

Minutes of the meeting held at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes on Tuesday, 29 January 2008.

**Present:**

R Alderson, RA Bird, Mrs A Brooks, WH Brown, SHK Butcher, G Dalton, W Fenten, C Hammond, TRN Harrison-Topham, D Heather, KJ Lancaster, SR Macaré, Mrs D Millward, A Osborne, Mrs Y Peacock, Dr KM Petyt (in the Chair in the absence of the Chairman of the Authority) and Ms N Stedman.

***COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK***

**1/08 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2007, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2/08 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**3/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were presented from J Blackie, C Lis, Mrs S Marshall, S Shaw-Wright and W Weston.

**4/08 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING**

No declarations of lobbying were made.

**5/08 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chairman of the Authority.

The Chairman (of the meeting) stated that whilst he had attended the interviews for Access Forum members, as a member of the Dales Access Forum himself, he had only attended as an observer.

In response to members' questions, the Chief Executive stated that:

- the meeting with the Secretary of State (the first ever meeting between National Park Authority representatives and the relevant Secretary of State) had covered a number of topics, including the financial settlement; Defra's two public service agreements; the role of ENPAA re climate change; affordable housing and outreach work; and
- whilst interviews had taken place for the Authority's new Secretary of State appointees, the two appointments had yet to be confirmed. Members would be informed as soon as appointments were announced.

## **RESOLVED –**

That the report and further comments be noted.

## **6/08 MEMBER CHAMPION'S REPORT**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Member Champion for Corporate Management.

In response to a member's question the Member Champion stated that his workload had not been unduly time consuming and had focussed on funding issues and performance assessment.

The Member Champion for Forward Planning stated that she had attended a meeting on rural housing which whilst she had attended as a representative of Richmondshire District Council had also been of relevance to the Authority. She had already spoken to the Strategic Planning Officer and would be reporting back to the Authority in due course.

The Member Champion for Promoting Understanding stated that some operational changes were being made at Yorkshire Tourism and to the sub-regional Partnerships (of which he Chaired the Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate Partnership). He stated that Richmondshire District Council had put forward some useful ideas and added impetus to the Partnership and that Yorkshire Forward had pledged additional funding.

## **RESOLVED –**

That the report and further comments be noted.

## **7/08 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

*[Note: W Fenten declared a personal and prejudicial interest in that part of the report that related to the Europarc Seminar, being a Director of Europarc Consulting, and left the meeting during the consideration of that part of the report.]*

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive and an additional report circulated at the meeting.

With regard to the location of Authority meetings, some members suggested that meetings should continue to be held at venues in and around the Park as a means of maintaining the Authority's public accessibility. In contrast it was pointed out that Authority meetings rarely attracted any members of the public and, in any event, there were more effective ways of engaging with the public. A member commented that when it had been decided to hold all Planning Committee meetings at the Yoredale, it had been intended that the Authority meetings would continue to be held at venues in and around the Park. He suggested that the choice of venue would be unlikely to make much difference, in terms of member travel costs, as members travelled from a variety of

locations. He did, however, point out that meeting at different venues gave members the opportunity to visit parts of the park that they might not be familiar with.

Officers agreed that there was little cost difference whether meetings were held at Yoredale or elsewhere, although it was pointed out that other venues would incur rental costs which would not apply if meetings were held at Yoredale.

In response to the comment about different venues enabling members to visit different areas of the park, the Chief Executive welcomed members' interest, but stated that members' take-up of organised events was generally lamentable, pointing out that a proposed site visit in connection with the boundary review had not proceeded because of the lack of interest from members.

In his absence, the Chairman read a note from John Blackie which pointed out that there were only six meetings of the Authority each year and meeting in and around the Park sent out a message to residents. He feared that limiting meetings only to Yoredale would result in residents from other areas of the Park feeling marginalised. He believed that the public benefits of continuing to meet at different venues would outweigh any possibly detrimental carbon footprint issues.

#### **RESOLVED –**

That subject to the further comments being taken into account:

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) future meetings of the Authority be held at Yoredale, Bainbridge and this decision be reviewed in January 2009;
- (c) the Authority be represented at the Europarc Seminar, "Protected areas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – what does the future hold?", by the Chairman of the Authority, attendance to be an approved duty;
- (d) the Authority be represented at the "Delivering Housing in National Parks" event in London by the Member Champion for Forward Planning (Mrs Y Peacock), attendance to be an approved duty and that the member reports back to the Authority on the event;
- (e) the Authority be represented at the ANPA Workshop to be held on 23 - 25 April in Tewkesbury, by the Chairman of the Authority, R Alderson, D Heather and SR Macaré and the two new Secretary of State members be asked if they would wish to attend, attendance to be an approved duty.

