

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Public minutes of the meeting held at Yoredale, Bainbridge on Monday, 13th February 2006.

Present:

Mrs A Brooks in the Chair.

W Fenten, Mrs N Grace, C Hammond, C Lis, Mrs D Millward, A Osborne and Mrs FG Ramsbottom.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

1/06 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2005, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the 1st bullet point in the preamble to Minute No 348 reading "...including further information on possible staffing changes".

2/06 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

3/06 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**RESOLVED -**

That pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed in column 1 of the following table on the grounds that each involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph in column 2:

<u>Item No on the agenda</u>	<u>Paragraph No</u>
17	1, 7, 8 and 9
18	7, 8 and 9
19	7, 8 and 9

4/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from RA Bird and D Ireton.

5/06 DECLARATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

The following members declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in the following items for the reasons listed:

Mrs D Millward – personal non-prejudicial interest in item relating to Limestone Country Project – having worked on the project.
A Osborne – personal non-prejudicial interest in Item No 7 as an employee of Defra.

6/06 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

None.

7/06 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT 2005/06: SECOND QUARTER TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2005

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Finance and Resources.

A number of comments were raised during members' consideration of the report, including:

- requesting information for a future meeting of the Committee on progress with efforts to increase grant funding income for the Authority
- concern at the way in which the Authority's retail activity was reported, with income and expenditure reported separately

RESOLVED –

That, subject to member and officer comments being taken into account:

- (a) the report and the position against the 2005/2006 budget for the period 1st April to 31st December 2005 be noted;
- (b) the proposals set out in paragraph 1.6 of the Senior Finance Officer's report, in relation to the allocation of the Opportunity Fund be approved;
- (c) the delegations set out in Appendix 6 of the report of the Senior Finance Officer be noted; and
- (d) a report be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee to inform members of progress with efforts to increase grant funding income for the Authority.

8/06 RETAIL SERVICES FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE TO 31ST DECEMBER 2005

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Retail Services Manager.

Members raised a number of issues during their consideration of the report, including:

- concern at the lack of reference in the report to the Best Value Performance Plan target for retail services or the budget
- requesting a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the year end performance and for future reports to be more targeted and focussed
- the real opportunity to increase revenue which, despite some concerns, could have a positive impact on other retailers

RESOLVED –

That, subject to member comments being taken into account, the report be noted.

9/06 RESIDENTS PARKING PERMITS/FACILITY CHARGES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Contracts Manager.

A member expressed concern that the proposed change in policy to cease the provision of free residents' parking permits would cause significant problems for businesses. He feared that if residents did not purchase parking permits they may also not pay to use the Authority's car parks and, therefore, either cause congestion which would discourage other vehicle users or shop elsewhere.

It was pointed out that similar schemes were operated by Craven and Richmondshire District Councils, whereby residents could purchase parking permits for the Councils' car parks or pay for them as and when they used them.

There was general support for the proposal, although a number of different figures were considered for the level of charge for the permits. It was accepted that it would be inappropriate to introduce a separate charge for the use of the Authority's public conveniences.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) from April 2006 resident's passes be provided to residents of the national park at a charge of £30 per pass, with the Head of Park Management authorised to issue free passes, restricted to a specific car park, on a case by case basis to residents where there are no other off road alternatives and where there are traffic and visitor management issues to consider;
- (b) no separate charge be made for the use of the Authority's public conveniences, it being recognised that the cost is within the car parking charges.

[Note: C Hammond requested that his vote against the decision to stop the provision of free passes for residents be recorded, his proposal to retain the provision of free passes having not been supported.]

10/06 CHARGING FOR SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

Members supported the proposal, although comment was made about the possible inequity between the cost of an agreement and the possible benefit to an applicant in a case where an agricultural occupancy condition was being removed to allow a property to be sold without an occupancy restriction. A member enquired whether VAT would be charged and suggested that the charge should be recovered before any permission was issued.

RESOLVED –

That, subject to member comments being taken into account, approval be given for the introduction of charges for work undertaken by the Authority's legal staff in relation to Section 106 agreements as detailed in the report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

11/06 SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2006/07

CONSIDERED -

The report of the Secretariat Officer.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the amendments to the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2006/2007 in respect of the revised rates of Basic, Special Responsibility and Co-optees' Allowances be noted;
- (b) the textual changes to the Scheme set out in the report of the Secretariat Officer be approved; and
- (c) the necessary amendments be made and the Members' Handbook be updated accordingly.

12/06 PEOPLE STRATEGY

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Finance and Resources.

In welcoming the proposed strategy, a number of comments were made by members, including:

- suggesting that the Strategy should also apply to members
- the Authority's adopted 'Core Values' should be referred to in the Strategy
- appraisals should form part of the 'expectations'
- the HR function and role of the union(s) should be included.

RESOLVED –

That, subject to members' comments being taken into account:

- (a) the People Strategy be adopted; and

- (b) the extension of the Strategy to include Members and, in particular, the 'signing-up to the Authority' component be supported.

13/06 STAFFING MATTERS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Administrative Officer.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

14/06 SICKNESS ABSENCE

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Administrative Officer.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

15/06 HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Administrative Officer.

The Chief Executive, in response to members' comments, undertook to carry out an audit of members' first aid skills and to consider the appropriateness of member representation on the Health and Safety Working Group.

RESOLVED –

That subject to the Chief Executive's comments being taken into account, the report be noted.

16/06 NORTHERN OFFICE SUB-COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The Public Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Office Sub-Committee held on 10th January 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the Public Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Office Sub-Committee held on 10th January 2006 be received.

The remainder of business was conducted in private

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

(a) Private Minutes

The Committee confirmed, as a correct record, the Private Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2005 that had been circulated with the agenda. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

(b) Northern Office Sub-Committee

The Committee considered –

- and received, the private minutes of the meeting of the Northern Office Sub-Committee held on 10th January 2006; and
- and noted. an oral report from the Head of Finance and Resources that updated members on the completion and occupation of the new building; the sale of Yorebridge House, and outturn costs and the current position with contractual issues between the Authority and the Contractor.