

North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 21 September 2015.

Present:

Lesley Atkinson, Jim Bailey, Malcolm Bowes, Guy Coulson, Michael Dick, Janet Frank, Bryn Griffiths, Christopher Massey, Heather Moorhouse, Sarah Oswald, Ted Sanderson, Andrew Scott, Jeremy Walker.

Apologies:

Ena Dent, Alison Fisher, David Hugill, David Jeffels, Caroline Patmore, Clive Pearson

Officers in Attendance:

Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Irene Brannon (Director of Corporate Services), Richard Gunton (Director of Park Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), Ian Nicholls (Assistant Director of Corporate Services), Jane Davies (Planning Policy Officer), Catriona McLees (Head of Promotion & Tourism), Stephen Croft (TEL Programme Manager), Amy Thomas (LEADER Project Officer), Caroline Skelly (Planning Policy Officer), Clair Shields (Planning Officer), Vanessa Burgess (Committees & Customer Services Officer), Suzanne Truman (NYCC Accountant), Alistair Lince (Deloitte).

Copies of All Documents Considered Are In The Minute Book

39/15 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 June 2015, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

40/15 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the Scrutiny meeting held on Monday 13 July 2015, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

41/15 Members Interests

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

42/15 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of each of the items of business shown in column 1 of the following table on the grounds that each involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 specified in column 2:-

Item No on the Agenda	Paragraph No
20	1,2,10
21	4
22	10

43/15 Statement of Final Accounts

Considered:

The report of the Accountant.

Suzanne Truman, NYCC Accountant informed members that an amendment needed to be made to the statement and therefore the document couldn't be signed off at the meeting.

Alistair Lince, Deloitte explained to members that a late change in the value of the net pensions liability had caused the delay in signing off the paperwork.

Irene Brannon, advised that the Authority Chair, Jim Bailey would need to sign an amended balance sheet, to acknowledge/record the changes.

Members commented as follows:

- How critical was the late change, level of risk?
- Nature of pension funds to go up and down, need to watch employee contributions as can affect revenue

The Authority Chair asked members to confirm that they were happy with the sign off delay and the reasoning behind it. Members were happy.

Irene Brannon referred members to the Annual Governance Statement and advised that this could be amended if members thought it necessary.

The Chief Executive informed members that, as the Defra settlement was expected later than normal it would be impossible for the Authority to write a three year business plan by next June, so officers were planning to focus on another interim one year plan.

Resolved: Members approved the Statement of Final Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2015, subject to the amendments.

44/15 **Letter of Representation and External Audit Report**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services

Members gave Irene Brannon approval to sign the Letter of Representation on their behalf.

Regarding the 2014/15 Audit, Alistair Lince advised members that there were a number of outstanding matters to complete and that he would advise Jim Bailey, Authority Chair before asking for signature. Alistair also mentioned the Risk Register in relation to writing off items.

Members queried the following:

- Late payment of accounts
- Depreciation of assets

Irene Brannon informed members that a process had been put in place to improve credit control and it was working well. With regard to the depreciation of assets, Irene Brannon advised members that the Authority may change depreciation levels if keeping vehicles beyond 5 years became a more regular occurrence.

Resolved: Members – a) Authorised Irene Brannon to sign the letter of Representation at **Appendix A** on behalf of the Authority. b) Noted the Auditor's Report on the 2014/15 Audit included as **Appendix B** to the report.

46/15 **This Exploited Land Update**

Sarah Oswald declared a company interest in the TEL project and left the room at 10.30am

Considered:

The report of the TEL Programme Manager

Stephen Croft gave members an update presentation on the TEL project, informing them that the delivery plan is due to be submitted by the end of October 2015.

