

## North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 3 October 2016.

### **Present:**

Leslie Atkinson, Jim Bailey, Ena Dent, Michael Dick, Alison Fisher, Janet Frank, Heather Moorhouse, Sarah Oswald, Caroline Patmore, Clive Pearson, John Ritchie, Ted Sanderson, Andrew Scott, Jeremy Walker.

**Apologies:** Malcolm Bowes, Guy Coulson, David Jeffels, Christopher Massey, David Hugill

**Officers in Attendance:** Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Irene Brannon (Director of Corporate Services), Ian Nicholls (Assistant Director of Corporate Services), Paul Fellows (Head of Strategic Policy), Chris France (Director of Planning), Richard Gunton (Director of Park Services), David Renwick (Director of Conservation), Tom Mutton (TEL Manager), Jo Swiers (Performance Consultant), Donna Magson (HR/Administrative Assistant)

### 47/16 **Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2016, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 48/16 **Special NPA Minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2016 Minutes, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 49/16 **Public Question Time**

There were no questions from Members of the public.

### 50/19 **Members Interests**

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

### 51/16 **Summary of Results from the 2016 Residents' Survey**

Considered:

The report of the Performance Consultant.

Members welcomed the overall satisfaction rate of 70% and felt that this was a good outcome despite the Authority having to deal with a number of difficult issues since the last survey in 2012.

There was debate regarding the methodology used in the survey. A hard copy of the survey was provided to every household in the National Park and Officers explained that they felt that it was important that all residents had the chance to give their thoughts. It also enabled direct comparisons to be made with previous survey results. Several members noted that only 1% of respondents were under the age of 25 and that different methods were needed to seek the views of young people.

It was noted that further analysis will be undertaken and discussed at the November FRASC meeting.

Officers agreed that a summary of findings and key actions will be communicated to residents in the next Moors Messenger.

**Resolved:**

Members noted the results of the survey and commented as outlined above; Resolved to consider the results and outcomes of the discussions when agreeing priorities and other actions in the forthcoming Business Plan.

**52//16 Management Plan Review**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Strategic Policy.

Members noted that no major issues had been highlighted in the consultation and that the relatively low levels of response indicated a broad contentment among stakeholders. Suggested amendments were similar to Members' and Officers' current thinking and could be incorporated into the Management Plan review.

Members discussed issues regarding tree planting, tree disease, collaborative work with other organisations regarding volunteers, and tourism.

Members expressed support for the Authority's current stance on grouse shooting and moorland management and the law in relation to the persecution of raptors.

**Resolved:**

Members noted the consultation representations received to the first review of the Management Plan "A Wider View"; Endorsed the suggested actions/responses to them in Annex 1, which will form the basis of revised text where required to be agreed in at the December NPA meeting.

**53/16 Draft Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and made members aware that further work would be done on the performance management framework, saying that it was important that members were aware of targets that relate to allocation of extra financial resources. Also, given the greater reliance in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on earned income, more attention would be given to the risks in this area.

It was agreed that Health should be prominent in the Business Plan but not as a Strategic Priority as it would be delivered through our existing and proposed target work in several areas, particularly education.

There was discussion regarding signage for the National Park and it was noted that sponsorship or external funding would be sought for this area of work.

Members specifically agreed to commit additional financial resources immediately to enable the part time 'This Exploited Land' Volunteer Coordinator post to be advertised as full time. This will assist in the delivery of the Volunteer Strategy.

Members discussed the wording for the Strategic Priorities and it was agreed that revised wording for the first strategic priority on strengthening Wildlife Corridors would be developed by the Director of Conservation and Chief Executive and circulated to Members for comment and approval.

**Action: David to discuss with Andy the revised wording for wildlife corridors strategic priority and will consult Members separately.**

#### **John Ritchie left at 12.50pm**

Members asked how the Marketing Strategy would be delivered and would consultants provide the best value for money – officers assured members they would provide an opportunity for member input before proceeding with this piece of work.

It was noted in discussion about woodland that the loss of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) for woodland creation areas had an adverse effect on woodland planting rates. Support was expressed for woodland planting which was productive economically and environmentally.

#### **Michael Dick left at 1.20pm**

Members confirmed that they were supportive of plans to develop a scheme to improve office accommodation within the Authority HQ buildings after 20 years of only carrying out the most essential maintenance. It was noted that this would improve use of available space with spare capacity continued to be rented out.

The suggestion of packaging trips to other National Parks will be forwarded to NPPL and Visit England for consideration.

Members noted that the planned new areas of work within the Business Plan increased staff resource in some cases and asked Officers to confirm that this would be within the boundaries given in the Financial Principles. Officers confirmed that this was the case.

Officers also confirmed that the MTFs is reviewed regularly as part of the annual budgeting cycle. The next FRASC meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the use of reserves and a reserves policy.

**Resolved:** Members;

Agreed that revised wording to the First Strategic Priority be circulated re-worded in a more strategic way making it clear that the driver was wildlife. It was noted that this would be sent by email for comments. The wording of the other Strategic Priorities was approved;

Approved the Financial Principles at **Appendix 1**.

Requested officers to begin work on a draft of the Business Plan based on this paper, for approval in December (subject to discussion at FRASC in November in relation to Reserves and a revised Performance Framework).

Agreed that additional financial resources be made available immediately so that the TEL Volunteers Officer vacancy is advertised as a full time **not** part time.

54/16 **Interest Group – community Champions (Mustafa Othman, supported by Maryam Farahani – Update on the last 18 months, community picnics and the benefits of the targeted transport scheme)**

The Chair welcomed Mustafa Othman and Maryam Farahani who had been invited to speak to members about their work with Black and Minority Ethnic Groups.

Maryam and Mustafa explained their role within the BME to encourage communities to visit the National Park. They help BME groups by offering free transport (for the first journey) into the National Park and offer map reading and first aid training to develop confidence to access areas which the groups are unfamiliar with. Lots of people from different backgrounds took part in a Charity Walk and also a Community Picnic at the Moors Centre where 396 people attended. The Community Champions network and targeted transport money has made a big difference to the BME communities on Teesside.

A base in Middlesbrough would be beneficial and financial support for repeat visits may be needed for some people. It was explained that the BME population, in some cases, turns over very quickly and support would continue to be needed.

Members were really impressed by the work of the Community Champions and noted the importance of continuing to support the BME communities. It gives scope to work closely with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to make stronger links.

55/16 **Reports form Members on Outside Bodies**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer.

David Jeffels emailed his report from the CNP/DEFRA Conference on Upland Farming, this was circulated at the meeting (copy held in the minute book).

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

**Mr Sanderson left the meeting at 1.40pm**

56/16 **On the Record**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer.

In particular Members' attention was drawn to the planned Committee Dates for Jan – Dec 2017. A query was raised regarding the Planning Committee date for September. Members are asked to note that this should now read as Thursday 21 September.

57/16 **Parish Forum Update (Joint PF)**

Considered:

The report of the PA to the Chief Executive

<b>Resolved:</b> That the issues raised at the Joint Parish Forum be noted.
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