#### **8/08 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

In response to the reference in the Chief Executive's presentation to Local Area Agreements (LAAs), a member requested that a report be brought to the next meeting to provide members with an overview of those LAA targets for North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) of relevance to the Authority.

## **RESOLVED -**

That:

- (a) the implications for the Authority of the Comprehensive Spending Review be noted and the background and preparation work that is taking place to meet these new challenges be supported; and
- (b) the Chief Executive report to the March meeting of the Authority with details of North Yorkshire County Council's Local Area Agreement that will be of relevance to the Authority.

## **9/08 PROPOSED BUDGET 2008/09**

*[Note: A Osborne declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a member of the North Yorkshire County Council pension fund. He stated that if the debate started to address issues relating to the pension fund he would leave the meeting. TRN Harrison-Topham declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item as a member of the North Yorkshire County Council Pension Fund Committee.]*

CONSIDERED – the joint report of the Senior Finance Officer and the Head of Finance and Resources.

A member referred to the revised Corporate and Democratic Core objectives set out in Annex 3 and, in particular, questioned the appropriateness of including “Ensure the Authority is in the top quartile of National Park Authorities in the assessment of ‘family ‘ Performance Indicators” when the final indicators were not yet known.

## **RESOLVED –**

That

- (a) the 2007/08 budget as summarised in Appendix 4 of Annex 1 to the joint report, as recommended by the Finance and Resources Committee on 3 December 2007, be approved; and
- (b) the changes to the Corporate and Democratic Core Objectives detailed in Annex 3 be approved, subject to further consideration of “Ensure the Authority is in the top quartile of National Park Authorities in the assessment of ‘family ‘ Performance Indicators” (as included in Annex 3 paragraph 4) once they are known.

## **10/08 YORKSHIRE FORWARD CORPORATE PLAN 2008/11: CONSULTATION DRAFT**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Policy and Liaison Officer.

In considering the report, members raised a number of issues, including:

- requesting that the reference in paragraph 9 of the covering report to “...we hope Yorkshire Forward will involve the National Park Authorities...” should be strengthened

The Chief Executive stated that by working with Yorkshire Forward (YF), and using the expertise of the Authority, both national park and YF objectives could be achieved.

**RESOLVED –**

That subject to them being strengthened to take account of members' views, the comments contained in the report of the Policy and Liaison Officer be sent to Yorkshire Forward as the Authority's response to the Yorkshire Forward Corporate Plan consultation.

**11/08     LEADER**

*[Note: Ms N Stedman declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item being involved professionally in a project that had made a bid for Leader funding.]*

CONSIDERED – the report of the Policy and Liaison Officer.

**RESOLVED –**

That the information contained in the report of the Policy and Liaison Officer be noted and further reports on progress be brought to the Authority.

**12/08     STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Strategic Planning Officer.

It was pointed out that the reference in paragraph 3 to Sedbergh and District Outlook should be corrected to Sedbergh and District Lookaround.

It was suggested that as well as adding 'Parochial Church Councils' to the list of consultees, other non-conformist religious organisations should also be included.

**RESOLVED –**

That:

(a) a second draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) be prepared for public consultation during March that includes the following amendments:

1. the significance of Email consultation in the SCI be improved
2. the following specific groups be added to the list of 'other' consultees -
  - Disability Action Richmondshire,
  - Parochial Church Councils and other non-conformist religious organisations
  - Cumbria Vision
3. the suggestions made by Government Office be incorporated in order to make the SCI more 'sound',

and

(b) the second draft version be scrutinised by the Forward Planning Member Champion before being issued for public consultation.

**13/08     PUBLIC SPEAKING AT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Planning.

A member suggested that anyone should be able to speak once on an application and if that right had not been 'used up' at the initial Committee consideration stage, it should still be available if the matter was brought back to members, including under the reference back process.

**RESOLVED –**

That the scheme for Public Speaking at Planning Committee meetings be amended to clarify that any person may speak only once on a planning application, either at the initial Committee consideration stage, or later if the matter is brought back to members, including under the reference back process.

**14/08     MEMBER FEEDBACK**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Secretariat Officer.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report be noted.

**15/08     AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Review Committee held on 2 November 2007.

**RESOLVED –**

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Review Committee held on 2 November 2007 be received.

**16/08     STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 6 November 2007.

**RESOLVED –**

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 6 November 2007 be received.

**17/08     PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CONSIDERED – the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13 November and 11 December 2007.

**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13 November and 11 December 2007 be received.

**18/08 FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 3 December 2007.

**RESOLVED –**

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 3 December 2007 be received.