Members commented on the following:

- Congratulate TEL staff and partners for work achieved thus far
- Possible model to use/take forward with other one off projects
- Greater partnership working, drawing in resources from other partners
- Matched funding, understanding how the £250k will be spent/used
- Engagement with Yorkshire Water
- Links to LEADER project
- Iron Oxide in streams
- Proper policy re: land owner agreements
- Important to tie in with relevant councils/groups in the northern end of the National Park
- TEL project to engage with all age groups, links with local railway groups/history groups

Stephen Croft told members that match funding was a challenge. There was a funding strategy but the project needed to be approved before the funding strategy could be implemented. Officers were hoping to link the TEL project to LEADER to assist with some of the funding contributions. Yorkshire Water not engaged yet, funding wise. Stephen informed members that the Environment Agency had already put approximately £21,000 into the TEL project and the ESK river project. TEL is also carrying out some partnership working with the Forestry Commission in Coomb woods.

Regarding land owners, Stephen Croft informed members that negotiations with existing land owners had been good. Rosedale Railway agreement, the relevant landowners have agreed to extend. Farm agreements have been modelled on existing agreements for consistency. The situation with monuments is slightly different as the agreements need to cover a longer time period. The first one of which has already been signed off, it will be a 30 year agreement.

Action: Stephen Croft to contact Redcar & Cleveland BC to enquire about Northumbria Water's work relating to Iron Oxide issues.

Resolved: Members noted and welcomed the content of the progress report; and agreed to support the submission of the detailed Stage Two bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to meet the 31 October 2015 deadline, and approved the allocation of up to £250,000 from Reserves to part fund the Project

Sarah Oswald returned to the committee room 11.15am

47/15 **Tourism – Update and Proposed Future Working**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Park Services.

After a brief introduction by Richard Gunton, Director of Park Services, Catriona McLees, Head of Promotion and Tourism talked members through the key points of the Tourism update report. Main areas of work had focussed on:

- Establishing the NYM brand. NYM is now one of VisitEngland's attract brands
- Embraced the wider NYM area
- Built online presence, new website
- Greater partnership working
- Campaign activities
- Securing funding to support delivery
- Working more closely with businesses

Richard Gunton told members that a lot had happened in the last 3 years, better brand, better partnership working etc, however there were still some outstanding issues to address.

Members asked about/commented on the following:

- Discussion with LEAP
- Excellent report, huge amount of work taken place
- Destination Management Partnership (DMP), discussions with partners re: delivery model/timescales, how Authority's Business Plan fits with DMP

More in-depth discussion followed re: Management partnership regarding: leadership, sustainability, working with local businesses, the use of sub-brands such as Sutton Bank.

Jim Bailey, Chair of the Authority suggested that the Authority might wish to invite Thirsk TIC, to give a presentation as they seemed to be a good example of volunteer led Tourist Information provision.

Action: Richard Gunton to report further at NPA in March 2016

Resolved: Members approved the proposed future action as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report. Members approved the steps towards strengthening of the Destination Management Partnership for the North York Moors as set out in paragraphs 5.1 – 5.2 of the report

Christopher Massey left the meeting at midday

48/15 Undergrounding of overhead Electricity Wires

Considered:

The report of the Planning Officer (Policy)

Clair Shields gave members a presentation on the schemes listed for consideration.

One member voiced his disappointment at the rejection of the Egton Bridge scheme due to excessive costs. Another member enquired about the Whitby line.

Caroline Skelly, Planning Policy Officer informed members that the undergrounding of the whole Whitby line mainly happened due to the York Potash application, Northern Power Grid decided to complete the work and did so very quickly. The Ellerbeck section couldn't be routed underground due to the bridge. The Whole project is due to be finished in 2017, although pylon removal has not yet been formally agreed.

Action: Clair Shields to speak to NPG regarding the Egton Bridge work

Resolved: Members agreed to the schemes listed in the table at paragraph 6.1 being submitted to Northern Powergrid for further consideration, and Members delegated the allocation of the remaining budget (and any future additional funds) to Officers in line with paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 above. Officers agreed to talk further with NPG regarding the possibility of carry out the Egton Bridge work

Guy Coulson left the meeting at 12.15pm

49/15 On the Record (inc committee dates 2016, fill committee vacancies)

Considered:

The report of the Head of Recreation and Park Management

Vanessa Burgess, Committees Officer, directed members to Appendix 2 of On the Record and informed them that the Authority required one additional Unitary/District or NYCC member for each of the following: Urgency Committee, Development Plan Working Group Committee, Management Plan Working Group Committee and the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum Executive.

