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 30 September 2025.

Present:
Saira Ali, Libby Bateman, Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Richard Foster, Michael Hanley, Neil Heseltine, Robert Heseltine, Dan Holmes, Richard Ingram, David Ireton, Peter Jackson, Allen Kirkbride, Andrew Murday, Simon Myers, David Noland, Stuart Parsons, Yvonne Peacock, Karin Sedgwick, Graham Simpkins, Nigel Swales, Derek Twine.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

39/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Julie Hutton, Ian Mitchell, Steve Shaw Wright.

40/25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 June 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 24 June 2025 having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

41/25 Public Question Time

Katie Norgate read out a public statement and question relating to 'Statement on Youth Participation'.

Ruth Annison read out a public statement and a question regarding the 'Public Creation Order Garsdale - Hawes multi-user route'.

The Chair responded to the statements and questions.

42/25 Declarations of lobbying

Some Members had received correspondence lobbying against item 7, except for Allen Kirkbride who was lobbied for and against item 7. Saira Ali, Michael Hanley, Robert Heseltine and Nigel Swales made no declarations of lobbying.

43/25 National Park Management Plan Annual Progress Report 2024-25

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Director of Conservation and Community.

Members raised some concerns and questions about the progress of some of the objectives in the Plan regarding, nature, water quality/sewage overflow/spills, woodland

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management monitoring, the delay in telecom masts switch on, overhead power lines programme, species protection and the invasion of non-native species.

The Director of Conservation and Community responded to Members questions covering the following points.

- There currently isn't sufficient financial investment in nature and species protection. Furthermore, it is difficult mapping that investment. Agri-environment support from government has dropped over the lifetime of the Plan. This reflects the national picture.
- Water quality remains an issue, although the National Park compares favourably to the rest of the country. The emphasis is primarily on the water companies to address the issues. There is some commitment from Yorkshire Water to upgrade water treatment works, contained in the new National Park Management Plan. Farming and historical lead mining also contribute to the issues of water quality in the National Park.
- The new Section 245 duty for Local Authorities (LURA) should help delivering our new objectives.
- Following the dissolution of the non-native species working group, there is a target in the Nature Recovery Plan to identify the top 5 problematic species and make plans to tackle those.
- 20km of overhead power lines have been transferred underground. The target in the new Plan is to continue to reduce the visual impacts of intrusive infrastructure and equipment, including putting a further 15km of overhead power lines underground by 2028

Resolved – To note the progress made by a wide range of bodies in implementing the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan

44/25 Statement of Youth Participation

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Head of Access and Engagement

One Member asked if we could put in place a process whereby we were able to make an assessment on how the statement was impacting on our work. Another Member highlighted the importance of continuing to work with partners on delivery of our aims.

Resolved – To agree the draft statement at **Annex A** as the Authority's broad position on youth participation.

45/25 Public Creation Order for Garsdale - Hawes multi- user route

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Director of Park Services who explained that consideration of a Creation Order is required if we cannot secure the support of **all** landowners through Creation Agreements. We have been unable to do so. A Creation Order is the next step in the process prior to any planning permissions etc.

Members of the Garsdale Hawes Steering Group spoke out in support of the Creation Order and highlighted the benefits of implementing a multi-user route including, the safety aspects of the route for walkers, cyclists, riders, and users, supporting businesses and the local economy, and health and wellbeing benefits.

A Member asked for further detail in relation to the cost of the current exercise and the future capital project costs. The Chief Executive directed members to Paragraph 25 of the report.

An amendment to the recommendation to add a new part C was proposed. This set out the Authority's position in the event of a reinstatement of the railway line along the route and dealt specifically with the earlier public question from Ruth Annison.

A Member suggested it might be useful to take a two month pause in the implementation of the Creation Order to allow further time for landowners, who had not yet engaged or come to an agreement with the Authority, to consider further.

Resolved –

a) To support the planned approach to establish a multi-use route between Garsdale Station and Hawes by Public Path Creation Order;
b) To request the Director of Corporate Services, in accordance with the Authority's scheme of delegation and in consultation with the Garsdale Hawes Steering Group, to consider whether to make a Public Path Creation Order under the Highways Act 1980 to create a public bridleway between Garsdale Station and Hawes; and
c) To ensure any development of the line as a multi-user route will not prejudice any future opportunity for rail reinstatement.

46/25 The Prioritisation of the National Park Authority Work

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Performance Management Officer

Resolved – To confirm the continuation of the prioritised list of programmes agreed in September 2024.

47/25 Marske Conservation Area

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Building Conservation Officer.

Resolved -

a. To designate the area of Marske within the National Park (shown on the map in **Appendix A**) as part of the Marske Conservation Area;
b. To approve adoption of the Marske Conservation Area Character Appraisal; and
c. To approve the adoption of the associated Conservation Area Management Plan.

48/25 Members' Allowances

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the Report of the Director of Corporate Services.

Resolved – To introduce a special responsibility allowance for the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee and the Chair of Audit and Review Committee, payable from 1 October 2025. To set the rate for both Chairs at Basic Allowance x 0.5 per annum, payable monthly.

49/25 Chair's report

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

50/25 Report of the Chief Executive

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

51/25 Member Feedback on Partnership Representation and Member Champions' Reports – Corporate Management and Promoting Understanding

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Committees Officer.

A Member asked whether we could bring a report back to the Authority periodically regarding housing provision. The Chief Executive agreed to investigate the matter.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3:12 p.m.

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