

North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 23 September 2013.

Present: J Bailey, M Bowes, D Chance, Ms A Fisher, B Griffiths, , Mrs J Mitchell, Mrs C Patmore, E Sanderson, A Scott, G H Simpson, B Suthers, J Walker, P Wheeler.

Apologies: B Briggs, Mrs J Frank, D Hugill, D C Jeffels, Ms S Oswald, J Ritchie, Mrs H Swiers, R I Thompson, H Tindall

Officers in attendance: Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Irene Brannon (Director of Corporate Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), David Renwick (Director of Conservation), Richard Gunton (Director of Park Services), Catriona McLees (Promotion and Tourism Officer), Sarah Housden (Policy Officer), Alistair Lince (Audit Senior Manager – Deloitte), Peter Yates (Treasurer), Vanessa Burgess (Committees & Customer Services Officer)

Copies of All Documents Considered Are In The Minute Book

38/13 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

39/13 Public Question Time

There were no questions from Members of the public.

40/13 Members Interests

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

41/13 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 19 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1, 2 & 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

42/13 Statement of Final Accounts 2012/13

Considered:

The report of the Treasurer.

Members asked a number of questions regarding pension risks, underspend and reserves. In answer to the questions, the Director of Corporate Services and the Treasurer informed Members of the following:

The Authority's pension contribution is due to rise by 1.6% next year. It is seen as prudent for the Authority to maximise its reserves. Some reserves will be used to offset future funding cuts, some will be kept as contingency, the rest is earmarked. In comparison to other National Parks, NYMNPA has the lowest level of reserves. There had been some underspend on grants last year as part of a scheme review.

Action: Director of Corporate Services to provide Members with summary breakdown

Resolved:

That Members approved the Statement of Final Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2013. Both the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive of the Authority signed the relevant paperwork.

43/13 Letter of Representation and External Audit Report

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services. This item was presented by the Director of Corporate Services, Peter Yates (Treasurer) and Alistair Lince (Audit Senior Manager – Deloitte).

Resolved:

That Members:

- a. Authorised the Treasurer to sign the letter of Representation at Appendix A without amendment, on behalf of the Authority.
- b. Noted the Auditor's Report on the 2012/13 Audit included as Appendix B to the report.

44/13 Protocol for Arranging Substitute Members for Committee and Fora

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services. The Director explained to Members the background to the report and the previous way of working with regard to Substitutes.

Resolved:

That Members approved the proposal.

45/13 Local Enterprise Partnership Draft Strategic Economic Plan

Considered:

The report of the Director of Conservation and the Policy Manager.

The Policy Officer presented a summary of the Plan to Members followed by the Director of Conservation who gave Members a brief verbal update on the Leader Programme.

Members welcomed and supported the Plan. Comments were made on issues relating to housing, European funding and tourism and visitor targets.

The Policy Officer informed Members that LEP Officers were aware of the need for a greater focus on housing within the strategy and that Government was also encouraging LEPs to be more involved in housing policy. The Director of Conservation agreed with Members that MEP's would be a good link in to European funding streams in relation to the Leader programme. The Director of Park Services confirmed with Members that the Authority does collect visitor numbers, using the STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) Model.

Resolved:

Members noted the contents of the LEP report and agreed the Authority's comments.

46/13 Promoting the Park

Considered:

The report of the Head of Promotion & Tourism. Members were supportive of the Plan. Members made comment on: The large amount of money allocated to reviewing signage in the Park, The impact of traffic on the Park, the need to engage with local communities to help promote the Park and the importance of good National Park branding.

Resolved:

Members approved the Park Plan.

47/13 Redcar and Cleveland Visitor Centres (verbal update)

The Director of Park Services gave Members a brief update on progressing talks with Redcar and Cleveland BC regarding NYMNP's possible take-over of Guisborough Walkway and Flatts Lane Visitor Centres.

48/13 Bridleway 10 and Footpath 510 Farndale West (horn End) Diversion Order 2013

Considered:

The report of the Head of Recreation and Access.

Resolved:

Members agreed to authorise the Authority's submission.

49/13 On the Record

The Chair informed Members of the need for an additional Member to sit on the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Review Panel. It was agreed that the current Chair of FRASC, D Jeffels would join the Panel and the Deputy Chair of FRASC, Mrs C Patmore would act as Substitute.

50/13 Interest Group (Janice Gwilliam – Cleveland Way/Heritage Coast Volunteer) (verbal presentation)

The Chair introduced Janice Gwilliam, a Volunteer Ranger and Cleveland/Heritage Coast Volunteer. A copy of her presentation appears in the minute book.

Members enjoyed the presentation and were greatly appreciative of the work being undertaken by Volunteers in the Park. Members asked several questions regarding work as a Park Volunteer. The Chair and Members thanked Janice for her excellent presentation.

51/13 Code of Conduct Training (verbal presentation)

This item was postponed until Friday 11 October 2013.

52/13 Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer

Resolved: That the report be noted.

53/13 Parish Forum Update

Considered:

The report of the PA to Chief Executive.

Members requested a copy of any reply received from Sara Eppel regarding Rural GP surgeries. A copy of Sara Eppel's reply was subsequently e-mailed to Members.

Resolved: That the issues raised at Parish Forums be note.
--

54/13 Members Expenses

Members noted the breakdown of expenses received by Members during 2012/13

.....(Chairman)
16 December 2013

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"
at the meeting of the National Park Authority
on 23 September 2013**

Private Minutes

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.