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North York Moors National Park Authority

Item 2, Public minutes of the virtual meeting held on 14 December 2020

Present:

Malcolm Bowes, Ena Dent, Alison Fisher, Janet Frank, David Hugill, Patrick James, David Jeffels, Shaun Moody, Heather Moorhouse, Sarah Oswald, Caroline Patmore, Clive Pearson, Andrew Scott, Subash Sharma, Colin Williamson.

Apologies:

Jim Bailey, Peter Berry, Bob Marley, Jeremy Walker

Officers in attendance:

Tom Hind (Chief Executive), Briony Fox (Director of Conservation & Polyhalite Projects), Ian Nicholls (Head of Corporate Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), Michael Graham (Director of Park Services), Pete Williams (Head of Finance), Paul Fellows (Head of Strategic Planning), Mags Waughman (Head of Historic Environment), Tom Mutton (Land of Iron Programme Manager), Jo Swiers (Performance Officer), Sandra Strickland (NYCC Accountant), Richard Smith (Authority Solicitor), Vanessa Burgess (Committees & Customer Services Officer)

In the absence of Jim Bailey, Malcolm Bowes as Deputy, Chaired the meeting

61/20 Minutes

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

62/20 Public question time

There were no questions from members of the public.

63/20 Members interests

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

64/20 Exclusion of the public

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item No. 16 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

65/20 Progressing the Management Plan

Considered:

The report of the Head of Strategic Planning

Tom Hind, CEO advised members that work had started on developing the new Management Plan and Patrick James had been appointed as Chair of the Management Plan Working Group. As there wasn't currently, a ready-made partnership group to assist the Authority with this work, partners would be engaged via working groups going forward.

Patrick James informed the meeting that he was delighted to be asked to Chair the working group and that the current Management Plan together with support from Forums and working group stakeholders was a good starting point to take this work forward.

Members commented on:

- The need to build in flexibility within the Management Plan, to factor in possible changes such as from the outcomes of the Glover review
- Importance of starting to engage and consult with people now, via evening seminars, forums and working groups
- Officers use the forums to assist with aspects of Management Plan workload

Action Officers to advise members in the new year on possible forum topics for 2021

Resolved: Members noted the comments from the seminar that took place on 13 October and agreed the working arrangements in relation to the MPWG and Thematic Working Groups as discussed by the MPWG meeting on 30 November.

Members noted the provisional timetable set out in the paper and commented as indicated above.

Heather Moorhouse joined the meeting at 9.50am

66/20 Future of Historic Environment (HE) staff resources

Considered:

The report of the Head of Historic Environment

At Member's request, Mags Waughman explained further on the proposed staffing element of the report.

Resolved: Members approved the approach to delivering HE priorities for 2021/2022, approved the increase in staffing to 3.2 FTE for the new financial year and supported the review of future HE resources required in developing the new Management Plan.

67/20 Mid-term finance strategy/draft budget

Considered:

The report of the Chief Finance Officer

Pete Williams gave a presentation to members on the updated MTFS and a draft of the 2021/22 budget, advising the meeting that the budget had been even more challenging to set this year due to the ongoing situation with Covid.

Pete concluded his report by advising members on the following point:

- DEFRA grant and pay award uncertainty.
- Proposal to mitigate deficit in 21/22 with small contribution from reserves.
- Change of use of the property reserve proposed.
- Future deficits will need to be mitigated as part of the management plan as funding it from reserves not sustainable.

Members commented on:

- Support for tourism, reduction in proposed funding.
- Ongoing Covid issues.
- Grants situation.
- Changes to funding re: Authority building works.

Michael Graham informed members that although tourism funding had been cut in relation to helping small/new tourism businesses, money would still be allocated to tourism via S106 funds.

Tom Hind and Pete Williams advised members that due to changes in working brought on by covid the Authority had decided to use building funds to look at all property assets and not just focus on the needs of one building.

Action: Pete Williams to action out S106 spend on tourism

Action: Grants situation to be reviewed again in the New Year

Resolved: Members approved the MTFS and commented on the draft budget proposals as indicated above and referred to in section 7 of the report including use of the unallocated reserve to top the emergency reserve back up and balance the budget in 21/22 as per points 5.6.3 and 7.3.

