
YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM

Unapproved Minutes
Held on Tuesday 17 January 2006
Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

Present: Jon Beavan (JB), Veronica Boulton (VB), Bill Foster (BF), Michael Bartholomew (MB), Richard Johnson (RJ), Geoff Wilson (GW), David Gibson (DG), Adrian Pickles (APi), Mark Sandamas (MS), Richard Spensley (RS), Ben Heyes (BH), Graeme Hall (GH), Deborah Millward (DM), Pat Whelan (PWh), Kathryn Beardmore (KB), Alan Hulme (AH), Jon Avison (JA), Mark Allum (MA), Rachel Mozley (RM).

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

JA began the meeting by asking Members to consider the third agenda item, for nominations for Chair. No nominations were made. In the absence of any nominations or any Members wishing to put themselves forward, JA asked for a Chair for the meeting. JB agreed to take the Chair. It was agreed that the election of Chair and Vice-Chair will become the first item of the next meeting on the 21 March.

2. **Welcome**

JB informed Members that John Sayer had sadly passed away on the 23 of December 2005. A minutes silence followed.

JB welcomed DM and PWh to their first official meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. JB explained that Jerry Pearlman had also been appointed but had sent his apologies for the meeting.

JB expressed his thanks to those Members (Roger Harrison-Topham, Gerald Light and Wilf Fenten) that had stood down as Members of the Forum.

The following observers were welcomed to the meeting:

Ken Miller – North Yorkshire Access Officer, Ramblers Association
Wilf Fenten – Chair of the Access Committee
Malcolm Petyt – Vice Chair of the Access Committee

3. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Phil Woodyer (PW), Anne Purbrick (AP), Jerry Pearlman (JP). John Goss (JG).

4. Approval of Minutes

Members agreed the minutes from the previous meeting (4 October 2005) with the following minor amendments.

Page 5, Item 8, Last Paragraph. The 2nd sentence should read, 'However, he asked if activities such as 'Field Work' **should** be classed..'.

Page 7, Proposal D. The last word in the first sentence should be interests.

Page 9, Item 14, 3rd Paragraph, last sentence should be 'RS said that **he**...'.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Page 4 – RM to chase up North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) with regards to the list of responses from Parish Councils on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWiP).

Page 9 – RM will let Members know when the paper explaining the methodology for fire restrictions has been posted on the website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Other action points were covered in the agenda of the meeting.

The minutes were passed as a true record of the meeting.
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5. Public Question Time

There were no public questions presented to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting.

6. YDAF Action Plan

Action Plan 2005/06

There was some discussion on the direction of forum business with regards to the relationship between the YDAF and the Access Committee.

KB explained that the fundamental difference is that Officers of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) are accountable to Members and that in terms of access issues this is through the Access Committee. The YDAF is independent to the YDNPA and through its advice could influence and can push the YDNPA to look at different areas of work.

It was agreed that the new Chair of the YDAF and the Chair of the Access Committee will work together to strengthen links between the two groups.

Members discussed whether there was a need to have YDAF policies on access issues. MB thought that this was necessary as it is reasonable for any member of the public or Officer/Member of the YDNPA to ask the YDAF for their view on a particular matter. GW disagreed, saying that the YDAF is an advisory body and not a decision making body that

should work towards consensus and not ignore the views of the minority. Therefore, it would be better for the YDAF to fact find and offer information and guidance to the YDNPA on how it reaches its decisions.

JB suggested Members bring to the attention of the Chair, any issues that they feel needs a policy.

Action Plan 2006/07

JB circulated a list of possible actions for the YDAF for 2006/07.

Members were asked to think about specific actions for the YDAF. Any actions that might require resources need to be thought of in advance of the budget programme which begins in September for the following financial year.

7. YDAF Logo and Members Handbook

RM told Members that the handbook was near completion and was waiting for a logo before it could go any further. The Members of the YDAF were presented with four options for a logo and the design with the wall and the three peaks was agreed by the Forum. This will now be used on any material to be associated with the YDAF.

8. Terms of Reference and Updating Standard Procedures

JB went through the paper prepared by KB. Comments were made on a page by page basis as follows:

Page 3.

GW wondered whether bullet points 3 and 4 should read the same and both include the last part of the sentence ‘..in the Yorkshire Dales for the purposes of open air recreation’.

DG asked that bullets be numbered.

Page 5.

