with Richard Smith, Authority Solicitor.**
- **A letter to be drafted by Phillip Wheeler, Chair of PLUG to North Yorkshire Police Commissioner, to support ongoing action.**
- **A letter to be drafted by Phillip Wheeler, Chair of PLUG to the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) encouraging prosecution in the public interest.**

**17/13 National Centre for the Uplands – verbal update by Rachel Pickering**

- Rachel Pickering, Conservation Officer helped to organise a meeting on 29 July for the NCU (National Centre for the Uplands) to discuss key upland issues in the North York Moors. The NCU is located at Newton Rigg College, Cumbria but aims to represent all upland areas in discussions with the government. More information about the NCU is available at [www.newtonrigg.ac.uk](http://www.newtonrigg.ac.uk)
- PLUG was identified as the group which would engage effectively with this initiative. It is hoped that the NCU will be a good way of encouraging upland farmers' voices to be heard.
- They are holding a conference on 14 November 2013 at Newton Rigg entitled 'Empowering Farmers to Deliver in the Uplands'.
- The NCU is keen to work with a wide range of organisations to explore the opportunities and challenges of upland land management. Its vision introduced a framework for how agencies can work together including 'Better Outcomes for Upland Commons'. Danby Moor Common to be used as an example. A member of Natural England staff has been seconded to work on the project.
- Julia Aglionby, Director of NCU, Cumbria has left the organisation. Work started on the Fresh Start Upland Academies, which includes the North York Moors, will continue with Michaela Dixon and Graham Bulmer.

Members made the following comments:

- Success of the project will depend on a wide based national input to the programme.
- A lot depends on who will take over as the new Director.
- Newton Riggs's emphasis is not wholly academic. It specialises in nurturing skills and providing resources which give access to training and education to encourage best practice.

#### 18/13 **Conservation Priorities - verbal update by David Renwick**

A power point presentation was shown. A copy of which appears in the minute book.

Officers and Members discussed the following issues:

##### (a) **Grants**

- Funding is still available to land managers for drystone wall and hedgerow restoration via the National Park Authority's Traditional Boundary Scheme. The Conservation team are always interested to hear any ideas involving these schemes.
- The family of National Parks has agreed to keep the Sustainable Development Fund and the North York Moors National Park Authority has maintained a healthy budget enabling meaningful impact. The Fund here has been split into three strands and is providing funding for small scale community grants, environmental innovation, and local distinctiveness & tourism projects.
- Next year's settlement from DEFRA is still awaited so it is not possible yet to establish what size grant budgets will be available next year.
- A lot is happening with funding more widely in rural areas e.g. a potential new LEADER programme for 2015 and the opportunity to 'top this up' with Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funding.
- The National Park Authority will attempt to maintain grants to some level wherever possible. It is considered a good use of Authority Officer time to deliver grants on the ground and every effort will be made to target the resources available to where they are most needed to deliver National Park Authority purposes.

##### (b) **Monument Management Scheme**

- The group discussed progress with this English Heritage funded scheme and it was highlighted that next year is the final year of the funding and so delivery must ensure all funds are defrayed by the end of next year.

**Action:**

- **The next meeting of PLUG to focus on funding opportunities in the North York Moors and include a report on the LEADER Programme. Director of Conservation to ask Stephen Croft, the National Park Authority's External Funding Officer to attend.**

**(c) Connectivity**

- The National Park Authority is keen to hear of any ideas for projects which could contribute to this project, and are within the target areas (Appendix 1).
- Connectivity means connecting beyond the National Park boundaries, for instance working more closely with the Howardian Hills AONB (Area of Outstanding Beauty) and other key landscape areas.

**Action:**

- **Director of Conservation to provide Malcolm Bowes with a list of work happening in the Bilsdale area.**

**(d) PAWS Restoration**

- There is a considerable amount of funding available up to March 2014, and a significant level of interest is apparent with a number of projects lined up.
- It was noted that although recognised in Forestry circles, the term PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site) is less understood by a wider audience.

**19/13 PLUG Membership and Terms of Reference**

A power point presentation was shown. A copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made the following comments:

- The Authority has recently reviewed the formation of its committees and groups. It was decided that there was no need to change the existing Terms of Reference for PLUG. The looseness of the Terms of Reference was felt to be appropriate.
- In terms of membership, at present there is no representative for the Young Farmers and no person representing the fishing interests in the area. Suggestions included David Teasdale, Chair of the Young Farmers in this area and Ollie Foster from the Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust to represent fishing interests.

**Action:**

- **The Chair to invite David Teasdale and Ollie Foster to become members of PLUG representing the organisations relevant to the areas of expertise discussed.**

## 20/13 **Update on the Authority Business**

The Director of Conservation updated members as follows:

- The Potash planning application has been deferred. Further information is expected to be submitted to the Authority in summer 2014. This will allow the four elements of the scheme to be considered in tandem, albeit through different planning authorities. More information is available on the Authority's website [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk)
- The National Park Authority is working with the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership who are currently developing their Strategy to access EU Structural and Investment Funds for the future. This may compliment a new LEADER programme for the Park and wider area. The rural economy is one of the priorities in the National Park Management Plan.

## 21/13 **Partner Updates**

### **National Farmers Union**

CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) reform has not been finalised yet and current schemes run out in March 2014. The New Land Management Scheme (NELMS) is expected to begin in 2016 and so the funding gap in 2015 is causing concern in the industry. Discussion is ongoing with the government.

There was some discussion about the current state of farming. Local farmers are reducing stock numbers. It was suggested that a number of local lowland arable farmers are not far from bankruptcy stage. Both the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute and Farm Crisis have had an increase in applications from working farmers.

### **Country Business and Landowners Association**

Discussions are continuing over Coastal Access.

### **Forestry Commission**

*Chalara fraxinea* (Ash Die back disease) has not yet been identified in the North York Moors but it is close by and it is probably bound to appear here at some point. A symptom guide is available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara) The advice is to start thinking about contingency planning.

Expected legislative change will mean the Forest Enterprise arm of the Forestry Commission will become a more independent organisation in 2015/2016. Forestry grants are expected to be included in the NELMS currently being developed but more detail is needed.

### **National Gamekeepers Organisation**

It is expected that proposed changes in school holidays will affect reliance on schoolchildren to act as beaters in the August period. 'Grouse Disease' is a problem in the Pennines at the moment but it is not on North York Moors as yet.

### **Moorland Association**

Rural Development Initiatives have hosted a Wild Fire Conference 2013 at the Vale of Glamorgan (22 and 23 October 2013).

The current 'Say No to Sky Lanterns' Campaign is being supported by both the Country Business and Landowners Association and the Moorland Association. The lanterns are an uncontrollable risk with the potential to start fires and to injure and kill animals.

**Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust**

The Trust are putting on two local predator control training courses on 12 November 2013 at Lastingham Village Hall using RDPE (Rural Development Programme for England) funding.

**National Trust**

Bob Dicker who was the Area Manager for the National Trust has now left the organisation. Uplands scheme has been announced in the press.

**Natural England**

Natural England structures are being re-organised nationally. There will be 16 area teams which will each have more autonomy. More details will be available by April 2014.

There will be meetings in October in York, Newcastle and the Yorkshire Dales which will provide an update on the NELMS and CAP.

The Northallerton Natural England Office is closing in February 2014. Some staff will be re-located and others will be home based.

22/3 **Other Business**

Dates of the next meetings are:

Tuesday 29 April 2014

Tuesday 30 September 2014