Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Item 2

Minutes of the meeting held at the offices of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL on Tuesday 31 March 2026.

Members Present:

Saira Ali, Libby Bateman, Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Richard Foster, Michael Hanley, Neil Heseltine, Robert Heseltine, Dan Holmes, Julie Hutton, Richard Ingram, David Ireton, Peter Jackson, Allen Kirkbride, Stuart Parsons, Yvonne Peacock, Karin Sedgwick, Graham Simpkins, Steve Shaw Wright, Nigel Swales and Derek Twine.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

01/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, Ian Mitchell, Andrew Murday, and David Noland.

02/26 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 December 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 16 December 2025 having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

03/26 Public Question Time

Ruth Annison read out a public statement regarding the negative impact of the present global fuel supply crisis upon the communities within the National Park, and the opportunities for this to be mitigated via public transport links offered by DalesBus and by the potential to reinstate the Upper Wensleydale Railway from Garsdale to Hawes.

The Chair responded to thank Mrs Annison for her statement.

04/26 Declarations of lobbying

No declarations of lobbying were made.

05/26 Cultural Heritage Strategy for 2025-2030

The Authority **Considered** the report of the Senior Historic Environment Officer, presented by the Head of Sustainable Development.

In response to a Member's question about the level of ambition in the Strategy, the Senior Historic Environment Officer advised that as an area for development they hope to increase engagement with local archaeology societies to attract younger people.

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A Member gave thanks on behalf of the farming community for the Authority's work in this area.

Resolved – To adopt the proposed Cultural Heritage Strategy 2025-2030 as set out in the Annex to the report.

06/26 Yorkshire Dales Design Guide - Draft

The Authority **Considered** the report and presentation of the Head of Development Management.

Members raised a number of points including whether the guide require the installation of swift bricks in all new developments; the importance of incorporating equality, diversity and inclusion into design; the absence of reference to the installation of mobile phone masts; and the need to respond to changes in Government policy.

The Head of Development Management advised that the biodiversity aspects covered in the draft Design Guide go beyond the requirements imposed by many Authorities. He advised that EDI is not straightforward to include in design terms but this would be looked at. Where possible, Members comments would be reflected in the consultation draft. Members would have a further opportunity to comment in detail during the consultation process.

The Member Champion for Corporate Management (as a member if the Authority's EDI Working Group), offered their support in considering further the EDI aspects of the Design Guide.

Resolved – To authorise public consultation of the draft Yorkshire Dales Design Guide.

07/26 Amplifying Youth Voice: A UK Fund Application

The Authority **Considered** the report of the Head of Access and Engagement.

In response to a Member's question about why the Authority should act as the lead body for this funding bid, the Head of Access and Engagement stated that this Authority has become a leader in youth engagement and National Parks.

Resolved – To approve that the Authority act as Lead Body for the submission of the funding bid.

08/26 Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

The Authority **considered** the report of the Head of Finance/Treasurer, presented by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive set out a positive and strengthened budget position, which includes more grant support and a stable 3-year financial framework. Whilst there are still

challenges in terms of increasing our capital spend this year, it equips the Authority to meet its objectives, national priorities and invest in our infrastructure.

Members' thanks were recorded for all the work which had gone into the preparation of the budget. It was noted that the outgoing Chief Executive leaves the Authority in a strong position.

In response to a Member's question, the Chief Executive explained that Members will have an opportunity to determine how the additional funding is best used, starting with the Finance and Resources Committee in May.

Resolved – To approve the Budget for 2026/27 and indicative budgets for 2027/28 and 2028/29 (Appendix 1) and the revised Reserves Strategy (Appendix 2).

09/26 Treasury Management and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance

The Authority **considered** the report of the Head of Finance/Treasurer.

Resolved – To approve the Annual Treasury Management and Capital Strategies, as set out in the Annexes.

10/26 Dales Countryside Museum Collections Management Framework 2026-2031

The Authority **Considered** the Report of the Museum Manager.

A Member commented upon the value of the Museum as a great resource enabling visitors to learn about and be inspired by the special landscape and culture of the Yorkshire Dales. The Member also commended the commitment to comply with the requirements of the Arts Council accreditation.

Resolved – To approve the Dales Countryside Museum Collections Management Framework 2026-2031 in the Appendix.

11/26 Appointment of Member to Audit and Review Committee and Substitute on Planning Committee

The Authority **Considered** the Report of the Chief Executive.

Resolved -. That Ms Felicity Cunliffe-Lister be appointed to the Authority's Audit and Review Committee and as a substitute on Planning Committee until the Authority's AGM in June 2026.

12/26 Extension of Term of Office of Independent Person

The Authority **considered** the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

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Resolved - That the term of office of Lynda Fothergill, Independent Person, be extended for a further two years until 30 June 2028.

13/26 Scheme of Members' Allowances 2026/27

The Authority **considered** the report of the Committees Officer, presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

It was noted that there was an error in the rounding up of the Basic Allowance for the Deputy Chair of the Authority which should state £1,951. The reference to Chairman/Deputy Chairman would be replaced with Chair/Deputy Chair. The proposed changes were agreed by Members.

Resolved – that the Scheme of Members' Allowances 2026/27 be adopted.

14/26 Chair's Report

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Chair.

A Member commented upon on the recent launch of the national Coast to Coast trail which took place in the Yorkshire Dales and asked whether the Authority had received appropriate recognition for the input to the project, and queried who attended on behalf of the Authority. The Chief Executive responded that it was a Natural England event, but that the Rangers were present along with senior Authority Officers. The Chief Executive acknowledged the personal contribution of the Member who had spoken to many Parish Councils about the project.

15/26 Report of the Chief Executive

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the Report of the Chief Executive.

16/26 Member Feedback on Partnership Representation and Member Champions' Reports

The Authority **Considered** and **Noted** the report of the Committees Officer.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting of Swindon Quarry Trust which had been due to take place on 26 March 2026 had been postponed.

The Member Champion for Sustainable Development gave a verbal update, including £110k of grants for projects from the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund and an update on the Local Plan, which it is hoped will be presented to the Authority on 30 June for adoption.

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17/26 Urgent Business – where the Chair has agreed there are special circumstances

The Chair wished to place formally on record the exemplary service offered by David Butterworth, outgoing Chief Executive, who has served in the role over 25 years. He noted Mr Butterworth's outstanding leadership and management of the Authority's business.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:33pm.

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