

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Minutes of the meeting held at Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton on Tuesday, 25th July 2006.

Present:

RA Bird, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, WH Brown, SHK Butcher, G Dalton, W Fenten, C Hammond, TRN Harrison-Topham, D Heather, OJ Kendall, HA Kirkbride, KJ Lancaster, C Lis, SR Macaré, Mrs S Marshall, Mrs D Millward, A Osborne, Mrs Y Peacock, JJ Pearlman, Dr KM Petyt, Mrs FG Ramsbottom, S Shaw-Wright, Ms N Stedman and W Weston.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

62/06

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Having been nominated unopposed, it was –

RESOLVED –

That C Lis be elected Chairman of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2007.

C LIS IN THE CHAIR

63/06

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Having been nominated unopposed, it was –

RESOLVED –

That JJ Pearlman be elected Deputy Chairman of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2007.

64/06

MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2006, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

65/06

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

66/06

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the consideration of each 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 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 specified in column 2:

Item No on the agenda	Paragraph No
19	3
20(a)	5, 6 & 7
20(b)	1, 7, 8 and 9 and 3

67/06

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from D Ireton.

68/06

**DECLARATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE
OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

SR Macaré declared personal non-prejudicial interests in Agenda Item Nos 15 and 19, as the Chairman of the Area Tourism Partnership for the Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate .

69/06

DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

70/06

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chairman, who added that on Friday 21st July he had, with a number of other members, staff and guests attended the official opening by the Rt Hon William Hague MP of the Authority's northern office, Yoredale, in Bainbridge. He stated that the event had been very successful and thanked all those involved in its organisation.

A member expressed disappointment that neither the Chairman nor Chief Executive had been able to attend the memorial service for Marie Hartley. The Chairman regretted that other commitments had prevented their attendance, but stated that the Authority had been represented by other staff members.

In response to a number of other issues raised by members, the Chief Executive stated that the Chief Executive's appraisal objectives, updates on discussions at meetings of the English National Park Authorities Association, and the Association of National Park Authorities would be circulated in the Members' Information Bulletin.

RESOLVED –

That the report and further comments be noted.

71/06

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT MEETINGS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Secretariat Officer, who corrected an error (the record that Mrs A Brooks had attended a meeting of the Audit and Review Committee on 27th May 2005) and undertook to check other entries in the table and re-circulate the document.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted and a corrected version being circulated to members.

72/06

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE AUTHORITY'S COMMITTEES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Secretariat Officer, with nominations for both the County Council and Parish Council Groups circulated at the meeting. He advised members that since the papers had been produced, he had been notified of the following further nominations from the Secretary of State Group:

Planning Committee substitutes: 1. Ms N Stedman; 2. Dr KM Petyt; 3. Mrs D Millward.
Standards Committee member: Ms N Stedman.

The District Council Group stated that their nominee for the Standards Committee was Mrs FG Ramsbottom.

Members considered each Group's nominations in turn. It was –

RESOLVED –

- (a) That:
- (i) the tabled nominations of the County Council Group be adopted;
 - (ii) the nominations of the District Council Group be adopted, amended for OJ Kendall to serve on the Audit and Review Committee and for Mrs FG Ramsbottom to serve on the Standards Committee;
 - (iii) the nominations of the Secretary of State Group, amended to include Ms Stedman, Dr Petyt and Mrs Millward as, respectively, 1st, 2nd and 3rd substitute members of the Planning Committee, and for Ms Stedman to serve on the Standards Committee, be adopted.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Concern was then expressed about the process that the Parish Group had adopted that had resulted in its circulated nominations: primarily whether the nominations had been 'agreed' by the

Group as a whole or was a majority view that had been adopted outside of a meeting of the Group. It was proposed that the tabled nominations of the Group should not be accepted, but should be voted on by the full Authority. The Chief Executive advised against that course, pointing out that such action would effectively allow any member who did not support a Group's majority view to 'veto' such nominations. The Chairman stated that he was minded to adjourn the meeting for the Parish Group to consider formally its tabled nominations.

The proposal to not accept the Parish Group's tabled recommendation and for the Authority to determine nominations for the Group was defeated, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting to enable the Parish Group to consider formally their tabled nominations.

On reconvening, the Chairman was advised that the Parish Group unanimously accepted their tabled nominations, and members –

RESOLVED –

- (b) That the tabled nominations of the Parish Group be adopted.
- (c) That the appointment of members to serve on the Appeals Committee be deferred until a meeting of that Committee becomes necessary and at such time appropriate training be held if necessary.

73/06

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chief Executive.

In response to a comment that Member Champions would be appointed on an annual basis, it was suggested that a one year term was too short for them to undertake the role effectively, and it was hoped that, where there were two Champions for an area of responsibility, they would work together with officers. It was suggested that some Champions may wish to retain their roles beyond a one year term, in which case they could decline the 'automatic' rotation onto the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED –

That the following Member Champions be appointed to serve until the annual meeting in 2007:

- o Conservation of the Natural Environment – Mrs D Millward and Mrs FG Ramsbottom
- o Conservation of Cultural Heritage – W Fenten
- o Recreation Management – Dr KM Petyt
- o Promoting Understanding – SR Macaré
- o Development Control – Ms N Stedman and TRN Harrison-Topham
- o Forward Planning – Mrs Y Peacock
- o Corporate and Democratic Core – KJ Lancaster

74/06

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PARTNERSHIP BODIES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED –

That the Authority be represented on the Partnership Bodies listed by the following members:

