

**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 1**

Minutes of the meeting held at Yoredale, Bainbridge on Tuesday, 6 November 2007.

**Present:**

R Alderson, J Blackie, G Dalton, TRN Harrison-Topham, A Hassan, Mrs V Reed and Ms Y Rose.

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

**9/07 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The report of the Secretariat Officer was noted.

**10/07 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Authority's Solicitor advised members that imminent legislation would require the Authority to elect its Standards Committee Chairman and Deputy from amongst its independent members. In addition the Authority, at its meeting on 27 November was to be recommended to revise its Standing Orders, so that, until such time as that legislation was in place, it would in any event be a 'rule' adopted by the Authority.

Having been nominated unopposed, it was –

**RESOLVED –**

That Ms Y Rose be elected Chairman of the Committee, to hold office until the first meeting of the Committee following the annual meeting of the Authority in 2008.

***MS Y ROSE IN THE CHAIR***

**11/07 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

It was suggested that, bearing in mind that, other than the Chairman, the independent members were both attending their first meeting, it may be appropriate not to elect a Deputy Chairman at the present time.

**RESOLVED –**

That the election of a Deputy Chairman be postponed.

**12/07 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2007, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.



The Secretariat Officer reminded the Committee that he had attended a meeting of the North Yorkshire Improvement Partnership (NYIP), an organisation that provides a range of training events for members of local authorities in North Yorkshire and that it was hoped that the Authority would be able to 'piggy-back' onto training events arranged through the partnership.

A meeting of the NYIP was anticipated in the next few weeks.

The Chairman asked if a report on members' equality training could be brought to the Committee in 12 months time to log training undertaken by members, the providing organisation (e.g. whether through their appointing Authority or elsewhere) and when the training was undertaken.

**RESOLVED –**

That, as requested, a report back on equality training undertaken by members be brought to the Committee in 12 months time.

**13/07 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**14/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Ms N Stedman.

**15/07 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING**

None.

## **16/07 STANDARDS BOARD SECOND DVD**

Members viewed the Standards Boards second DVD entitled “The Code Uncovered”.

Members agreed that, whilst it would be beneficial for all members to view the DVD, as some may well see the DVD at other authorities, it would be inappropriate to seek to insist that all members viewed it as part of some authority training. It was, however, considered that additional copies be obtained; all members be advised of its availability and recommended to view the DVD; it be made available to view after a meeting of the Planning Committee and member take-up be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

### **RESOLVED –**

That:

- (a) three further copies of the Standards Board 2<sup>nd</sup> DVD be obtained;
- (b) all members be advised of its availability and recommended to take the opportunity to watch it;
- (c) the DVD be shown after a meeting(s) of the Planning Committee; and
- (d) the take-up by members be reported back to the next meeting of the Committee.

## **17/07 GUIDANCE ON GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer.

Members, whilst they considered it beneficial for there to be guidance for members in the form of a Code, believed that the current code was in need of review.

### **RESOLVED –**

That an ad hoc group of members, comprising G Dalton, A Hassan and J Blackie, meet with the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer to carry out a review of the current Code of Practice for Members on Gifts and Hospitality and the resulting revised document be emailed to the remaining members of the Committee for comments, prior to it being reported to the Authority for adoption.

## **18/07 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer.

## **RESOLVED –**

That:

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) R Alderson and Mrs V Reed, together with an officer, represent the Authority at the 2008 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees, attendance to be an approved duty.

## **19/07 GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

CONSIDERED – the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer who added that when the appended report had been considered at the Audit and Review Committee, it had been agreed to set up a small group of members to review the six governance principles and the CIPFA/SOLACE version. He also added that it had been agreed that there should be more explicit “signposting” of the annual assessment of governance arrangements on the Authority’s website.

Some concern was expressed that the Audit and Review Committee could be seen to be challenging the work that had been carried out by the Corporate Governance Working Group.

Reference was made to the remit of the Standards Committee with regard to Standing Orders and the recent consideration by the Audit and Review Committee of changes to the Authority’s Standing Orders that had not been the subject of consideration by the Standards Committee.

The Chief Executive stated that the Audit and Review Committee clearly had a remit to review any proposed changes to Standing Orders and then to make recommendations to the Authority. Members of the Authority could refer any proposed changes to the Standards Committee for additional consideration if they so wished.

Members requested that the Committee should meet on a more regular basis (including two scheduled meetings per annum rather than on the current ‘as and when’ basis) and have specific agenda items to consider issues which the Committee is mandated to consider.

## **RESOLVED –**

That:

- (a) the report and further comments be noted;
- (b) two meetings of the Committee be arranged annually, with the agenda to include reports, to alternate meetings, on those governance items which the Committee is mandated to consider.