



North York Moors

Local Access Forum

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate,
Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 13 June 2016

Present: David Brewster, Mike Conlon, Catriona Cook, Catherine Cussons, Helen Gundry, Elizabeth Kirk, Muriel Mitchell, Terry Ratcliffe, John Richardson, Brian Walker, George Winn-Darley

Apologies: Val Arnold, Catherine Cussons, Michael Dick, George Dawson, Peter Hutchinson.

Officers in Attendance: Vanessa Burgess, Karl Gerhardsen, Richard Gunton

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

The Chair welcomed two new LAF Members; Helen Gundry (Moorsbus CIC, Ryedale Cycle Forum, Kirkbymoorside Environment Group) and David Brewster (Ecologist, 15 Years former service - NYMNPA, Ryedale Special Families).

Prior to the start of the meeting Richard Gunton, Director of Park Services updated members on the current situation regarding National Trails Funding:

- 50% cuts in a year, NYMNPA is in better position than some, not being cut, have a slowly growing budget for next 4 years.
- NYMNPA currently underwriting National Trails work until hear back from Natural England re: funding. Natural England asked to find 30% cut – 10% staff, 20% programmes.
- England Coastal Path –£800,000 ring-fenced
- New National Trail - £4.8million ring-fenced
- Impact of cuts – reduction in staffing, reduction in the number of times vegetation is cut, trail may not stay open due to lack of time/resources.

LAF members voiced their concerns regarding cuts:

- If Trail Manager position lost – how will volunteers manage tasks/carry out work
- Ask other, such as LEP, to contribute funds/support.

Richard Gunton informed members that some sponsorship had already been secured via local Brewery plus donations (a donations page had now been set up on the NYMNPA website) and legacies had been received. The Trust would support/encourage this further. Money had also been received from Coastal Communities Fund.

1/16 Public Minutes

Elizabeth Kirk requested two small amends be made to the minutes of Tuesday 1 December 2015:

- **Minute 15/15** insert "cross", minute to read - "any plans to help cross the Vale of York and Vale of Mowbray"
- **Minute 17/15** add additional text at end of para 1 to read - Access Management Plan, limiting riders to public bridleways.

All Members agreed to the amends, the public minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 1 December 2015** were then confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2/16 Matters Arising

Big Path Watch – Information had been passed on to Parishes to request volunteers via NYMNPA Parish Forums.

Karl Gerhardsen informed members that new, additional volunteers had been found to conduct the May Path survey.

Malton-Pickering Cycle Route (Ryedale District Council) – Val Arnold who had previously offered to chase Ryedale DC for a reply, on behalf of the LAF was absent from the meeting, no update had been received. Helen Gundry offered to contact Rupert Douglas for information too.

Action: Vanessa Burgess, LAF Sec to e-mail Val for an update on progress.

Action: Helen Gundry to contact Rupert Douglas

3/16 White Roads – Sub Group Feedback

For the benefit of new members the Chair updated all on White Roads work. Discussion followed on a number of routes. It was agreed that the sub group (John Richardson, Catriona Cook, Brian Walker, Catherine Cussons and Terry Ratcliffe) would meet again to summarise the white road issues across the NP on one map. NYCC Highways colleagues and Karl Gerhardsen to be invited to attend.

Action: Vanessa Burgess, LAF Sec to set up a meeting.

4/16 LAF Toolkit – Setting up a Friends of Group

Majority of members felt that a new Friends of Group might dilute the current LAF and compete with the new Trust. Members agreed not to progress the toolkit but bear in mind if needed at a later date.

5/16 Financial Contribution towards to Secretariat of the Regional Access Forum

The Chair informed members that the Regional Access Forum (RAF) was looking for a small financial contribution (£100) towards part employment of a minute taker, plus room hire costs. Members discussed the fact that the RAF was a useful group, but that the LAF didn't have a budget. Members proposed that a recommendation be made to the NYMNPA for a sum of £50 to be given to the RAF as a contribution to its running costs.

Helen Gundry suggested possible new venues/contacts for the RAF to use as future meeting points.

Action: Helen to provide Vanessa Burgess, LAF Sec, with contact details to pass on.

Action: Catriona Cook, LAF Chair to e-mail recommendation request to Karl Gerhardsen, requesting that a £50 contribution be made to the RAF via the RAF Chair, Jerry Pearlman.

6/16 **Removing UCRs from LoS without due legal process**

Catriona Cook highlighted a specific example of previous unauthorised deletion of a green lane from NYCC's List of Streets located near Thirley Cottages, referring members to maps A, B, C and D on the back of Item 5 on the agenda. Although a separate issue to White Roads it was suggested that the White Roads Sub group could also look at this issue when they next meet. John Richardson highlighted two routes in Thornton-le-Dale – one on the list of Streets and the other, Bottoms Lane, unrecorded for sub group to consider further.

Action: White Roads sub group to discuss at next meeting.