<i>Partnership body</i>	<i>Representative</i>
Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA)	Chairman
Association of North Yorkshire Councils	Chairman with Deputy to act as substitute or attend if Chairman represents another organisation
Biodiversity Forum	Mrs FG Ramsbottom
Council for National Parks	Ms N Stedman, with KJ Lancaster as substitute
Craven Crime Reduction Partnership Steering Group	D Heather
Craven Regeneration Steering Group	D Heather
Cumbria Rural Forum	RA Bird
Dales Advisory Group	Mrs D Millward
Dales Woodland Forum	Mrs D Millward
English National Park Authorities' Association (ENPAA)	Chairman
Grassington Moor Management Association	C Hammond
Green Lanes Liaison Group	Dr KM Petyt
Hudson House Resource Centre/NPC	KJ Lancaster
Joint National Parks IEG Partnership	W Fenten
Mosaic	SR Macaré
Pennine Bridleway Steering Group	W Fenten, SR Macaré, JJ Pearlman, Dr KM Petyt (to replace C Lis)
Rejuvenate Wensleydale	Deferred to next meeting– Officers to check on “Members’ Interest “ issue and status of Project
Richmond LSP - Green Living Task Group	Mrs Y Peacock
Richmond LSP - Prosperous Communities Task Group	Mrs Y Peacock
Richmondshire Regeneration Board	Mrs Y Peacock, with HA Kirkbride as substitute
Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust	G Dalton to be nominated to succeed W Fenten
SettleTIC Board meetings	Officer
Skipton TIC	Officer
South Lakeland Local Strategic Partnership	Chairman, with G Dalton as substitute
Swinden Quarry Trust	SHK Butcher to replace C Hammond
Yorkshire Dales Access Forum	No change
Yorkshire Dales Housing Forum	J Blackie, C Hammond, Mrs Y Peacock, plus KJ Lancaster and W Weston
Yorkshire Dales Area Tourism Partnership	SR Macaré
Yorkshire Tourism Council	W Weston
Yorkshire & Humber Assembly	Chairman with Deputy to act as substitute or attend if Chairman represents another organisation
York & North Yorkshire Development Board	Chairman with Deputy to act as substitute or attend if Chairman represents another organisation
Yorkshire and Humber Rural Affairs Forum	Chairman with Deputy to act as substitute or attend if Chairman represents another organisation
Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Planning Forum	W Weston

Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, subject to the inclusion of a number amendments identified by members.

78/06 **POTENTIAL PERSONAL LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer.

In response to a member's question, the Chief Executive undertook to check and advise members of the insurance position in the event that they were involved in an accident whilst on Authority business.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) subject to the Chief Executive advising Members of the insurance position, the report be noted, and
- (b) the Authority provide an indemnity to all Members and Officers in the terms set out in the Appendix to report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, and effect insurance against costs incurred by members in successfully defending themselves against allegations that they have breached the code of conduct; the indemnity to be amended to provide that members' legal costs in relation to code of conduct matters will only be reimbursed by the Authority if the member complies with the terms and conditions of the insurance.

79/06 **NORTH YORKSHIRE SUB-REGIONAL TOURISM REVIEW**

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Sustainable Tourism Manager.

Members generally welcomed the Draft Action Plan, although comment was made that the Plan lacked an overall vision and it was pointed out that the 'inspections' were seen as expensive.

RESOLVED –

That subject to member comments being reported back to the Partnership, the Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Tourism Action Plan be noted.

80/06 **FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS**

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Secretariat Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

81/06

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive stated that he would arrange for notes on the meeting with officers from English Heritage to discuss a project examining the socio-economic value of the historic environment in National Parks to be circulated in the Members' Information Bulletin.

Members considered the issue of non-attendance at 'compulsory' planning training that had resulted in five members being temporarily debarred from membership of the Planning Committee. The Chief Executive stated that Standing Orders were clear in their wording, with no room for interpretation of whether or not a member had been unable to attend for what might be considered to be an 'acceptable' reason. Whilst members generally accepted the need for clarity within Standing Orders, there was some comment expressed about the merits of the subject matter of the actual training and some disappointment that training undertaken elsewhere was not 'recognised'. The Chief Executive reminded members that it was the Authority that had set its own rules with regard to training and had decided that as the Authority had different policies to other planning authorities, it should run its own training. It was suggested that if there were future instances where members missed compulsory training it would be acceptable for Authority staff to present the training material to members, rather than incurring possible significant additional cost.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report and further comments of members and officers be noted, and
- (b) the current position resulting from any Members absence from 'compulsory' planning training, as set out in Standing Orders, be endorsed, but if any further training has to be arranged, it be done so as soon as possible, and, where practicable, it be run by officers of the Authority.

82/06

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 9th May and 13th June 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 9th May and 13th June 2006 be received.

83/06

ACCESS COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Access Committee held on 11th May 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Access Committee held on 11th May 2006 be received.

84/06

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 15th May 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on May 2006 be received.

85/06

AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Review Committee held on 16th June 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Review Committee held on 16th June 2006 be received.

The remainder of business was considered in private

86/06

YORKSHIRE TOURSIT BOARD MEMBERSHIP FEES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Sustainable Tourism Manager that provided an update on a possible increase in local authority fees for membership of the Yorkshire Tourist Board, and stated that discussions were currently being held to try to resolve the situation.

RESOLVED –

That the views set out in the Sustainable Tourism Manager's report be endorsed and, in consultation with the Authority's Member Champion for Promoting Understanding, the Chief Executive be authorised to enter into discussion with the Tourist Board and other local authorities to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

87/06

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The private minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th May 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the private minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th May 2006 be received.

88/06

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The draft private minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 15th May 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the draft private minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on May 2006 be received.