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 12 December 2023.

Present:
Liz Appleton Hall, Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Phil Dew, Richard Foster, Neil Heseltine (in the Chair), Robert Heseltine, David Ireton, Peter Jackson, Jim Munday, Andrew Murday, David Noland, Stuart Parsons, Yvonne Peacock, Jenny Purcell, Karin Sedgwick, Graham Simpkins, Neil Swain and Derek Twine.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

50/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Libby Bateman, Julie Hutton and Ian Mitchell.

51/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2023 having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

52/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS / STATEMENTS

Ruth Annison read out a statement and question relating to the Authority's position on Public Transport. The Chair provided a response.

53/23 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

There were no declarations of lobbying.

54/23 NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY OBJECTIVES for 2024/25

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

After responding to Members questions:

Members agreed a number of changes to the objectives for 2024/25. Most of these are relatively minor tweaks but there were new objectives for; improving physical access, use of the National Park Centres, and updating the National Park Management Plan. It was noted that the Authority is still working on some new objectives for nature recovery work.

The Chief Executive confirmed that North Yorkshire Council were currently unable to contribute to the maintenance of the Public Rights of Way network within the National Park, and that an options paper will be presented to Members in the new year exploring future funding.

RESOLVED – To confirm the intention to continue with the current set of objectives but with the amendments set out in the **Annex.**

55/23 CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Monitoring Officer who advised Members that it was the recommendation of Standards Committee that the amended Code of Conduct be adopted subject to a minor amendment (deletion of word "unlawfully" from paragraph 2.9).

Members' attention was drawn to the amendments proposed including the addition of a general obligation not to bully any person, a more explicit reference to equalities, a new paragraph about public perception and potential conflict (i.e. a prejudicial interest test) and an increase to the gifts and hospitality limit to £50.

Following a Member question relating to how Members were able to raise issues at Authority meetings, the Monitoring Officer provided clarification of the formal process of raising questions as set out in the Authority's Standing Orders and the Chief Executive explained the informal ways in which issues could be raised.

RESOLVED – To adopt the revised Code of Conduct attached in the **Appendix** including the amendment proposed by Standards Committee**.**

56/23 SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY AND GUIDELINES

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Communications Manager.

The new strategy follows a detailed review of the Authority's current social media offer by an independent specialist. The review painted a very positive picture of both the quality and reach of our social media compared to similar organisations (especially on Facebook and Instagram). The main recommendation was around the growing importance of video, particularly as a means to connect with younger audiences.

The Chair and a number of Members congratulated the Communications Manager and his team for the content and quality of the report.

Following discussion and Members questions, the Communications Manager confirmed that Artificial Intelligence was not being used at this stage. He also explained the reasoning behind the proposal to follow the social media accounts of members in order to amplify and increase the engagement with the Authority and promote its' purposes.

Members discussed the importance of using video content and were supportive of this. The matter will be dealt with as part of the consideration of the next 3 Year Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED – To note the findings and recommendations from the review and approve the updated Social Media Strategy.

57/23 SOCIAL MEDIA PROTOCOL FOR MEMBERS

The Authority CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

RESOLVED - To adopt the revised Social Media Protocol for Members.

58/23 GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Authority CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive drew Members attention to the following: -

- £10 million of funding from the Government for National Parks and National Landscapes (former AONB's). Detail about how that was to be divided up was not yet known.
- £2.5 million of new funding for Young People to access the countryside. Details to follow to clarify if this is a new initiative or an extension of the 'Generation Green' Project
- The Government's commitment to delivering its obligations under "30 by 30" – 30% of the country will have protected status by 2030 and 30% will be showing improvements for nature. The current figure is 8.5%.

The Authority will await clarity from Government to enable the Authority to plan and use the funding proposals made in the announcement.

In response to Members questions

- Clarification was provided about an Authority Spatial Plan which will be included in the executive summary of the Nature Recovery Plan.
- Future 'Projects in the pipeline' were reported to Finance and Resources Committee.

59/23 CHAIRS REPORT

The Authority CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Chair.

60/23 REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Authority CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Chief Executive.

61/23 MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIPS AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS REPORTS

The Authority CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Committees Officer.

62/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded during the discussion of item 15 (Hawes to Garsdale Multi-User Route Update) on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

63/23 PRIVATE MINUTE

RESOLVED – That the private minute of the meeting held on the 26 September 2023 in relation to item 15, Revere Dales Woodland Project, having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

64/23 HAWES TO GARSDALE MULTI - USER ROUTE UPDATE

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Director of Park Services in the absence of members of the public.

RESOLVED - To NOTE the progress being made on the development of a multi-user route using the discussed railway line between Garsdale Station and Hawes.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 15:06 p.m.

DRAFT