7/16 **Nawton Towers Estate – update**

Elizabeth Kirk informed members that the meeting with Nawton Towers Estate had been successful and as a result free access would be granted to horse riders wishing to use the stone tracks on Bransdale moor.

Karl Gerhardsen updated members on a new map, Bransdale Estate Access for horses, which was due to be uploaded on to the NYMNPA website. A copy of this map can be found in the minute book.

One member asked if there was a similar issue on the Hawnby Estate.

Karl Gerhardsen said there wasn't a similar issue at Hawnby as 6/7 new footpaths/bridleways had been added on the Hawnby Estate.

8/16 **Coastal Access**

Karl Gerhardsen updated members with the following points:

- NP and Natural England had been working on the Tees to Filey stretch of the route.
- Maintenance Staff had been helping on the Black Path, in industrial Teesside
- Staithes – new coastal path strip agreed with National Trust. Launch to take place at Tees Transporter Bridge in July.

David Brewster asked if there were any plans to sort the path at Port Mulgrave following a landslip.

Karl Gerhardsen updated members saying that currently a steep path slope, with rope was being used, but that the National Trust were keen to find a safer route. Both NP and National Trust were conscious there was a big demand to use the route, both organisations were keen to progress work, but no timescales had been agreed as yet.

9/16 **Traffic Regulation Orders**

Referring to page 6 of the minutes, Karl Gerhardsen updated members on current Traffic regs:

- NYCC have interactive road map available on their website showing closures.
- Kirby Bank – lots of objections, so going to consult again.
- Seggimire Lane – permanent TRO challenged, so temp one at present with a view to revisit permanent TRO.
- Lonsdale Plantation and Coleson Bank – 18 month TRO with view to repair.

Action: Terry Ratcliffe to write and ask for a copy of the Lonsdale and Coleson Banks TROs

- Whitby Old Road, Troutdale Moor – 18 months TRO for works
- Mount Misery – 18 months TRO for works
- Lowna to Rawson – Closure 18 Months TRO Kirby Misperton Office

Karl Gerhardsen informed members that NYCC Highways had £30K available. Work passed to North Yorkshire RoW team – North Yorks, Redcar & Cleveland and NYMNP re-negotiating the scheme of delegation. 4 routes identified:

- Castleton Rigg
- Ainthorpe Rigg
- Whitby Old Road
- High Langdale House

Agreement yet to be signed, the RoW team are waiting to hear back from NYCC Highways legal team. Additional monies may be available next year.

Action: LAF Chair to write a letter of thanks to NYCC Highways for £30K

10/16 **Business Plan Development**

Karl Gerhardsen informed members that the NYMNPA was currently consulting on a new Business Plan.

11/16 **Road verges/RoW**

Karl Gerhardsen informed members that an ongoing mowing regime being carried out by volunteers. Members commented that verges were an important part of the highway.

12/16 **Moorsbus**

Helen Gundry updated members on Moorsbus as follows:

- 3 Sunday services planned during July, Aug and Sept, plus Aug Bank Holiday Monday
- Tried hard to achieve connectivity
- Only 40% return on fares, help from all quarters needed with promotion to maximize fare income.
- Fundraising - £4K legacy, other grants. Trying to reinstate discount scheme in shops
- <http://www.moorsbus.org/>

13/16 Items for Future Meetings

Threats and Potential – Fracking, Potash
TRO's
Update from White Roads sub group
Update Cycle Route Pickering/Malton
Moorsbus
Guidance on running organised events

14/16 Any Other Business

The Chair informed everyone that this would be Elizabeth Kirk's last meeting as she was stepping down. Everyone thanked Elizabeth for all her hard work in support of the group over the years.

Action:Karl Gerhardsen to write formal letter of thanks to Elizabeth on behalf of NYMNPA

George Winn-Darley made comment regarding the increase in the number of events being organised during the ground bird nesting season.

Karl Gerhardsen said that the issue should be followed up with the event organisers. Karl suggested that it might be worth discussing the issue further at the next meeting and made reference to a useful document; Guidance Running Organised Events.

Karl Gerhardsen informed members that Scarborough BC was stepping back from looking after many of the public toilets in the area. The NPA had met with SBC to voice its concerns regarding the closures, saying that many Parish Councils weren't keen to take over the upkeep of the public toilets in their local areas.

LAF members agreed to send a letter to SBC to object to the closures.

Action:Karl Gerhardsen to draft a letter for the LAF Chair to sign.

Karl Gerhardsen updated members on the BMC's, Mend our Mountains campaign. Lyke Wake Walk section secured £8,500 via the campaign. Coastal rangers are now arranging to carry out the work.

Following the meeting, members spent the afternoon at Sutton Bank Visitors Centre looking at examples of access work which had been carried out by Staff, Apprentices and Volunteers.

Date of next meeting: Monday 12 December 2016, 10am - NYMNPA Committee Room.

..... (Chair)
12 December 2016