

## North York Moors National Park Authority Scrutiny Meeting

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 29 July 2019.

### Present:

Jim Bailey, Peter Berry, Malcolm Bowes, Ena Dent, Alison Fisher, Janet Frank, David Hugill, David Jeffels, Bob Marley, Heather Moorhouse, Sarah Oswald, Caroline Patmore, Clive Pearson, Andrew Scott, Subash Sharma, Jeremy Walker, Colin Williamson, Andy Breckon (Independent Member)

### Apologies:

Patrick James, Shaun Moody

### Officers in Attendance:

Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Briony Fox (Director of Polyhalite Projects), Michael Graham (Director of Park Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), Karen Iveson (S151 Officer), Peter Williams (Head of Finance), Ian Nicholls (Head of Corporate Services), Jo Swiers (Performance Officer), Elizabeth Clements (Head of Natural Environment), Rebecca Thompson (Future Farming Officer), Vanessa Burgess (Committees & Customer Services Officer), Gareth Mills & Richard Anderson (Grant Thornton – External Auditors)

In the absence of Jim Bailey, Authority Chair, Malcolm Bowes, Deputy Authority Chair opened the meeting.

**Ena Dent, Sarah Oswald and David Hugill arrived at 9.35am**

### 01/19 Members Interests

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

### 02/19 Minutes

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the NPA/AGM held on 24 June 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 03/19 Statement of Final Accounts 2018/19

Considered:

The report of the S151 Officer.

Karen Iveson updated members on the Statement of Final Accounts, which included a few minor changes to - Disclosure Note 19 (Disclosure of Remuneration, Director of Park Services), Disclosure Note 23 (Related Party Transactions), IFRS 9: Financial Instruments and IFRS 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

Outturn figures also needed some adjustment as a result of the McCloud pension case.

**Resolved:** Members approved the Statement of Final Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

**Jim Bailey and Janet Frank arrived at 9.40am**

**Jim Bailey in the Chair**

**04/19 Grant Thornton – The Audit Findings (ISA 260) Report for the NYMNPA**

Considered:

The report of the External Auditors.

Gareth Mills and Richard Anderson updated Members on their first year as the Authority's External Auditors, reporting that Grant Thornton was now at the point of concluding the Audit for year end 31 March 2019.

The Auditors thanked everyone for their assistance.

Members commented on:

- The McCloud case and pension liability
- Simple definition of Related Party Transactions
- Excellent work/report, well done to all

Members received the report of the Auditors. Jim Bailey thanked the Auditors for their work throughout the year.

**05/19 Update on Business Plan Progress – Slide Presentation**

Considered:

The reports of the Management Team.

Michael Graham, Chris France, Briony Fox and Ian Nicholls – reported back to members on Achievements, Challenges and the Future plans for each of their Departments

**Park Services – Michael Graham**

Members commented on/asked about:

- Whether Bridge repair work could be funded by S106 monies
- Improving youth volunteer days
- Dedicated Officer to tackle Wildlife crime
- DBID – Villages
- Marine Environment work
- Happiness project (perhaps further discussions at ARB Forum)
- PRoW work/accessible route development
- Refurbishment of Sutton Bank
- TEL interpretation work going forward – Grosmont/Goathland
- Kilburn Footpath between High and Low Kilburn

Regarding members' comments, Michael Graham responded on the following:

- S106 monies cannot be used for bridge repair work
- Rangers tend to pick up work relating to Wildlife crime
- DBID – the Authority will be promoting project to apply for with villages
- Michael noted the issue raised by Caroline Patmore regarding Kilburn footpath
- Marine environment work – may include as part of a larger project
- RoW work, concentrating on most popular routes, maintaining to a high standard. Easy access routes – removed Saltburn and Forge Valley at present, though Cod beck will be included.
- Sutton Bank work – money left in reserve, will be used towards limited refurb of the café and wider area.
- TEL interpretation boards work later in year at Grosmont/Goathland

**Action:** Michael to send DBID figures to Clive Pearson

**Action:** Michael to speak to ARB Forum Chair re: Happiness project and a possible information sharing session.

### **Planning – Chris France**

Members commented on/asked about:

- Welcomed successful court injunction
- Communications between the Authority and Parish Councils re: resource shortages
- Implications of BREXIT
- Enforcement issues - are cases increasing?

Regarding members comments, Chris France responded on the following:

- Enforcement work – a real resource issue, not just for the NP but all districts too.
- Recent staffing resource issue in Building Conservation has now eased. Although there is currently a staffing resource issue in Enforcement

### **Conservation/Polyhalite Projects – Briony Fox**

Members commented on/asked about:

- Ryevitalise work going forward (perhaps further discussions at future CLM Forum)
- Monuments for the Future/Historic Environment Strategy (perhaps further discussions at future CLM Forum)
- Polyhalite – Risks around Core Policy D – achieve woodland targets?
- Need for well managed data/records (PI's E-13)
- Project work – Temporary employment contracts - more risk in relation to staffing?
- Good hedgerow management – planting/laying, maintenance - greater biodiversity

Regarding members comments, Briony Fox responded on the following:

- Regarding shorter term project work, there is a need to build in resilience
- Officers are arranging a members evening seminar in October to spend time looking at some of the Authority's bigger projects such as TEL, Ryevitalise
- Historic Environment Strategy needed and should also include Building Conservation
- Quite confident that woodland targets will be achieved, though broader woodland strategy uncertain at the moment
- Traditional Boundary Scheme covers hedge planting – but the Authority does stipulate maintenance regimes/species mix.

**Action:** Briony – October Members evening seminar 'Big Projects'

**Action:** Briony to speak to CLM Forum Chair re: discussion of Ryevitalise/Historic Environment Strategy

### **Corporate Services – Ian Nicholls**

#### **David Jeffels left the meeting at 12.25pm**

Members commented on/asked about:

- Excellent apprenticeship work
- External contractor - developing good relationships with local suppliers/trades
- Glover Review – Governance, 'culture of organisations', wildlife

**Action:** Vanessa Burgess to e-mail a copy of the Business Plan slide presentation to members

#### **Andrew Scott and Andy Breckon left the meeting at 12.40pm**

### **06/19 The Authority's Work on Wildlife and Wildlife Connections**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Conservation and the Performance Officer

Jo Swiers introduced the report and explained the function of the Scrutiny meeting to members.

Briony Fox gave members a presentation on the Authority's work on wildlife and wildlife connections.

Members commented on /asked about:

- Countryside Stewardship – challenges, scheme vital for the upkeep of National Parks
- Need for NPAs to send a stronger message/make a statement regarding stewardship/Wildlife connection with Farmers and what is best for local people (Glover Review)
- Partnership with Forestry Commission – 'Joint Forest Accord'

**Resolved:** Members reviewed the report and commented on its content as indicated in the minutes above.

**Copies of all e-presentations can be found in the relevant folder**

..... (Chair)  
30 September 2019