

North York Moors National Park Authority

22 June 2015

On the Record

1. Minutes from the Primary Land Users Group Meeting

The Primary Land Users Group met on 28 April 2015 and the draft minutes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 1**.

2. Minutes of the National Parks England Meeting

National Parks England met on 4 February 2015 the minutes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 2**.

3. National Parks Conference 2015

The next National Parks Conference is due to take place on 14 – 16 October at Bovey Castle, Dartmoor National Park. For further information see **Appendix 3**.

4. H&S Training Needs

Health and Safety matters in relation to staff and volunteers have been discussed in some detail at recent FRASC and NPA meetings. Officers would welcome Members' views on their own training needs in this area. The training could be at the level of developing a better understanding of Members' role in ensuring that corporate health and safety is sound and/or more basic issues regarding Members' health and safety on site visits.

5. Miscellaneous

a) Public Rights of Way Legal Events

Diversion of Footpath 50 Egton (Watergate Farm)

Background

Letter to Legal Services on:

Date	File Reference
1/04/2015	5050/3/10/DIV 50

b) Temporary Closure of Public Paths

1. Public Footpath 109004 Loftus (Grinkle Mines) from 23 March 2015 for 6 months due to engineering work associated with repair of a large culvert over Easington Beck. An alternative route is available to the south via two public footpaths and Ridge Lane.

2. Public Footpaths 102054 & 103054 Guisborough (Reed's Wood) from 15 June 2015 for 6 months due to timber harvesting, conversion and extraction. An alternative route is available to the south via footpaths and forest roads below Highcliffe Farm.

3. Public Bridleway 176 Egton (Butter Beck Bridge) from 22 June 2015 for 2 weeks to facilitate deck replacement on a stone-arch bridge. An alternative route is available via Key Green.

Contact Officer:
Karl Gerhardsen,
Head of Recreation and Park Management.
Tel No: 01439 772700

Primary Land User Group

North York Moors National Park Authority

Notes of the meeting held at the NYMNPA, Helmsley on Tues 28 April 2015.

Present:

Country Business & Land Association	Robert Sword
National Farmers Union	Ron Foster, Martin Burt
Royal Forestry Society	William Woods
National Trust	Eleanor Baxendale
Forestry Commission	Alan Eves, Crispin Thorn
Natural England	Christine Robertson
Moorland Association	George Winn-Darley
Confederation of Forest Industries	Peter Greenwood, James Holt

National Park Authority Members:

Jim Bailey
Malcolm Bowes
Janet Frank
Hawson Simpson
Ted Sanderson
Richard Thompson
Herbert Tindall

National Park Authority Staff:

David Renwick
Karl Gerhardson
Mark Hill
Andy Wilson
Vanessa Burgess

Martin Burt, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20/14 **Apologies**

Dorothy Fairburn, Jane Harrison, William Woods, Laurie Norris, David Hargreaves, David Newborn, Martin Watson, Paul Wilson, Tim Thom, David Shaw

21/14 **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tues 30 Sept 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

22/14 **Matters arising from previous minutes**

Sky Lanterns - NP England and DEFRA have continued to drive this issue forward. Good exposure of the issue in the National and Local press. NYMNPA will continue to raise the issue via social media, Moors messenger etc. Members thought NP England had shown good leadership by expressing the view that the use of Sky Lanterns should be banned.

23/14 **Fracking**

Mark Hill gave Members a power point presentation on Fracking. Members asked about landowner compensation for gas found on their land, the possibility of drilling offshore, increase in traffic due to disposal of fluid waste and water quality/contamination issues. Mark Hill informed Members that there was possibly 5-10 times as much gas off shore, but the process was more complicated, risky. Increased traffic was a big concern, increase could equate to 20-50 more wagons needed to cope with waste removal, though that figure was dependant on the number of drills etc. For a full exploration of Ryedale, 10-15 sites would be needed. Fluid contaminated water would be pumped out and treated off site. James Holt informed Members that since 1947 the Government had owned all rights to any gas and oil found.

