

North York Moors National Park Authority

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 25 March 2013.

Present: Mrs V Arnold, J Bailey, M Bowes, B Briggs, D Hugill, D C Jeffels, P Lawson, Mrs J Mitchell, E Sanderson, A Scott, Mrs C Seymour, G H Simpson, B Suthers, Mrs H Swiers, R I Thompson, H Tindall

Apologies: Ms A Fisher, Mrs J Frank, M Knaggs, P Wheeler

Officers in attendance: Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Irene Brannon (Director of Corporate Services), Ian Nicholls (Assistant Director of Corporate Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), Peter Barfoot (Director of Conservation), Richard Gunton (Director of Park Services), Karl Gerhardsen (Head of Recreation and Access), Andrew McMillan (policy Officer), Catriona McLees (Promotion and Tourism Officer), Fiona Farnell (Committees Officer)

Copies of All Documents Considered Are In The Minute Book

The Chair welcomed Joannah Collins (LEADER Programme Officer) and Kirsty Brown (Conservation Project Assistant) to the Authority.

01/13 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2012, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

02/13 Public Question Time

There were no questions from Members of the public.

03/13 Members Interests

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

04/13 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 21 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chair asked Members to agree that the Election of Deputy Chair be taken as the next item on the agenda.

05/13 **Election of Deputy Chair**

Resolved:

That Mr Bowes be elected Deputy Chair of the Authority from 1 April 2013 until Annual General Meeting of the Authority.

The Chair thanked Mr Lawson for his hard work and commitment over the previous 10 years.

06/13 **Treasury Management and The Prudential Code for Capital Finance Report of the Treasurer**

Considered

The report of the Treasurer. This item was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

Resolved:

- 1 (i) That Members approved the Annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 as detailed in the **Appendix**, including the Prudential Indicators set out in Section 3, and the Minimum Revenue Provision policy set out in Section 9 of that Strategy.
- (ii) Adopted the Annual Investment Strategy agreed by the County Council for 2013/14.
- (iii) Approved the affordable borrowing limit of £556.2k for 2013/14, under section 3(i) of the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in Paragraph 3(iv) of the **Appendix**.
- (iv) Confirmed the delegation to the Treasurer, as agreed in previous years, for the following matters:-
 - (a) any need to effect changes between the separate agreed limits for borrowing and other long term liabilities (such as finance leases) in accordance with option appraisal, value for money or other relevant factors. This applies to the Prudential Indicators in paragraph 3(iv) and 3(v) of the **Appendix**.
 - (b) decisions to borrow from the PWLB and money markets at the most advantageous rate, as set out in Paragraph 5.6 of the **Appendix**.

07/13 **Budget Estimate 2013/14 to 2014/15**

Considered

The report of the Director of Corporate Services. A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Director confirmed that the budget settlement for 2014/15 had not yet been confirmed by Defra and noted that a Members' Evening Seminar would be needed in the near future to discuss and look at potential scenarios for future years' budgets. Current underspend from projects would not be taken back by Defra and the underspend could be defended.

The Chief Executive informed Members that within Defra there was a lot of uncertainty around the budgets of individual organisations, the spending review and the funding of government departments which were not protected. It was also noted that over the last 3 years the Authority had not needed to use reserves as there had been an underspend, however it was expected that in the future budgets would be spent. One area of definite deficit would be around planning fees.

Resolved:

Members approved the Original Estimate for 2013/14 as attached in Appendix 1 of the report.

08/13 Arrangements for Consideration of the York Potash Planning Application by Members

Considered:

The report of the Senior Planning Officer (Potash Project). This item was presented by the Director of Planning.

Mrs Swiers declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a land owner and Mrs Mitchell declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a shareholder and both left the room for this item.

The Director confirmed that the application was not yet complete which potentially may lead to delays in determining the application.

The Chief Executive noted that the venue for the meeting was yet to be confirmed and that it was likely that the meeting would be live streamed to additional rooms due to the amount of public interest.

Recommendation:

1. That the Chairman of the Authority should be asked to call a Special Planning Committee meeting to determine the York Potash application NYM/2013/0062/MEIA.
2. That Mr Jim Bailey should act as Chair of the Planning Committee in connection with the York Potash application.
3. That a Member is elected to act as deputy to Mr Jim Bailey in connection with the York Potash application;
4. That Members note that it will be appropriate for Mr Jim Bailey to exercise discretion to make appropriate arrangements for the proposed Special Planning Committee meeting, as allowed for in the Authority's Guidance Note on Public Speaking at Planning Committee meetings.

Resolved:

1. That the Chairman of the Authority should be asked to call a Special Planning Committee meeting to determine the York Potash application NYM/2013/0062/MEIA.
2. That Mr Jim Bailey should act as Chair of the Planning Committee in connection with the York Potash application.
3. That Mr Malcolm Bowes was elected to act as deputy to Mr Jim Bailey in connection with the York Potash application;
4. That Members noted that it will be appropriate for Mr Jim Bailey to exercise discretion to make appropriate arrangements for the proposed Special Planning Committee meeting, as allowed for in the Authority's Guidance Note on Public Speaking at Planning Committee meetings.

09/13 Draft Promoting the Park Plan

Considered

The report of the Head of Promotion & Tourism. A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made the following comments:

- Working with businesses to raise the profile of North York Moors and promote tourism is a high priority for the Authority.
- The Plan covered a wide area (the North York Moors LEADER area) and a lot of people needed to be worked with.
- There remains some lack of clarity regarding who is leading on tourism in the National Park.
- Disappointed that the Tour De France not coming to the Park, but should still be able to promote the park as a cycling destination.
- The Authority/Park has an important brand that needs to be supported by local businesses, whom we can then help
- More promotion of the Park in the Redcar and Cleveland, Stokesley and Great Ayton areas needed to be done.
- Need to prioritise the plan more carefully.
- Support for working across a wider 'North York Moors' area based on the LEADER area.

