

North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 1 October 2018.

Present:

Leslie Atkinson, Jim Bailey, Malcolm Bowes, Guy Coulson, Ena Dent, Alison Fisher, Janet Frank, David Hugill, Patrick James, David Jeffels, Christopher Massey, Heather Moorhouse, Sarah Oswald, Caroline Patmore, Clive Pearson, Ted Sanderson, Andrew Scott, Jeremy Walker.

Apologies:

Officers in Attendance:

Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Briony Fox (Director of Polyhalite Projects/Acting Director of Conservation), Rob Smith (Senior Minerals Planner), Ian Nicholls (Head of Corporate Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), Karen Iveson (s151 Officer), Rona Charles (Senior Ecology Officer), Pete Williams (Head of Finance), Simon Baum (ICT Manager), Elizabeth Clements (Deputy Director of Conservation/Head of Natural Environment), Anne-Louise Orange (Ryevitalise Programme Manager), Alex Cripps (Ryevitalise Restoration Officer), Laura Barr (Marketing & Product Development Officer), Vanessa Burgess (Committees & Customer Services Officer)

Copies of All Documents Considered Are In The Minute Book

Jim Bailey, Authority Chair introduced Patrick James, new SoS Member to the meeting. Jim also welcomed back Ena Dent, Authority Member after her short spell of illness.

46/18 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

47/18 Scrutiny Minutes

Resolved:

That the public Scrutiny minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

48/18 Public Question Time

There were no questions from Members of the public.

49/18 Members Interests

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

50/18 **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	1,2,3,4
21	3

51/18 **Changes to Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations**

Considered

The report of the Solicitor.

Ian Nicholls, Head of Corporate Services presented the report on behalf of Richard Smith.

Resolved: Members approved the revised Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations, adoption by the Authority, for all three to come into force on 1 November 2018.

52/18 **Medium Term Finance Strategy**

Considered

The report of the Head of Finance

Pete Williams, updated members on the MTFS via power point presentation:

- MTFS in advance of more detailed budget
- Budget becoming more complex
- Members to discuss finance issues at Members evening seminar on 11 October
- Budget roughly £9 million per year for the next 3 years
- MTFS assumes 1.72% increase in Defra grant 2019/20

Guy Coulson arrived at the meeting 10.15am

- Pay award shortfall equates to £221K additional spend
- Total resource including volunteer time close to £11 million, of which £4.4 million is funded by Defra

Members asked the following:

- Ambitions and Objectives for the NYMNP, do we have resources to cover
- Need to think about Reserves, both allocated and unallocated and options for reprioritising
- Greater explanation of deficits

Action: PW to give more detail on deficits at members evening seminar

Andy Wilson, Chief Executive informed members:

- Pattern of underspend gone away
- Better grasp of maintenance problems in terms of our sites
- Current Business Plan – stockpile of reserves, being run down but also looking ahead and building up
- Large chunks of reserves committed i.e. Building work

Members made further comment:

- Thanked PW for his helpful/clear report and presentation
- Extra bullet point under potential solutions heading – External non-earned funding opportunities
- Uncertainty post BREXIT around Agri-environment and Farm Management Schemes
- Pressures due to upcoming spending review
- What other things does the Authority own/lease which could generate income?

Action: IN to circulate terrier listing to members.

<p>Resolved: Members noted the report and agreed the updated MTFs as a basis for further work.</p>

53/18 **Core Policy D Contributions**

Considered

The report of the Director Polyhalite Projects

Guy Coulson declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item and left the meeting room for the duration of the item

Briony Fox updated members, giving more detail on Core Policy D Contributions going forward.

Members asked about the following:

- The notion of funding up to 100%, the criteria for grant scales i.e. 40%, 60%, 100% and fairness

Briony referred members to the report's appendix, saying that a lot of work had already been done in relation to calculations for each contribution. Applications would be dealt with on a case by case basis, but the contributions were for a very specific purpose, namely carbon offsetting, so the scheme wouldn't suit everyone.

Discussion followed on woodland creation and that fact that it is part of planning obligations linked to the Woodsmith Mine application/S106 agreement. Comments made, included:

- The need to be mindful of landscapes when creating new woodland areas
- Enhancing not just the landscape but also biodiversity

- Woodlands need to further our purpose and not exclude other benefits such as long term timber production.

Members requested that an amendment be made to the criteria as noted at 3.2 of the report. First bullet point to be amended to read:

- enhance the landscape **and biodiversity**

Action: BF to amend criteria bullet point to include the word biodiversity

Resolved: Agreeing to the amendment as indicated above, members approved the approach to delivery of the Core Policy D contributions of the Woodsmith Mine S106 agreement as outlined in the report of the Director of Polyhalite Projects.

54/18 **Local Tourist Business Contributions**

Considered

The report of the Director of Polyhalite Projects

Briony Fox informed members that the aim of the Contribution was to encourage new tourism to offset any negative impact and ensure long term, that tourism doesn't suffer because of the major development.

A brief discussion followed as to the type of projects which might be eligible. Briony informed members that applications would be dealt with on a case by case basis, key criteria being – significant impact (North York Moors area).