Members agreed that the vacancies be filled as follows:

Urgency Committee – **Guy Coulson, SBC**

Development Plan Working Group – **Guy Coulson, SBC**

Management Plan Working Group – **Clive Pearson, SBC**

North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum Executive – **Clive Pearson, SBC**

Jim Bailey, Authority Chair referred members to the minutes from the National Parks , England/National Parks UK. A report will be available in October regarding the National Parks Partnership company structure.

Resolved: Members noted the information contained within On the Record and agreed that the membership vacancies be filled by the two new members for SBC.

50/15 **Preparation Timescale of NYM Local Plan**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Planning

Chris France updated members on suggested work towards a new NYM Local Plan, referring members specifically to points 3.4 and 3.5 of the report.

Andrew Scott left the meeting at 12.30pm

Members commented on the following:

- Localising the Local Plan
- Implication on resources to reflect different communities
- Need for a new plan, perhaps should be timetabled in with management plan

Heather Moorhouse left the meeting at 12.40pm

Resolved: Members authorised Officers to begin work on the preparation of a new Local Plan for the North York Moors National Park Authority within the time frame set out in the report.

Before the next item, Jim Bailey, Authority Chair advised members that a new paper on Devolution was now available, should they wish to read it.

51/15 **Preparation of Future Financial Planning (verbal but supporting FRASC paper provided)**

Andy Wilson, Chief Executive and Irene Brannon, Director of Corporate Services updated members by saying that as yet, nothing more was known re: Defra Settlement, so best option was to produce another one year interim business plan, although there were a number of challenges to consider: Managing Change, Generating Income and Running Volunteer Services.

Sarah Oswald, Authority Member asked if members could have some information to consider prior to the finance seminar which was due to take place on 28 Oct 2015.

Members commented on the following:

- Concerns re: possible increases in car parking charges
- Possible use of licence plate recognition

Irene Brannon advised members that the Authority had so far sought to encourage visitors to stay longer at venues, visit more often rather than increase car parking charges. The message to visitors should be more about how the car park revenue was being spent, how the money benefitted the work within the NYMNP. Re: Licence plate recognition, Irene said the Authority was discussing this option with colleagues in the Lake District NP who already make use of it.

Action: Irene Brannon to provide information to members in advance of the seminar on 28 October 2015.

52/15 Interest Group to speak to Members – David Brewster, Ryedale Special Families/DAG

Item postponed until NPA meeting, December 2015.

53/15 York Potash Planning Approval – progress update for Members

Considered:

The report of the Director of Planning.

Chris France and Andy Wilson updated members on progress, referring members to the report, including the section which discussed noise mitigation.

Members debated this issue and after further discussion with officers were content with the position having been assured that the Authority's legal representatives were happy with the wording.

Resolved: Having sought clarification on the noise mitigation element of the report, members were happy to note the report of the Director of Planning.

54/15 2015 – 2020 North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme

Considered:

The report of the LEADER Programme Manager

Resolved: Members noted the report.

55/15 Parish Forum

Considered:

The report of the PA to Chief Executive

Resolved: Members noted the issues raised at Parish Forums.

56/15 **Members Expenses**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer

Resolved: Members noted the report

Andy Wilson, Chief Executive, left the meeting at 1.20pm prior to the members discussion of the Private minutes, point 38/15. He returned to the meeting immediately after.

..... (Chair)
14 December 2015

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"
at the meeting of the National Park Authority
on 21 September 2015**

Private Minutes

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2015, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Financial Services

Andy Wilson outlined a potential option for securing efficiencies in the provision of financial services to the Authority through greater sharing. It was agreed he should investigate these further and that he could make a decision following discussion with certain Members.

AMEC Foster Wheeler Consultancy Contract – Outcomes Report

Irene Brannon updated members on the proposed option to let the contract with AMEC lapse and only re-negotiate if the Authority received a legal challenge re: the York Potash Planning decision.