

Minutes of the meeting held at The National Park Office, Yoredale, Bainbridge on Tuesday, 28 July 2009.

Present:

R Alderson, C Armitage, RK Bingham, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, WH Brown, SHK Butcher, P Charlesworth, A Colley, G Dalton, W Fenten, TRN Harrison-Topham, KJ Lancaster, C Lis, S Parsons, Dr KM Petyt, JK Roberts, R Welch and W Weston.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

61/09 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The report of the Secretariat Officer was noted.

62/09 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

KJ Lancaster and C Lis were nominated for the position of Chairman of the Authority and each Member took the opportunity to address the meeting and responded to questions from members.

A paper ballot was taken and the result of the vote was as follows:

KJ Lancaster	-	7 votes
C Lis	-	12 votes

RESOLVED –

That C Lis be elected Chairman of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2010.

C LIS IN THE CHAIR

63/09 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

WH Brown and W Weston were nominated for the position of Deputy Chairman of the Authority and both members took the opportunity to address the meeting.

A paper ballot was taken and the result of the vote was as follows:

WH Brown	-	10 votes
W Weston	-	9 votes

RESOLVED –

That WH Brown be elected Deputy Chairman of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2010.

64/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

65/09 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

66/09 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That the public be not excluded from the meeting during the consideration of Item 24 on the agenda.

67/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from A Barker, Mrs S Marshall and Mrs Y Peacock.

68/09 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made.

69/09 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the former Chairman, who commented that with regard to his membership (and Chairmanship) of the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Local Advisory Group, it may be beneficial for the Authority if, when considering the appointment of members to partnership bodies, consideration was given to him remaining as the Authority's representative.

RESOLVED –

That the report and further comments be noted.

70/09 MEMBER CHAMPION FEEDBACK

CONSIDERED - the report of the Member Champion for Recreation Management.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

71/09 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

In response to questions, members were advised that:

- ❖ following the Chief Executive's meeting with the editor of the Darlington and Stockton Times, there would be a monthly 'slot' in the paper, alternating with the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) to report on national park matters;
- ❖ the regular meetings with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the NYMNPA provide the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest, including member appraisals (which would be the subject of a future Policy Development Forum) and, following the Government's decision not to proceed with direct elections of members to NPAs, ways of 'invigorating' the selection and appointment of parish appointees;
- ❖ the costs the Authority would have to pay following the court decision relating to Traffic Regulation Orders on green lanes was approximately £42,000.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) the following members represent the Authority at the ANPA Conference in Snowdonia in September 2009: Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Dr KM Petyt and Messrs Colley, Parsons and Roberts (with Messrs Armitage and Charlesworth as substitutes);

- (c) with effect from 1 August 2009, the Scheme of Members' Allowances be amended by the deletion of the Special Responsibility Allowance in respect of the Authority's representation on the National Parks Electronic Government Group;
- (d) R Welch be appointed to serve on the Housing Working Group; and
- (e) C Armitage be appointed to represent the Authority on Craven District Council's Tourism Scrutiny Working Group.

72/09 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE AUTHORITY'S COMMITTEES

CONSIDERED – the report of the Secretariat Officer, together with the nominations from the County Council Group and an amended version of the nominations from the District Council Group, circulated at the meeting. He added that R Welch should have been included in the County Council nominations for the Audit and Review Committee and the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report and amendments be noted;
- (b) Committees be established as follows in accordance with the nominations circulated and updated at the meeting -

Access Committee: A Barker, RK Bingham, SHK Butcher, G Dalton, W Fenten, TRN Harrison-Topham, KJ Lancaster and Dr KM Petyt.

Audit and Review Committee: C Armitage, RK Bingham, WH Brown, SHK Butcher, P Charlesworth, W Fenten, Mrs S Marshall, Mrs Y Peacock, Dr KM Petyt, JK Roberts and R Welch

Finance and Resources Committee: R Alderson, A Barker, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, A Colley, G Dalton, TRN Harrison-Topham, KJ Lancaster, C Lis, S Parsons and W Weston.

