

Minutes of the meeting held remotely in the Lifesize Virtual Committees Room, on Tuesday, 15 December 2020.

Present:

John Amsden, Mark Corner, Nick Cotton, Kevin Frea, Richard Good, Liz Hall, Neil Heseltine (in the chair), Julie Hutton, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Carl Lis, Julie Martin, Ian McPherson, Ian Mitchell, Jim Munday, Stuart Parsons, Gillian Quinn, Karin Sedgwick, Neil Swain, Cosima Towneley, Derek Twine and Richard Welch.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

The Chair welcomed newly appointed Parish member, Liz Hall, to the Authority.

The Chair thanked members of the public for watching the remote meetings, thanked staff for their work through challenging times, and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

30/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Richard Foster, Robert Heseltine and Sandy Lancaster.

31/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020, having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

32/20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

A written question had been received from Pip Pointon, on behalf of the Association of Rural Communities, in relation to the charring of a planning committee meeting on 17 November 2020. This was read to the meeting and the Chair replied.

33/20 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

34/20 AUTHORITY OBJECTIVES 2021/22

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and NOTED the likely ongoing impact of Covid-19 on objectives 10, 12, 13 and 14.

In response to questions, the Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the revised numerical targets set out in para 8 of the report had been set on the basis of what was realistically achievable, that objective 10 was a cumulative figure so was most at risk from continued Covid disruption, and that the intention was to review the priorities and objectives again next year. Members commended staff on the progress made on many of the objectives throughout a challenging period.

RESOLVED: to continue with the current set of objectives, with temporary amendments to objectives 10, 12, 13 and 14 (as per the report).

35/20 DALES WOODLAND STRATEGY

CONSIDERED - the report of the Senior Trees and Woodlands Officer, who suggested a small amendment to paragraph 42 of the proposed strategy so as to mention Nature Recovery Networks as an example of what could be achieved.

The Director of Conservation and Community confirmed that the options for the level of planting set out in Annex B are separate from each other (not cumulative). The most ambitious option - no 5 – is the one that the Dales Woodland Forum had chosen (achievement of which would also more than achieve options 1 to 4).

Discussion included the following points:

- Opportunity mapping for future woodland creation is designed to respect the special qualities of the National Park. Cross-referencing to the recently updated Yorkshire Dales National Park landscape character assessment should be considered, if not already in place;
- the new strategy's inclusion of field trees is welcome, particularly given the issues posed by ash die-back;
- existing coalitions with local authorities, partner organisations and land-owners will be stepped up, being vital to combat climate emergency with both planting and management of woodland. Offsetting the carbon emissions of others, by tree planting, could lead to additional funding for woodland creation;
- after-care and good woodland management (including removal of tree-guards) are as important as initial planting;
- a recently awarded grant to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust will fund a project looking at alternatives to plastic tree guards;
- the potential impact of the ELM scheme was noted;
- better data and modelling will become available, giving us a better idea of what is needed to achieve a 'net zero National Park', so the strategy's targets will be kept under review (the reason why the ambition has only been set for 10 years).

RESOLVED – to adopt the proposed Dales Woodland Strategy 2020-30, with the agreed amendment to paragraph 42.

36/20 LOCAL PLAN – UPDATE ON CONSULTATION AND TIMETABLE

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Local Plan Officer and NOTED the outcomes of the consultation on the Local Plan - "Exploring our Options – Ambitions".

The number of respondents who indicated that their preferred option was not specified was discussed. Future consultations may include space for respondents to specify their own option(s) if they do not agree with the other options presented. The engagement of young people was very positive.

RESOLVED –

- a) To use the current vision in the National Park Management Plan 2019 – 2024 as the “vision for 2040” in the new Local Plan; and
- b) To approve the amended Local Plan timetable as set out in Annex B of the report.

37/20 APPOINTMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED –

- a) To support the extension of the membership of the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) steering group with the addition of two people to represent those young people who live in, work in and use the National Park; and
- b) To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, to seek and appoint representatives.

38/20 REVIEW OF MEMBERS’ DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CONSIDERED - the report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED – To adopt the revised document – “Duties and Responsibilities of Members”, attached to the report at Appendix A.

39/20 WORKING GROUP’S REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Director of Conservation and Community. A correction at paragraph 3 of the report, to read “June” instead of “September” was noted. The Member Champion for Development Management presented the recommendations of the working group.

Following discussion, it was agreed that, should planning committee meetings return to face-to-face meetings in the future, consideration would be given to extending the time limit for public speakers back to 5 minutes, and reverting back to the position where more than one supporter and more than one objector can speak, by sharing the relevant time slot.

RESOLVED – to adopt the recommendations set out in the report at Appendix 1.

40/20 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Director of Conservation and Community. Discussion included the following:

- the bureaucracy involved in putting together a neighbourhood plan was a potential reason why there has been only limited take-up in the National Park;
- new areas can be designated as Conservation Areas and existing designations are kept under review;
- affordable housing remains a key issue and a consultation would be launched on this topic in the new year;
- concern was expressed at the reliance on barn conversions for housing, rather than new-builds;
- the small proportion of permissions for new housing which are actually getting built (“completed”) is a regional and national issue.

NOTED - the report of the Director of Conservation and Community.

41/20 CHAIR’S REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chair, Neil Heseltine, and verbal update to the meeting.

NOTED - the report of the Chair.

42/20 REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** – the report of the Chief Executive, including the delegated decisions made by the Chief Executive under urgency provisions.

43/20 MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS’ REPORTS

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** - the report of the Committees Officer, the verbal report of Richard Good on the meeting of the Local Government York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Housing Board and the verbal report of Stuart Parsons on the meeting of the York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Local Enterprise Infrastructure Programmes Board.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 15:48pm.