YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY **ITEM 2**
AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the YDNPA offices, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, DL8 3EL on Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 10:30am.

Members Present:

Liz Appleton Hall, Lizzie Bushby, Robert Heseltine, Allen Kirkbride, Jim Munday, Andrew Murday, Yvonne Peacock, Steve Shaw-Wright and Graham Simpkins

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

23/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from David Ireton and Ian Mitchell.

24/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED –
That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023, subject to a typing correction from Lia to Liz, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

25/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

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

26/23 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

27/23 PERFORMANCE REVIEW – VISITOR SERVICES

CONSIDERED the report of the Director of Park Services.

Members were supportive of the recommendations and thanked the review team. The Member Champion for Recreation Management expressed her enjoyment in participating in the review.
Discussion included the following;

- Query as to whether local Post Offices could be used for cash deposits from car parks/visitor centres. Any proposal to move to card only payments would be a Member decision.

- Comment relating to the role and location of the Visitor Centres, and whether we should target locations outside the National Park. The Chief Executive outlined

previous unsuccessful attempts working with public transport centres including a regional airport and a main northern rail station outside of the National Park.

- Comment that the report hadn't covered Climate change/nature recovery implications, and whether this could be included as standard in all Committee reports. The Chief Executive agreed to consider this suggestion.

- Query relating to the proposal for "maximising value from the Authority's combined assets at Grassington". The Head of Visitor Services advised that the Director of Park Services was leading on this review, and it was prudent to look at the site as a whole. The Chief Executive confirmed that the review is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.

- Comments on the different ways visitors access information. Members were supportive of the increased focus on Social Media but conscious of the need to offer a variety of sources of information.

RESOLVED – to NOTE the report and AGREE the recommendations in the Action Plan (Section 4 of the Annex) and summarised in paragraph 8 and all recommendations involving financial consideration to be put forward to the Finance and Resources Committee as part of the next budget process.

28/23 PROGRESS ON CORPORATE PLAN 2023/24

CONSIDERED the presentation and report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

Members congratulated the officers for the good progress. Discussion included the following;

- Question relating to who conducted the water quality sampling and whether the Authority could conduct their own sampling or work with Universities. The Deputy Chief Executive agreed to look into this.

- Comment that objectives 17 and 20 had not progressed as reported and were below the target set. The Deputy Chief Executive responded and advised that the number of successful hen harriers nesting is going up and that he believed the level of persecution has gone down (compared to pre-2017). He advised that the latest official data will be published by the local group by December 2024, which will be circulated to Members.

- Query whether there are audio/visual interpretation material available download to mobile phones e.g. for hay meadows and Smardale Lime Kilns. The Head of Access and Engagement responded that there are some audio tours available e.g. the Lead Mining Trail at Grassington. There is an interpretation plan as part of the Tee-Swale project, and this may include downloadable materials, and she agreed to look into this and report back.

- There was a query whether there was scope for the Tees-Swale Films/photos to 'tour' other venues outside the National Park, which the Head of Access and Engagement will consider.

- Comment and query relating to the flood management work and a request for details of York City Council's Ouse Water Environmental Management project, which the Deputy Chief Executive undertook to provide.

RESOLVED – to NOTE the report and the two additional actions that have been added to this year's Action Plan.

29/23 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

RESOLVED – to RECEIVE the report and APPROVE minor changes to the Local Code of Corporate Governance (**Appendix A**).

30/23 ANNUAL RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW

CONSIDERED – the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

RESOLVED – to ADOPT the revised Risk Management Policy and AGREE that the Strategic Risk Register contains all identifiable higher level risks which the Audit & Review Committee requires to be monitored.

31/23 MAJOR PROJECT REVIEW – MILES WITHOUT STILES

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Access and Engagement.

RESOLVED – to NOTE the report and AGREE that the recommendations in Section 4 of the Appendix should be taken into account in developing the Authority's future approach.

32/23 CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Human Resources.

The Director of Corporate Services thanked the Head of Human Resources and officers involved for their hard work in pulling together all the informationthat was needed for the Customer Service Excellence Award.

The Chief Executive gave recognition to the level of commitment from Authority staff to ensuring that we provide a good service to our customers.

The Committee NOTED the report.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:16 p.m.

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