Planning Committee: R Alderson, C Armitage, RK Bingham, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, WH Brown, SHK Butcher, P Charlesworth, G Dalton, W Fenten, TRN Harrison-Topham, KJ Lancaster, JK Roberts, R Welch and W Weston;

with Substitutes members to be as follows and in the order listed: County – Mrs S Marshall and S Parsons; District – C Lis and Mrs Y Peacock; Secretary of State – Dr KM Petyt and A Barker; Parish – A Colley.

Standards Committee: R Alderson, J Blackie, P Charlesworth, G Dalton and TRN Harrison-Topham, together with three Independent members.

73/09 AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

A member commented on the process for reporting back to the Authority and suggested that all representatives should be reminded, or advised of the procedure in respect of each outside body.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report and further comments be noted;
- (b) the Authority's representatives on the bodies listed in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's be re-appointed subject to the following changes:

<i>Partnership</i>	<i>Representative(s)</i>
Cumbria Rural Forum	J Blackie
Electronic Government Group	Member Champion for Corporate Management
Pennine Bridleway Steering Group	RK Bingham
Richmond LSP - Green Living Task Group	S Parsons
Richmond LSP - Prosperous Communities Task Group	S Parsons
Yorkshire Dales LEADER Local Action Group	KJ Lancaster

- (c) each representative be reminded by the Secretariat Administrator of the process for reporting back to the Authority.

74/09 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the Authority makes the following appointments of independent members to the Standards Committee:

- (a) Atiq Hassan for a period of four years from 1 August 2009;
- (b) Ruth Dent for a period of four years from 1 August 2009; and
- (c) Andrew John Markham for a period of four years from 25 January 2010.

75/09 LEAD MINE SPOIL

A Colley declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item as it had been considered by his Parish Council.

TRN Harrison-Topham declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item as there were abandoned lead mines on his land but no spoil heaps.

CONSIDERED – the report of the Senior Conservation Archaeologist.

Members considered that the proposed approach was both sensible and pragmatic.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the issues relating to lead mine spoil quarrying set out in the report of the Senior Conservation Archaeologist be noted, and
- (b) the approach set out below be approved:

“To raise awareness of the issues, the Authority should write to the principal estate owners and gamekeepers where lead mine spoil is found reminding them of the legal position (i.e. that permitted development rights only apply if a prior notification is received) and explain why it is now concerned about the use of mine spoil. It should respond to subsequent notifications on a case-by-case basis. If monitoring shows that extraction is continuing without prior notification, then the Authority should use its planning powers to require adherence.

As the principal use of mine spoil is for track surfacing, the Authority should seek to document good practice and offer guidance through the experience of its Field Team in track construction and maintenance. The Grassington Moor assessment is likely to be useful in this respect.

In addition it should:

- *take steps to enhance the evidence base as suggested by English Heritage, utilising a combination of aerial photography and ground survey, and*
- *raise the issue of improved protection for mining landscapes with English Heritage, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and, through ENPAA, central government.”*

76/09 REVIEW OF THE MEMBER CHAMPION INITIATIVE

CONSIDERED – the report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

Members endorsed the Member Champion (MC) initiative and the facility it provided to harness the experience and expertise of members. There was support for the option of having two MCs covering a particular area of work if there was sufficient interest, and it was proposed that there should be a MC for Climate Change.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted, and

