Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum(YDAF)
Tuesday 14 May 2024
Meeting held at the Yoredale, Bainbridge

Members present: Jon Beavan (JB) (in the Chair following his re-election), Hannah Gardner (HG) (Vice Chair following election), John Bucknall (JBu), Lizzie Bushby (LB), Abby Day (AD), Rachel Forsyth (RF), Barbara Gravenor (BG) Neil Heseltine (NH), Alex Law (AL) and Malcolm Petyt (MP).

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) officers present: Rebecca Greenfield (RG), Alan Hulme (AH), Elliott Lorimer (EL) and Rachel Briggs (RB) (taking the minutes).

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

1. Election of Chair

Jon Beavan was nominated for the position of Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

RESOLVED: that Jon Beavan be appointed Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

Jon Beavan in the chair

2. Election of Vice Chair

Hannah Gardner was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

RESOLVED: that Hannah Gardner be appointed Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

3. Welcome and introductions

The meeting welcomed new member Abby Day to the meeting, and each member shared information about their background and interests as relevant to the Forum.

4. Apologies

Peter Baggaley (PB) Graeme Cowling (GC), Leo Crone (LC)

5. Approval of Minutes

The third bullet under item 5 should state that there were 3 applications where access was requested and not 1.

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 20 February 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

6. Public Question Time

No public questions or statements had been received.

7. Future Forum Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 December at 10:00 a.m.by virtual meeting.

Future Agenda Items

- Cautley Spout and the improvements to the bridleway bridge.
- Wild swimming (possibly an item for the Water Sports Advisory Group)

8. Review of nominated LAF members on groups linked to the Forum

RB introduced this item with an explanation of the remit of each of the seven advisory groups and RG provided additional detail regarding membership of the Green Lanes Advisory Group. RB asked for expressions of interest from members.

The following expressions of interest were made:

- Access for All – Abby Day

JB advised the meeting that he also attends the Cumbria and North-West Regional LAF.

9. No fence collars

Matt Gardner (MG), a National Trust grazier, met remotely to introduce how no fence collars have been working with his cattle. The presentation was gratefully received by members.

MG explained that the no fence collar system draws a virtual boundary where you want the animals to be kept and that an audible warning, and then a small shock, is used to train the animals where to stay. It is used as a way of managing conflict between farming and users as well as safety for all.

Members discussed the use of no fence collars in the Yorkshire Dales. Some framers are already using the system (Kingsdale Head) and FiPL is funding some schemes.

The cost is an issue (around £230 per collar and a subscription charge of £700 per year) as well as the need for a 2G signal, which is lacking in some of the more

remote areas. However, Members saw the benefits as described by MG as well as the conservation advantages where cattle can we kept off protected areas.

MG was thanked for his presentation.
that the Countryside Code be relaunched/refreshed

10. Public Rights of Way Annual Report

AH introduced this report and gave a presentation.

Members were particularly interested to hear about the financial contribution to the public rights of way network from the Local Authorities. Westmorland and Furness Council has agreed to contribute to the network for the next year years. However, North Yorkshire Council has said it won't give any financial contribution. A meeting has been arranged for later on in May 2024 for officer and members of the YDNPA, NYMNPA and NYC.

NH asked AH how this has affected the teams working on PROW. AH said that due to a decreased capital budget, staff were being diverted onto priority projects, such as the Coast to Coast, where funding was available.

Officers were congratulated on the external funding that has come into the department – a total of £378k last year. AD wondered if there was room for a new post to look, specifically, at project development and funding. RG explained that new posts have an element of external funding within their job titles now and that the National Park Partnership is used for specialist funding opportunities.

11. Yorkshire Dales Active Travel Plan

RG gave a verbal update on the Active Travel Plan for the YDNP.

Active Travel England (ATE) have awarded the YDNPA £100k to write an Active Travel Plan for the National Park area. A new post has been appointed (Access and Recreation Manager – Teams and Projects) and it will be their role, for the next 12 months, to write the plan.

JB asked how members of the YDAF can be involved with the plan. RG said that there will be an Advisory Group established and that there may be LAF member involvement on that group.

Members were keen to ensure that all users are considered in the plan i.e. those with limited mobilities and horse riders. RG agreed and ensured members that this was being considered.

23/12. Coast to Coast

AH gave a verbal report on the Coast to Coast National Trail.

Planning for the work on White Mossy Hill has begun. This section will be flagged. The costs are expected to be in the region of £600k to £700k and this will have full cost recovery. HG said that when laying the flags, adding the odd passing place might be a good idea.

JB asked for regular updates on the project.

23/13 Officer's Report

RB presented the Officers Report with items for information. She asked that any comments on the Terms of Reference be sent to her so that a redraft could be written for the next meeting.

Action: All LAF members to send comments to RB on the Terms of Reference

23/14. **Update on Members' Activities**

RF – The National Trust has extended the off road permissive footpath between Buckden and Hubberholme. This is fully accessible and can be extension to the miles without stiles route.

2/15. Any Other Business

AH informed members that the new bridleway bridge at Cautley had been granted planning permission. However, plans were now being looked at as the width does not fit with British Horse Society guidelines.

JB asked about the fencing that has been erected in Barbondale. His concerns are that the fencing is metal, and does not fit in with the landscape, and that there are very few access points. AH said he would try to find out more information from the conservation team.

The meeting closed at 3:55pm.