Members commented on the following:

- Value for Money and the need for 3 written quotes on applications greater than £2.5K
- Members approved of the inclusion of the special condition – not referring to North Yorkshire Moors
- How applications over £25K would be handled and the monitoring of projects

Briony informed members that all projects would complete evaluation work and report back. Briony would then update members annually on the progress of projects. For applications over £25K, these could either be considered by Officers and the Chief Executive or include some member involvement, each would be considered on a case by case basis.

Briony advised members that the scheme wasn't being actively promoted at the moment. Only low key promotion had taken place so far with existing networks.

Members commented on some of the excellent S106 work which had already taken place on compensating improvements to RoW within the NP. Members also commented on the positive working relationship which the NYMNPA had with Woodsmith Mine.

Action: BF to speak to Pete Williams, Head of Finance re: £2.5K applications and the need for 3 quotes.

Resolved: Members approved the approach to delivery of the Local Businesses Tourism Contribution of the Woodsmith Mine S106 agreement, as outlined in the report of the Director of Polyhalite Projects.

55/18 Interest Group to speak to Members (Beth Ghest – Apprentice Forum)

Ian Nicholls, Head of Corporate Services introduced Beth Ghest, Apprentice Ranger. Beth gave members an informative, confident and enthusiastic presentation on the work carried out by NYMNPA Apprentices and the Apprentice Forum.

Ian also informed members of the Authority's recent award successes:

- Princess Royal Training Awards
- National Apprentice Regional Awards

Christopher Massey left the meeting at 11.55am

56/18 Government Consultation on Shale Gas

Considered

The report of the Senior Minerals Planner

Rob Smith updated members, highlighting the key areas of his report.

Comments were made on the following:

- Excellence of the report, set out the issues with great clarity
- General public amenity/Localism agenda - tensions
- 'Transitional Role' of fracking
- Reiterate the NYMNPA's commitment to the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan
- Landscape impact/hard boundaries
- Need for the NP to restate principle of exclusion of fracking from certain places such as NPs.

Resolved: Members noted the Government consultations on:

- i) Permitted development rights for shale gas exploration;
- ii) Inclusion of shale gas production projects in the NSIP regime.

Members endorsed the views set out in the 'Suggested Authority response' sections of the report and agreed to their submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as relevant.

57/18 Yorkshire Beaver Enclosed Release Trial

Considered

The report of the Director of Polyhalite Projects/Acting Director of Conservation

Jeremy Walker declared a personal interest as Chair of Slowing the Flow partnership, since 2008.

David Jeffels declared a non-prejudicial interest as Member of NYCC Flood Protection Group

Briony Fox updated members on the proposed Beaver enclosed release trial in the North York Moors National Park.

Members commented as follows:

- No objections received by members at a recent PLUG meeting
- Concerns re: control of beavers if re-introduced and they then escape
- Welcome trial as cost effective method/working with nature
- Concerns re: European beavers carrying infections
- Welcome suggestion, good from a forestry point of view as well as flood management

Members were informed that issues the raised had already been included in the licence application for the trial. The Beavers would be sourced from either Scotland or Norway. Members were reminded that Beavers were a native species of the UK.

Resolved: Members delegated the decision to support the application to officers, unless local consultation revealed strong objections, in which case the decision would be referred back to Members at full Authority.

David Jeffels left the meeting at 12.45pm

Reports for Information

58/18 GDPR – Info Paper

Considered

The report of the ICT Manager

Simon Baum updated members on progress made since last year. The Authority is being supported with its GDPR work by Scarborough Borough Council's Data Protection Officer.

One member commented on whether GDPR may cause added restrictions with certain aspects of the Authority's work such as contacting future possible Design Award candidates. Simon assured the meeting that slight changes to process going forward would ensure consent for such things.

Resolved: That Members note the work that has been carried out and that there is an ongoing need to ensure compliance with GDPR.

59/18 Finance Collaboration Agreement

Considered

The report of the s151 Officer

Karen Iveson updated members on the collaboration agreement.

Members commented that they considered the collaboration agreement was going well, but had a few concerns regarding resources and capacity.

Karen stated that she/her team were conscious of ongoing resource/capacity pressures and assured members she would make them aware of any issues going forward.

Resolved: Members noted the report.

60/18 Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

Considered

The report of the Committees Officer

Jim Bailey, Authority Chair commented that at a recent NPE meeting CNP had disappointingly expressed unwillingness to convey the requested NYMNPA message to its members .

Resolved: Members noted the report.

61/18 Joint Parish Forum Update

Considered

The report of the PA to Chief Executive

Resolved: Members noted the update.

62/18 On the Record

Considered

The report of the Committees Officer

Resolved: Members noted the contents of the report

Presentations can be found in the relevant e-file

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"
at the meeting of the Authority
on 1 October 2018**

Private Minutes

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Ryevitalise Landscape Partnership Scheme

Members were updated on the Scheme to date ahead of the stage II submission. Members emphasised their need to understand the flow of commitments and sought reassurance that Cultural Heritage still formed a strong basis in the bid. Members agreed to a slight amendment at 8.2 of the recommendation. The Authority's Chair thanked Officers for all their hard work on the project so far.