- (a) the MC areas continue to be based on the functional areas of activity;
- (b) an additional area of MC work be established to cover Climate Change;
- (c) the principle that up to two MCs may cover one functional area be retained;
- (d) MCs continue to be appointed by the Authority and any members wishing to 'apply' for the role of MC may provide a written document highlighting their relevant experience and their reasons for wishing to become a MC, for consideration by the Authority in appointing to the roles.
- (e) MCs be appointed for a fixed term of three years and be eligible for reappointment unless another member wishes to take on the role at that time;
- (f) the current practice whereby a MC can also be a member of the Planning Committee be continued;
- (g) the dates of MC meetings be set annually with agendas circulated before the meetings and MCs invited to submit agenda items;
- (h) the Secretariat Administration Officer provide the Chairman with support in circulating documents and agendas for MC meetings, take notes of the meetings and those notes to be included as a 'standing item' on the agenda for Authority meetings;
- (i) MCs present at least one written report per year to inform other members of the issues and activity within their area of responsibility, with a rota of presentations to be prepared and publicised at the beginning of the year to facilitate this;
- (j) MCs agree with their Head of Department which reports it is appropriate for them to present; and be given the opportunity to speak first in debates on reports within their area of responsibility;
- (k) the general principle of MCs being quoted as representatives of the Authority in press releases be accepted;
- (l) MCs be required to produce a brief annual report on their activities and the group of MCs assess each report before it is presented to the Authority;
- (m) in extreme cases the Chairman of the Authority be given the authority to ask a MC to step down from the role;

(n) a revised 'Guidance on the Member Champion Initiative' be produced; be publicised to staff, and be included in the induction process for new Authority members and in the Members' Handbook.

77/09 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Conservation and Policy.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the good progress made to date in implementing the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan be noted;
- (b) no additional action be taken in relation to any of the objectives that are not on course;
- (c) the progress report be made available to all the key partner bodies operating within the National Park.

78/09 UPLAND WATER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Conservation and Policy.

RESOLVED –

That the key water management issues facing the Dales now and in the coming years, as identified in the report of the Head of Conservation and Policy, be noted.

79/09 YORKSHIRE PEAT PARTNERSHIP

CONSIDERED – the report of the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the following support to the Yorkshire Peat Partnership be confirmed:

- a) the commitment of £200,000 (£50,000 per year) over four financial years;
- b) the secondment of an officer (0.5 fulltime equivalent) to manage the delivery of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership; and

- c) the allocation of Ranger and other staff time to help supervise practical restoration works within the National Park.

80/09 SMALL SCALE HYDRO-POWER FEASIBILITY STUDY

JK Roberts declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item as Treasurer of the Kettlewell Hydro Company.

CONSIDERED – the report of the Sustainable Development Officer, together with a presentation from representatives from Inter Hydro Technology Ltd, the company that had produced the feasibility study.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the Small-Scale Hydro Power Feasibility Study prepared by Inter Hydro Technology Ltd be noted;
- (b) approval be given to spend up to £3,000 towards the cost of holding up to two small-scale hydro-power seminars;
- (c) approval be given to work up a programme of support for small-scale hydro-power schemes, subject to the detailed financial and staffing implications being approved by either the Finance and Resources Committee or the full Authority.

81/09 SETTLE CONSERVATION AREA – PROPOSED ALTERATIONS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Senior Conservation Archaeologist.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the character appraisal for the Settle Conservation Area be adopted;
- (b) the Authority respond to the consultation indicating its intention:
- (i) to designate the areas identified on the Map as ‘Areas of proposed extension (YDNPA) as part of the Settle Conservation Area within the Yorkshire Dales National Park; and
 - (ii) should Craven District Council decide to de-designate that part of the Settle Conservation Area around Town Head, to also de-designate the area identified on the map as ‘Areas of proposed deletion (YDNPA)’.

82/09 CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD

CONSIDERED – the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Personnel Officer and Messrs Lis (Corporate Management Member Champion) and Armitage.

RESOLVED –

That

- (a) the Authority pursue the adoption of the Customer Service Excellence Standard; and
- (b) £1000 be allocated from the Opportunities Fund for a pre-assessment.

83/09 OPERATION OF THE AUTHORITY'S PLANNING ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION

This report was withdrawn.

84/09 MEMBER FEEDBACK

CONSIDERED – the report of the Secretariat Officer, circulated at the meeting, which enclosed feedback from Dr KM Petyt on his attendance at the Annual Meeting and Council meeting of the Campaign for National Parks on 15 July.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

85/09 FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 8 May 2009.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 8 May 2009 be received.

86/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 12 May and 9 June 2009.

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 12 May and 9 June 2009 be received.

87/09 AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Review Committee held on 26 June 2009.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Review Committee held on 26 June 2009 be received.