There was some discussion on point 12 with regards to length of term. It was explained that, currently, terms are for 3 years as there is now a rolling programme of, approximately, 1/3 of Members being replaced annually. However, if there were to be a lot of resignations in any one year it may be that terms were to cover the term left by those Members and co-opted Members could be appointed from one to three years.

Page 8

It was agreed that 1.1 (a) should read that the election of a Chair and Vice Chair be the first and second items at the Annual General Meeting.

GW thought it would be a good idea for nominations for Chair to be with the Secretary of the Forum three days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. However, this was not agreed by the Forum as this was thought to be too restrictive.

It was agreed that paragraph 1.2(b) be converted back to that of the original Standard Procedures – ‘Candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum shall be

openly nominated, and recorded by the Secretary. In the event of there being more than one nomination for any position of Chair or Vice Chair, the election shall be by paper ballot. The standing chair and vice chair will announce their intentions to stand again, if they so wish, at least 30 days before the date of the annual general meeting’.

Page 9

KB added the following point to go as 2.1 (f):

Appoint Member or Members of the Forum to represent the interests of the Forum on working groups or other bodies as agreed at a Forum meeting and/or agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair. Representation of the Forum will be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting.

BH thought this had a restriction in terms of timing and that the wording needed more latitude.

DG thought there should be a paragraph saying that the Chair and Vice Chair can meet outside of the normal meeting to discuss urgent matters.

Page 10

DG thought that Paragraph 2.2 (d) should be a separate heading. This was agreed.

Page 12

The second sentence of 2.5 (a) should read – ‘The Quorum must represent the interests of “recreational users” and “land Management”’.

Subject to the changes outlined above, all Members of the YDAF unanimously agreed the new Terms of Reference and the amended Standard Procedures.

9. Recreation Charter

MA presented the paper on the work he has done on the Recreation Charter for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Comments were made relating to CROW restrictions and exclusions, audience, include the special qualities and cycling.

APi, GW, DG, MS, GH and RJ agreed to be part of an email group to help MA with finalising the wording of the Recreation Charter.
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10. Regional LAF Event

GW presented a paper that informed Members of the Regional LAF event that had been held in Preston on the 14 November 2005. This was attended by GW, VB, JB and RM. GW suggested Members read the questions and answers put to Jim Knight, Minister of Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity.

11. Cumbria Access Strategy and Rights of Way Improvement Plan

GW presented the paper on the Cumbria Access Strategy (CAS) and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWiP). The CAS is now out in the public arena and Cumbria County Council are asking for suggestions for actions to feed into the Cumbria ROWiP. The document can be viewed via the Yorkshire Dales website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Suggestions for actions to be passed to Cumbria County Council by 28 February 2006.

12. Secretary's Report

RM presented the paper of items for information to Members.

North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Members discussed the format and content of the ROWiP meeting in Northallerton on the 9 January 2006 looking at the prioritisation of rights of way improvements.

The following pointers were suggested for future meetings:

- Efficient registration and welcoming.
- Venue with suitable break out rooms and of a size to easily hold the group.
- Sufficient hard standing car parking.
- AV aids of sufficient size to be seen by all in the room.
- That a local venue is considered.
- That a question and answer session is included.
- If a regional event that networking is encouraged.
- Where we are asked to comment on a document. That this should be fully edited and checked beforehand.
- That documents circulated in advance and those used by facilitators are the same.
- Where asked to comment and prioritise on proposals that we know the source of those proposals and how they have been identified.
- Welcome pack with delegate list, program, workshop allocation, feedback form etc.

It was agreed that the Chair of the YDAF would pass on these comments to NYCC.

Members also thank YDNPA Rangers for their professional facilitation of the workshops

CROW Open Access Update

MB suggested that Officers of the YDNPA speak to the Ramblers Association and other walking groups to find out where they are going and what is being used in relation to access within access land and where stiles/gates may be required.

Green Lanes Working Group

Members discussed who should represent the YDAF on this group and whether there is a need to provide them with a brief summary of the view of the YDAF, to help them represent the views of the YDAF on the group.

BH agreed to attend the next meeting of the Green Lanes Working Group on the condition that no Members of the YDAF lobby him prior to the meeting. All agreed.

It was agreed that the YDNPA's view on the issue of vehicular use of green lanes would be discussed at the next meeting (outlined in the Integrated Access Strategy).

13. Future Forum Meetings

The next meeting of the YDAF is on the 21 March 2006 at Kettlewell Village Hall. The meeting will start at 1.15pm with lunch from 12.00.

The meeting closed at 16.25.