Members asked if fracking was taking place in other European countries and whether the fracking process had been thoroughly researched. Members also raised further concerns about the potential pollution to water. Mark Hill informed Members that France and Germany had no need to investigate shale deposits at the moment, but Poland was currently using the fracking process. With regard to research, the fracking industry's view is that sites need to be drilled, operated and monitored to gain good quality data on the process. Currently there is only one site in operation so research data is very limited. On the issue of water pollution, Mark Hill informed Members that the Environment Agency currently has funding to test water supplies, to build up base data. Main concern seems to be water pollution via aquifers.

24/14 **Potash**

Andy Wilson gave Members a brief verbal update on Potash. Main points were: Redcar & Cleveland Council have recently agreed their Potash application. Supplementary application information was received in Feb 2015 relating to an additional 250,000 tonnes of spoil, changes regarding sewage treatment etc. The Authority has received reports from AMEC (Consultants). No date set yet for the Special Planning Committee Meeting. Members asked if the decision would be taken in May or could the NYMNPA pass the decision on the Government? Andy Wilson informed Members that making a decision in May would be difficult now due to the forthcoming NPA elections and appointment of new Authority Members. The decision could only be passed on to Government if the Company requested it or the Government called it in, but as yet, neither of these two things had happened. The Chair thanked Andy Wilson and Mark Hill for their very informative presentations.

25/14 **NYMNPA managing PROW**

Karl Gerhardsen advised Members that the NYMNPA was happy to continue to provide help with PROW, but Members need to be aware that the Authority has fewer staff and fewer resources available for this work. On 15% of the main ROW network the Authority will still continue to help with stiles etc. For the rest of the network the Authority can supply landowners with gates and stiles to undertake work themselves. Members asked about closure/temporary traffic orders and illegal off-roading.

Karl Gerhardsen informed Members that definitive map work had been handed back to NYCC, but the NYMNPA was still doing work on footpath diversions, temporary closure orders etc. URMAG group had looked at 9 unclassified roads, but the Authority has been unable to progress this work due to resource cuts. NYCC have carried out some work at Whitby on Seggimire Lane.

Regarding illegal off-roading, Karl Gerhardsen informed Members that he was aware of two badly affected routes in Glaisdale. Highways have fixed one, and the NP and the local Police are trying to discourage further damage to the other. The Green Lane Assoc has offered signage for use in the badly affected areas to dissuade illegal off-roaders. Further discussion followed regarding the maintenance/monitoring of green lanes affected by off-roader damage plus, the possibility of facilities being sited in the NP to cater for off-road activities. Karl Gerhardsen advised Members that there was already one small off-road site at Robin Hoods Bay. Officers/Members agreed to discuss the issue further at the next PLUG meeting.

Action: Off-Roading to be included as an agenda item at the next PLUG meeting, plus a suitable NYCC Officer to be invited to attend the discussion.

26/14 **External Funding and Grants**

David Renwick updated Members on the following Grant Schemes, with the total amounts available in 2015/16 (subject to any further reductions in National Park Grant Funding): Traditional Boundary Scheme (£50k), Habitat Connectivity (£115k),

PAWS (£80k), Building restoration (£30k), Conservation Enhancement (£10k), Sustainable Develop Fund (£70k).

External funding bids currently being worked up/applied for:

Catchment Partnership – Derwent, Monument Management Scheme 3rd scheme application in for a further 3 years.

Projects submitted:

European Funding Life+ - green infrastructure, Esk and coastal streams catchment partnership, LEADER – successful bid, awaiting further information from Defra, York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership – Whole Farm Plan support to 20 farms in the North York Moors, Esk Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Biffa award, money allocated for a further 3 years and £10k from the Peoples Postcode Lottery, Coastal Communities Fund Sea Life, See Life project, now recruiting staff, This Exploited Land (TEL) – development phase, submit 2nd stage bid at end of October.

Christine Robertson, Natural England informed Members that the Countryside Stewardship Scheme would open for applications in July 2015, closing date 13 September 2015. Schemes would start 1st Jan 2016. Catchment Sensitive Farming closes 30th April.

Crispin Thorn, Forestry Commission advised Members on the woodland elements of the Country Stewardship Scheme. Woodland Creation – closing date 30th April. Woodland Management Plans and Tree Health – now open for applications.

RPA – capital investment for machinery, funding now available, details on the .GOV.UK website. Facilitation Fund – Countryside Stewardship group application, closing date 13 May 2015.

