

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ACCESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at Grassington Town Hall, on Thursday, 2nd February 2006.

Present:

G Dalton, W Fenten, KJ Lancaster, JJ Pearlman and Dr KM Petyt.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

1/06 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2005, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

2/06 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No notifications of public questions or of the intention to make a statement had been received.

3/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from TRN Harrison-Topham, D Heather and SR Macaré.

4/06 DECLARATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

None.

5/06 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

None.

6/06 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Park Management.

Members received the following responses to a number of comments raised on items in the report:

- the outcomes resulting from the two workshops with Cumbria and North Yorkshire County Councils on looking at ways of prioritising rights of way ‘improvements’ would be incorporated into the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plans. They had not been made available as a separate paper at this stage;
- a copy of the ‘Accord’ between Sustrans and the Association of National Park Authorities would be emailed to members of the Committee;
- reports looking at the use and impact of the new open access rights could be found on the Authority’s website;
- with regard to the Countryside Agency project in respect of dedication of access land, it was unlikely, although not certain that, any of the three project officers would be located in the ‘north’.

RESOLVED –

That the report and further comments be noted.

7/06 DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM – QUARTERLY REPORT

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Definitive Map Officer.

In response to a number of comments raised on items in the report, members were advised that:

- it was hoped that the ‘unexpected setback’ with digitising the definitive map would only be temporary
- information had been provided to the Secretary of State on the various BOAT applications and the dates at which various elements of the application process had taken place
- a copy of the information (excluding the background evidence) that would be provided to the Authority’s solicitor in respect of application in respect of Footpath 16 Appletreewick (Appendix 1, page 5) could be provided to a member.

RESOLVED –

That the report and further comments be noted.

8/06 INTEGRATED ACCESS STRATEGY – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Access and Recreation Manager.

Members welcomed the report and commented on a number of issues.

Specific reference was made to:

- Strategy AS11(a) regarding the establishment of design standards and mention made of the impressive North Pennines AONB Design Criteria for Highway Authorities. Members were advised that North Yorkshire County Council was 'leading' on a similar North Yorkshire Design Guide, but that it was still awaited.
- Strategy AS18(d) and the 'Yours to enjoy' DVD. Copies of the DVD would be circulated to members.

RESOLVED –

That the report and further comments be noted.

9/06 YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Transport and Visitor Management Officer.

Members welcomed the report and the Authority's involvement in the Partnership.

A number of issues were raised by members, including:

- highlighting that one of the Government's proposals in respect of health service provision could have an adverse effect on the area's ambulance service
- the Strategy made no reference to the duty placed upon 'relevant' authorities by Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 to have regard to national park purposes
- did the Strategy include any policy on road markings/speed limits in the National Park, such as applied in Dartmoor?
- the Strategy did not include any assessment of road use
- the value of the statistics used was questioned
- the increased awareness of the need to give greater protection to vulnerable road users was welcomed.

RESOLVED –

That, subject to members' comments being taken into account, the new road safety strategy for York and North Yorkshire ("95 Alive") be endorsed and the Authority's

membership of the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership be continued.

10/06 UP-DATING OF: “AN ADVISORY ROAD HIERARCHY FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES”

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Transport and Visitor Management Officer.

A member commented that the document made no reference to the duty placed upon ‘relevant’ authorities by Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 to have regard to national park purposes

RESOLVED –

That:

(a) the Authority continues to engage with North Yorkshire County Council so that their new advisory road hierarchies pay due regard to National Park purposes in accordance with Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995;

(b) the hierarchies produced by Cumbria and North Yorkshire County Councils be merged to produce a new advisory road hierarchy for the whole of the Yorkshire Dales.

11/06 NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUS SERVICES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Transport and Visitor Management Officer.

It was pointed that the ‘Shared Hire Car’ service between Hawes and Garsdale was in fact a four times per day bus service and the accuracy of the content of Appendix B was questioned.

It was suggested that ‘social exclusion’ was greater now than it had been 50 years ago for anyone without their own motorised transport wishing to access the national park.

RESOLVED –

That:

(a) subject to member comment, the consultation response contained within the report of the Transport and Visitor Management Officer be sent to North Yorkshire County Council; and

(b) the views of the Council for National Parks and the Association of National Parks be sought on approaching government to provide a transport fund to enable transport authorities to take account of the needs of visitors to the National Parks as part of local bus network planning.

12/06 YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM

CONSIDERED –

The minutes of the meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum held on 4th October 2005 (approved minutes) and 17th January 2006 (draft minutes).

Members accepted that the question of how the Access Forum related to the Committee needed to be addressed and that there was a need to explore ways of bringing forward items from the Forum to the Committee.

RESOLVED –

That, subject to member comments being considered by officers, the minutes of the meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum held on 4th October 2005 (approved minutes) and 17th January 2006 (draft minutes) be noted.