The Head of Promotion and Tourism answered Members questions as follows:

- Hoping to attend the next Joint Parish Forum to discuss the plan.
- Head line indicators are set out in the performance indicators but these could be replicated in the plan.
- Would like to focus on the legacy of the Tour De France such as family cycling and mountain biking.
- The area for the plan is roughly that same area as the current LEADER area.

Members proposed that the Authority should set out to take the lead but to do this "from the back" with tourism businesses leading from the front with support from the Authority.

Resolved:

That Members commented on the plan.

10/13 **State of the Park Report**

Considered

The report of the Planning Policy Officer.

The Planning Policy Officer answered Members questions as follows:

- Members would like to see a longer explanation on the front page
- The report could feature in the November Issue of the Moors Messenger and each Parish Council within the park will receive a copy of the report
- It is anticipated that the data will be presented in its current state.
- A wader survey is planned to take place in 2014.

Members noted that HLS agreements were increasing; affordable housing needed to be emphasised; moorland flocks used to be on a knife edge.

A Member noted that lapwing, curlew and small birds in moorland areas appeared to have declined over the last few years.

Action: An article on the State of the Park Report to feature in the November Issue of the Moors Messenger.

Resolved:

1. That Members noted the contents of the 2012 State of the Park report.
2. That Members agreed that the 2012 State of the Park report can be published.

11/13 **Peatland Conservation**

Considered

The report of the Director of Conservation. A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Director noted that there had been much general support for the scheme, the only negative feedback being from those concerned about possible negative impacts on grouse shooting.

The Chair thanked the Director for his long service and hard work as Director of Conservation. Members showed their support for this.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

12/13 **ANPA Conference**

Considered

The report of the Director of Corporate Services

A Member noted that the proposed theme dovetailed well with the Council for National Parks' aspirations.

The Chair asked that Members put themselves forward to help Officers with study tours.

Officers agreed to look at the logo design again with a view to incorporating a heart.

Recommendation:

That Members note the contents of this report.

Resolved:

That Members agreed Richard Thompson become a member of the ANPA Working Group and that the contents of the report be noted.

13/13 **Governance and Consultative Opportunities**

Considered

The report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services

The Chair asked that a copy of the notes from the Forums be added to the Authority agenda in the future.

1. Recommendation

That Members:

- a. Agree to continue giving groups the chance to present to full Authority meetings
- b. Note the desirability of Members who are the lead on particular groups or Chairs of Committees reporting back to NPA
- c. Agree to postpone the review of the new Forums until 2014.

2. Resolved

That Members:

- a. Agreed to continue giving groups the chance to present to full Authority meetings
- b. Noted the desirability of Members who are the lead on particular groups or Chairs of Committees reporting back to NPA
- c. Agreed to postpone the review of the new Forums until 2014.
- d. Agreed that notes of the Forum meetings should form part of the Authority agenda in the future.

14/13 Department of Transport Fund for Cycling in National Parks

Considered

The report of the Director of Park Services

Mr Scott declared an interest in this item as a trustee of of North York Historical Railway Trust.

A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members were delighted that a bid was being put forward.

In answer to questions from Members the Director noted that the bid could potentially include improved facilities for bikes on the Esk Valley Railway and North Yorkshire Moors Railway, cycle routes from Teesside, a shuttle from Flatts Lane, Guisborough and improvements to Moors to Sea Cycle route and the cinder track between Whitby and Scarborough. The competition from other National Parks was unknown.

At present officers were seeking an Authority to be the accountable body.

Recommendation:

1. That members support the preparation of a bid to the Department of Transport fund for cycling in National Parks as outlined in the paper
2. That the power to approve submission of a bid remain delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.
3. That the £100,000 budgeted during 2013/14 for assisting people who would otherwise not be able to access the National Park be retained as potential match funding for a bid to the funding scheme.

Resolved:

1. That members support the preparation of a bid to the Department of Transport fund for cycling in National Parks as outlined in the paper
2. That the power to approve submission of a bid remain delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.
3. That the £100,000 budgeted during 2014/15 for assisting people who would otherwise not be able to access the National Park be retained as potential match funding for a bid to the funding scheme.

15/13 On The Record

A Member asked to be kept informed with regards to Seggymire Lane and trod at Ugglebarnby.

16/13 Presentation by Young People

The Committees Officer introduced Aiden Rigby, a Scout who lives and use the Park for recreation activities. A copy of his presentation, appears in the minute book.

In answer to a question from a Member, Aiden confirmed that he felt the main reason why young people did not access the park was due to the lack of public transport.

The Chair and Members thanked Aiden for his presentation.

17/13 Large-Scale Recreation Events 2012

Considered

The report of the Head of Recreation and Access

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

18/13 Feedback from Lead Members on Forums

Mr Tindall (in Dr Wheelers' absence) read out an update on the last Conservation and Land Management Forum, which was also circulated at the meeting.

Mr Scott informed Members that at the next Awareness, Recreation and Business Forum due to be held on the 8 April, the subject would be cycling within the Park.

Action – That a follow up meeting on PAWS as discussed at the last Conservation and Land Management Forum be arranged.

19/13 Reports form Members on Outside Bodies

Considered

The report of the Committees Officer

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

20/13 **Parish Forum Update**

Considered

The report of the PA to the Chief Executive

<p>Resolved: That the issues raised at Parish Forums be note.</p>
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.....(Chairman)
24 June 2013

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"
at the meeting of the National Park Authority
on 26 March 2013**

Private Minutes

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2012 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.