Action: Facilitation Fund to be included as an agenda item at next PLUG meeting.

Discussion followed on the lack of Mobile/Broadband access in the more remote areas of the National Park. David Renwick advised Members that the NYMNPA was involved in projects to help boost remote access, work was being done. Robert Sword informed Members that 3 companies were currently tendering with the Government for Wi-Fi and James Holt informed Members that it was possible to get Hub to house broadband via Moors web.

Action: David Renwick to send Members a copy of NPA Grants and Advice leaflet

Richard Thompson left the meeting at 12.20pm.

A brief discussion followed concerning Bracken control, it was agreed that this topic would be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Action: David Renwick to invite Roderick Robinson to speak on the subject of Bracken Control at the next PLUG meeting.

27/14 **Update on Authority Business**

David Renwick advised Members that the arrangements for the Tour de Yorkshire were in place. A project was underway to site electricity cables underground and remove pylons near the A169, though it would probably be another 2 years before the pylons were actually removed there would be significant landscape benefits to the scheme.

28/14 **Partner Updates**

CLA

Upland Commons – 5 case studies, recently held final meeting, outcome looks positive. Initiative - Raincliff Wood Community Enterprise, part of an asset transfer. Recently held first AGM, interesting project.

R Sword left the meeting at 12.45pm

National Trust

Kevin Dessoy has been replaced by Eric Wilton. A new power line is being laid from Helmsley to Brandsdale. A new Outdoor and Nature Strategy has been produced.

National Farmers Union

Strength of the Pound isn't helping farming. Milk prices are terrible. RPA struggling with new process, no application forms yet for new scheme.

Forestry Commission

Contingency planning – Chalara infection. Recent plant health conference, world-wide issues re: pests and diseases. Advice is to report any issues to local tree experts. Forestry admin centre in York closing in May, legacy work moving to Centres in the South or South West.

Confederation of Forest Industries

Falling behind with work schedules due to shortage of contractors. Private woodland problems. Oil prices down, wood cannot compete, needs to be responsibly priced.

The Chair informed Members of the imminent retirement of Hawson Simpson and Herbert Tindall. The Chair and all Members thanked both Hawson and Herbert for all their hard work as members of the group.

Date of Next Meeting:

10.00am Tuesday 29 September 2015 at NYMNPA Offices, Helmsley.

..... (Chair)
29 September 2015

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND
MEETING**

**Minutes of meeting held on 04 February 2015 between 1.30-4.00pm at Local Government
House, London
Items listed in order of discussion**

<p>Present</p> <p><u>Directors</u> Stephen Johnson Peter Harper (PHar) Andrea Davis Mike McKinley</p> <p>Jim Bailey (Chair) John Riddle Lesley Roberts Margaret Paren Peter Charlesworth</p> <p><u>Contributors</u> Paul Hamblin (PH) Amanda Brace (AB) Jeremy Clarke (minutes) Lord de Mauley Rebecca Waite</p>	<p><u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u> John Packman Kevin Bishop Nigel Stone Richard Leafe Alison Barnes (ABa) Andy Wilson Tony Gates Sarah Fowler Trevor Beattie David Butterworth</p> <p><u>Organisation</u> National Parks England National Parks England National Parks England Volunteer Defra Minister (attended for item 14 only) Head of Protected Landscapes Team (Defra) (attended for item 14 only)</p>	<p><u>NPAs</u> Broads Authority Dartmoor NPA Exmoor NPA Lake District NPA New Forest NPA North York Moors NPA Northumberland NPA Peak District NPA South Downs NPA Yorkshire Dales NPA</p>
---	--	--

Item		Agreed Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed new National Park Chief Executive Sarah Fowler (Peak District) to the Board, and NPE volunteer Jeremy Clarke.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (New Forest), Meriel Harrison (NPE), and CNP.</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p>	
4.	<p>Approve minutes of meeting held on 21 October 2014</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p><u>Direct Elections Bill</u> PH stated that the Government had not published the Draft Direct Elections Bill since the last meeting of the NPE Board when this was discussed. It seemed unlikely that a Draft Bill would now be published prior to the general election.</p> <p><u>Broads National Park</u> SJ extended his thanks to all who contributed to the consultation on The Broads being</p>	

named a National Park.