Members also approved the change in the purpose of the building reserve as laid out in 3.7.5.

68/20 Business Plan for January 2021 to March 2022

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive and the Performance Officer

Jo Swiers informed members that the Authority planned to extend the current Business Plan objectives and activities from Jan 2021 to March 2022 so as to align it with the new Management Plan from 2022.

Members asked questions regarding a number of the targets;

- CR6 – additional external funding £1.5k
- CR9 – property Review, capture attitudes to holding freeholds in the future)
- E5 – Countryside Stewardship and tenancy (Levisham)
- U3 and U8 – Access and Website/accessibility

Officers replied to members questions. The Authority is about to look at its current property portfolio, perhaps now would also be the right time to consider holding land. The Authority's External Funding officer has a target of £1.5 million to raise per year, this will roll forward into coming year. The Authority's website needs to meet new accessibility regulations, so a website rewrite is required. Levisham has a number of different stewardship tenancy agreements and Rye/Esk money will cover a whole range of activities including; reed planting, fencing, tree planting, monitoring activities and volunteering. A broad range of activities are funded from external sources.

Action JS to amend the targets which read n/a, to read, on-going. Plus it was felt important to include Health and Wellbeing.

Resolved: Members reviewed and approved the Authority's Business Plan for 2021 – 22.

69/20 An update on the progress with the devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire

Considered:

The report of the Director of Planning

Chris France updated members on progress regarding Devolution, stating that the process was fast moving. 2 bids had been sent off in time for 9 Dec deadline. Chris asked members to note a typing error in the recommendation section of his report, the words as the sole to be included in the text after fully protects.

Resolved: Members confirmed the support of the Authority for the York and North Yorkshire Devolution Bid, whilst continuing to support efforts to ensure that legislation fully protects as the sole Authority, Local Planning Authority for the National Park administrative area and in relation to any future strategic planning across the York and North Yorkshire area.

70/20 Land of Iron update

Considered:

The report of the Land of Iron Programme Manager

Tom Mutton gave his final presentation to members before the current Land of Iron project ends in 2021, stating that the NP's approach in taking the legacy plans forward in a serious way was creating good feeling in the local community.

Members thanked Tom for his remarkable project management and leadership skills plus his team, volunteers, Andrew Scott and other steering group members for their tremendous work on the project; it had been a fantastic achievement.

Brief discussion followed on new projects as part of the on-going legacy work, including more conservation work and making sure accessibility is maintained and improved.

Action Officers arrange a members training day site visit to Land of Iron sites.

Resolved: Members noted the contents of the report and members request for a site visit.

Andrew Scott left the meeting at 11:30am

71/20 Chief Executive Officer update

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive

Members welcomed the CEO's update and all agreed was very useful and they would be happy to receive such updates on a quarterly basis at full authority meetings going forward.

Resolved: Members noted the contents of the CEO's update

72/20 Communicating with members

Considered:

The report of the Chief Executive

Action VB to send updated table of training/events including monthly member update meetings.

Resolved: Members noted the recommendations and welcomed the plans for effective communication and engagement with members going forward.

73/20 Disability advisory group – verbal update

Sarah Oswald, DAG Rep for the Authority, informed members that due to Covid the DAG had been unable to meet for a large part of the year, though they had now managed to catch up as a group in Oct and early Dec. Some of the meeting time focused on the possible provision of changing places/toilets in the NYMNP. The Authority's External Funding Officer is currently looking at possible funding streams to support this idea.

74/20 Feedback from lead members on forums – verbal update

Alison Fisher, CLM Chair informed the meeting that the forum had met in early November to discuss future Historic Environment work, 3 officers from Historic

England also attended. Alison mentioned there was enthusiastic support externally for the work being undertaken by the NP, a possible huge untapped resource.

Alison Fisher informed the meeting that it was hoped the Authority would run a joint CLM and ARB forum on 25 January 2021 to discuss ELMs.

David Jeffels left the meeting at 11:47am

..... (Chair)

22 March 2021

Public Summary of Items considered "in private" at the meeting of the Authority on 14 December 2020

Private minutes

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.