

North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 30 September 2019.

Present:

Jim Bailey, Peter Berry, Malcolm Bowes, Ena Dent, Alison Fisher, David Hugill, Patrick James, David Jeffels, Shaun Moody, Heather Moorhouse, Sarah Oswald, Caroline Patmore, Clive Pearson, Jeremy Walker, Colin Williamson.

Apologies:

Janet Frank, Bob Marley, Andrew Scott, Subash Sharma

Officers in Attendance:

Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Briony Fox (Director of Conservation & Polyhalite Projects), Ian Nicholls (Head of Corporate Services), Ryan Chenery (Volunteers Partnerships & Development Officer), Chris France (Director of Planning), Michael Graham (Director of Park Services), Pete Williams (Head of Finance), Amy Thomas (LEADER Project Officer), Debbie Trafford (Head of Recreation & Ranger Services), Rachel Pickering (Natural Environment Team Leader), Mark Antcliff (Woodland Officer), Richard Smith (Authority Solicitor), Vanessa Burgess (Committees & Customer Services Officer)

Copies of All Documents Considered Are In The Minute Book

Jim Bailey, Chair, informed the meeting, that at the recent UK National Park Conference 2019, the North Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project had received an award as Best Conservation Project. Congratulations to all.

41/19 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the Scrutiny meeting held on 29 July 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

42/19 Public Question Time

There were no questions from Members of the public.

43/19 Members Interests

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

44/19 **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 10 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

45/19 **Interest Group to speak to Members - (Emma Jenner, Tim Mottram, Michael Kendall, Lydia Dolbing, Ellen Wenman, Paul Hancock and Jonny Mottram from Easi Works/Autism Plus)**

Members welcomed the group members to the meeting. Ryan Chenery explained a little about Associate Group Volunteering before handing over to Emma and the group to give their presentation. Easi Works/Autism Plus have helped with a number of volunteering tasks in the NP, such as Riverfly monitoring, Gardening and Litter Picking. The Chair thanked the group for their presentation.

46/19 **Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 20/21**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Finance and Chief Executive

Pete Williams updated members, following the presentation of the report to August FRASC, members were informed that the Defra grant memo had now been signed by NYMNPA.

Members comments mainly focused on Discretionary grants, ongoing deficits and connectivity/Ryevitalise. Although there was an overall increase in grants when viewed from all sources of Authority income, members still voiced a few concerns especially regarding Community Grants. Deficits were deemed manageable, but focus needs to remain on further income generation and resources to support this. £100K was allocated for wildlife connectivity with additional delivery in the short term via the Ryevitalise programme.

Resolved: Members commented as indicated above and agreed the updated MTFS as a basis for further work.

47/19 **2015 – 2020 North York Moors, Coast and Hills (NYMCH) LEADER Programme – Final Report**

Considered:

The report of the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme Manager

Amy Thomas gave members a final summary of the 2015-2020 North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER programme. Main consideration was around Rural Development going forward, including internal working practices and working with the wider NP family.

Members comments included:

- Grateful thanks to Amy/LEADER team for their excellent achievements and support of some fantastic projects
- Good value in delivery
- LEP working and shared prosperity fund
- ELMS
- Recognise Socio-economic value

LEADER funded until March 2020, any outstanding payments after this time will be managed by NYCC element of the LEADER team.

The Chair thanked Amy for all her hard work in supporting the LEADER programme.

Resolved: Members noted and agreed that consideration must be given to ensure rural development is embedded into the work of the National Park in the future.

48/19 **Guisborough Forest Design**

Considered:

The report of the Natural Environment Team Leader and Woodland Officer

Rachel Pickering updated members, highlighting the importance of the block of woodland to Guisborough, as a well-used site by local people. Members to visit the site on 23 October.. Rachel informed members that the Ancient woodland sites were progressing well and advised about the LISSsystem (Low Impact Silvicultural System). Mark Antcliff, Woodland Officer advised that the impact in the modest change in woodland type needed some consideration, though on the whole the new plan looked positive.

Members commented:

- Particularly well-used site, concerns re: conifers usage/monetary driven?
- Net Environment/Biodiversity gain, water quality...points registered with FE.

Resolved: Comments to be made to Forestry England and Forest Services as indicated in the report along with Members' comments as indicated above and following members site visit on 23 October 2019;
Officers to work with Forestry England to improve access and recreation opportunities which are highlighted in the upcoming public consultation of the Plan;
The final comments on the Guisborough Forest Design Plan will be confirmed at the December NPA.

49/19 **Providing Resilient Customer Service and a Cohesive Organisation**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Corporate Services

Members considered the report to be useful and timely. Review work undertaken should lead to greater efficiency, should be within the Authority's principles and without adding to costs.

Resolved: Members: Supported the Principles outlined in section 3 of the report and asked officers to proceed with considering the operational detail; Members asked Officers to go ahead and implement any desired changes by 1 April 2020, providing an interim report to the December National Park Authority meeting.

50/19 **Associate Groups**

Considered:

The report of the Partnership and Development Officer

Resolved: Members noted the work being undertaken with Associate Groups

51/19 **Prioritisation System for Public Rights of Way**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Recreation and Ranger Services

Debbie Trafford updated members and explained about prioritisation and the need for all to support the Rangers in upholding the principles set out in the paper. A brief discussion followed regarding survey work and mapping.

Resolved: Members agreed; that the percentage split of 20:80 (priority: other routes) noted after 2018 meeting of the Scrutiny Committee is updated to 40:60 but as noted at 2.1b.
That, the targets agreed by Members at the 2018 Scrutiny meeting of 85% easy to use for promoted and priority routes and 70% for all other routes are adopted.
That, Officers implement the principles of prioritisation noted at pt 3 and communicate the key messages at pt 5 as appropriate.

52/19 **Report on the Proposed Review of Car Parks**

Considered:

The report of the Commercial Properties Manager

Debbie Trafford, Head of Recreation and Ranger Services gave the report to members advising that the Commercial Properties Manager was currently setting up a task and finish group and would bring proposals report back to members in April 2020.

Members commented that it would be useful for Officers to include appropriate people, such as parish forums as part of the process.

Resolved: Officers were tasked with bringing back proposals for improved management of car parks by April 2020.

Colin Williamson left the meeting at Midday

53/19 Feedback from Lead Members on Forums

Alison Fisher, updated members on the work of the Conservation and Land Management Forum, thanking Mark Antcliff and Alasdair Fagan for their support on a recent CLM Forum visit to Oldstead and Chopgate. Next forum meeting will take place on 21 October 2019, subject will be Turtle Doves project.

54/19 Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer

Resolved: Members noted the report

55/19 Joint Parish Forum Update

Considered:

The report of the PA to Chief Executive

Resolved: Members noted the report form the Joint Parish Forum.

54/19 On the Record

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer

Resolved: Members noted the report

..... (Chair)
16 December 2019

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"
at the meeting of the Authority
on 30 September 2019**

Visitor Centre Café Tenders

Members agreed that remaining monies be spent on making operational and ambience improvements to the visitor centre cafés.