Big Lottery Fund

PHA requested an update on the collective bid to the Big Lottery Fund. PH thanked those who had had provided comments since the last board meeting regarding the collective intention for the bid. This has now been agreed and was focused on the theme of health. This intention was used as a basis for a positive meeting with a senior member of staff at Big Lottery in December. They had generally been supportive and had provided some feedback that we would need to reflect on prior to developing the bid further. This revolved around identifying specific beneficiaries for the project; the scale of ambition we were aiming for; and the need to focus (certainly in the short term) on this being an England rather than UK-wide bid. The bid steering group would be meeting to digest the feedback from that discussion and develop next steps.

Engaging with Secretary of State - Elizabeth Truss MP

PC requested a progress update on endeavours to work more closely with the Minister since the last board meeting. PH stated that the Secretary of State has not undertaken a National Park visit, however NPE has engaged with the Minister's office and PH had met her Special Advisor recently. The latter provided an opportunity to share the recent NPE offer to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), and to underline more generally future opportunities for Govt to work with NPAs. ABa reported that in a recent discussion with CPRE she had stressed the importance of a coherent message being presented to the Minister by the National Parks and NGOs.

NAAONB Conference

The Chair reported positively on the NAAONB Conference last year, as well as a subsequent meeting that had been held with the Chair of the NAAONB. This had culminated in a shared aspiration for more joint working to promote landscape. The Chair observed that the Minister, Lord de Mauley, had welcomed NPA Chairs attending the NAAONB Conference and generally was supportive of closer ties between NPAs and AONB Partnerships. Some Chairs reflected on the need for AONBs themselves to first need to resolve their own difficulties relating to finances and collective-working. The Chair acknowledged that the AONB Partnerships had their own challenges and felt that the recent dialogue with NAAONB had provided good opportunities to underline the differences between AONBs and National Parks as well. The Chair also observed that AONBs have a strong following of landscape supporters, not currently affiliated with National Parks, who could be a useful group to engage with.

6. Preparations for the CSR, a new Government and Parliament

a) Preparations for Comprehensive Spending Review

NS reported that before Christmas a meeting involving a number of NPOs and the NPE Executive Director took place with Defra officials, Sarah Hendry and Tom Surrey. This enabled a frank discussion on the need for early signals on the 2015/16 budget settlement and need for engagement over long-term budget expectations. We concluded from this meeting that the 2015/16 budget is expected to remain close to the indicative budget cut that NPAs were anticipating for the coming financial year. Media speculation and discussions regarding long-term budget planning implied that more significant cuts may be likely and as such plans should be made for further cuts. NPOs had subsequently explored the need to review opportunities for more effective working; identifying unique pressures upon individual National Park Authorities, and their capacity to achieve their statutory functions and National Park purposes.

A wide ranging discussion followed. Particular points raised by the Board included:

- The relative merits of an internal vs external review being undertaken.
- The need to bring together an evidence base and identify key services which must be supported.
- Some areas to investigate (such as shared services) would be important to explore and test.
- The importance of planning powers being retained by NPAs as well as us being able to show that we are efficient.
- An approach might be to identify desired outcomes and provide a minimum budget to achieve these outcomes. This approach could enable NPAs to proactively show DEFRA what the National Park network can achieve through joint working.
- An output from this work might be a presentation to an incoming Minister.
- The need to look at whether a viable operating model is possible were NPAs to see a further substantial reduction in NPG income.
- All agreed on the importance of an initial internal exercise to gather information and consider next steps, including close liaison with Defra officials.

The Board **agreed** that such an exercise should be undertaken in order for us to be best prepared for challenging negotiations in a few months time. We would want to be in a position to inform Defra’s deliberations – not wait to have something done ‘to us’. This exercise needed a clear brief. It should initially be an internal exercise to gather and synthesise information. This would help facilitate discussions with Defra and any subsequent work with external consultants around more specific questions.

NS/ PH

The Board also discussed the need to engage DEFRA more effectively. ABa suggested inviting DEFRA staff into National Parks and onto committees to better understand the work National Park Authorities do. JR suggested working with consultants that Defra had appointed on a review of Defra’s budgets and potentially National Parks to help shape their findings. The Chair, JP and PHa all underlined the importance of strengthening National Parks capital with key decision-makers, highlighting the successful way that our messages had been conveyed over proposed changes to Section 106. MP emphasised the need to keep the good news stories flowing and both PH and AB encouraged all to share good news initiatives in advance with the NPE office who can help by forwarding these to targeted audiences within Government.

All NPOs

6. b) & c) Preparations for a new Government/Parliament

PH stated that in the run up to this general election we will see a constantly changing political landscape. NPE will seek to engage with new MPs/ Ministers immediately following the election and a number of options (currently being explored) were included in the paper. It would be helpful if the Board could agree what the over-arching message should be to present to DEFRA and the rest of the government.

PHa, PC and JR emphasised the importance of maintaining our political capital by re-emphasising the general public's love of national parks. The need to quickly understand the priorities of the new Government was acknowledged. MK suggested that aligning National Parks with health and reducing obesity would show the impact National Parks can have on reducing government expenditure elsewhere. LR underlined the benefits of reminding people about the large tourism revenue attributable to National Parks. ABa advocated demonstrating the National Parks' links with LEPs which are viewed by government as good for business, and getting Ministers out into National Parks generally.

7.	<p>Progress report and NPE subscriptions</p> <p>PH drew the Board’s attention to the written report which provided a full account of the various activities that National Parks England had collectively undertaken since the last Board meeting. The paper also explained how NPE staff had been able to reduce costs of the Association in the last year, and set out a budget for 2015/16 – 2017/18.</p> <p>The Board noted the progress being made in implementing the NPE Business Plan; it approved holding NPA subscriptions to NPE to £17,910 for 2015/16 and the same as an indicative budget for 2016/17. Invoices would be sent out in the new financial year.</p>	PH
8.	<p>Feedback from CNP on current issues and programme of work</p> <p>The item was not discussed as CNP had been unable to attend the meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Notes of E-NPOG Meeting 02.12.14</p> <p>The notes were received without discussion.</p>	
10.	<p>Notes of E-NPOG Meeting 20.01.15</p> <p>The notes were received without discussion.</p>	
11.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>No other business was raised.</p>	
12.	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>The dates were confirmed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Thursday 5th February 2015 NPUK Executive (London) b) Wednesday 25th March 2015 NPE Board (Terrace Lounge, Local Govt House) c) Tuesday 9th June 2015 NPUK AGM (New Forest) d) Wednesday 10th June 2015 NPE AGM (New Forest) <p>It was agreed to move the NPE Board meeting scheduled for 20 October 2015 to the morning of 14 October 2015 in order to align it with the National Parks Conference being hosted by Dartmoor NPA. All to note.</p>	ALL
13.	<p>Preparing for meeting the Minister</p> <p>Directors discussed the items to raise with the Minister who would be joining part of the NPE Board meeting.</p>	
14.	<p>Meeting with Minister for the Natural Environment Lord de Mauley</p> <p>The meeting is reported separately.</p>	
15.	<p>De-brief following Minister's departure</p> <p>Following the meeting with Minister, it was agreed that the Chair would write to the Minister exploring the options of the National Park Authorities working with DEFRA regarding budget modelling.</p> <p>The Chair drew the meeting to a close.</p>	PH

National Parks Conference 2015: 14 – 16 October 2015, Bovey Castle, Dartmoor National Park

Confirmed speaker line-up includes:

- Trevor Sandwith – Director IUCN [International Union for Conservation of Nature] Global Protected Areas Programme
- Sir Jonathan Porritt - former Chairman of UK Sustainable Development Commission and Director of Forum for the Future
- Dame Fiona Reynolds - former Director General of the Natural Trust now Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge
- George Monbiot – Columnist for the Guardian newspaper, author and freelance environmentalist
- Dr Ian Mortimer – Historian and author, Member of Dartmoor National Park

The 'question time debate' chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby will feature:

Ross Murray – Deputy President CLA [Country Landowners Association]
George Monbiot – Columnist for the Guardian newspaper and environmentalist
Kate Ashbrook – Chief Executive of the Open Spaces Society
Nick Baker – TV Presenter and naturalist
Adrian Phillips- Former Director General of the Countryside Commission

For more information see <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/index/conference>