

Minutes of the meeting held at The Garden Rooms, Tennants, Leyburn DL8 5SG, on Tuesday, 29 June 2021.

Present:

John Amsden, Mark Corner, Nick Cotton, Richard Foster, Kevin Frea, Richard Good, Neil Heseltine (in the chair following his re-election), Robert Heseltine, Julie Hutton, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Sandy Lancaster, Carl Lis, Julie Martin, Ian Mitchell, Jim Munday, Yvonne Peacock, Gillian Quinn, Karin Sedgwick, Neil Swain and Cosima Towneley.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

15/21 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The report of the Committees Officer was NOTED.

16/21 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Neil Heseltine was nominated for the position of Chair of the Authority. Following his election address to Members,

RESOLVED –

By unanimous vote, that Neil Heseltine be elected Chair of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2022.

NEIL HESELTINE IN THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Yvonne Peacock back to the Authority.

17/21 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Julie Hutton was nominated for the position of Deputy Chair of the Authority. Following her election address to Members,

RESOLVED –

By unanimous vote, that Julie Hutton be elected Deputy Chair of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2022.

18/21 MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2021, having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

19/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

A statement from Francis Sample was read to the meeting and the Chair replied.

20/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Liz Hall, Ian McPherson, Stuart Parsons, Cosima Towneley and Derek Twine.

21/21 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

22/21 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE AUTHORITY'S COMMITTEES

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Chief Executive, who advised that the District Group's remaining nominations for the Planning Committee were John Amsden and Robert Heseltine; with Sandy Lancaster as the first substitute member.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) the Authority's Committees be established as follows -

Audit and Review Committee (12): Mark Corner, Richard Good, Robert Heseltine, Liz Hall, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Sandy Lancaster, Julie Martin, Ian Mitchell, Jim Munday, Yvonne Peacock, Cosima Towneley,

Finance and Resources Committee (13): John Amsden, Nick Cotton, Richard Foster, Kevin Frea, Neil Heseltine, Julie Hutton, Carl Lis, Ian McPherson, Stuart Parsons, Gillian Quinn, Karin Sedgwick, Neil Swain and Derek Twine.

Planning Committee (17): John Amsden, Mark Corner, Kevin Frea, Richard Good, Neil Heseltine, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Carl Lis, Julie Martin, Ian McPherson, Ian Mitchell, Jim Munday, Yvonne Peacock, Gillian Quinn, Neil Swain and Cosima Towneley.

Substitute members for the Planning Committee to be as follows and in the order listed:

County – Stuart Parsons and Nick Cotton; District – Sandy Lancaster and Richard Foster; Secretary of State – Julie Hutton and Derek Twine; Parish – Liz Hall.

Standards Committee (5): Neil Heseltine, David Ireton, Carl Lis, Neil Swain. Mark Corner was nominated and elected as the fifth member of the Standards Committee.

Allen Kirkbride was nominated and elected as the 'substitute' member of the Standards Committee, to attend in place of a Member unable to hear a Member Code of Conduct complaint owing to a conflict of interest / bias.

23/21 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE AUTHORITY ON PARTNERSHIP BODIES

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Committees officer.

The Authority was advised that Stuart Parsons wished to step down from representing the Authority on the York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership Infrastructure Programme Board (LEP). Yvonne Peacock was nominated to represent that Authority on the LEP.

RESOLVED –

- a) That, with the exception of the appointment to the LEP, the representation of Members to the partnership bodies listed in the **appendix** attached to the report be confirmed; and
- b) That Yvonne Peacock be appointed to the LEP.

24/21 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPION FOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERED - the report of the Chief Executive and the statement of Jim Munday.

RESOLVED –

That Jim Munday be appointed as Member Champion for Development Management for a term of 3 years.

25/21 FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

Although the report for this item was delivered late, having been published and circulated on Friday 25 June 2021, the item was to be discussed as an urgent matter as the Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme (FiPL) commences on Thursday 1 July 2021. The reason for the lateness of the report was that DEFRA's embargo on releasing information had only been lifted on Thursday 24 June 2021.

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Land Management and the Director of Conservation and Community.

In response to questions, the Head of Land Management confirmed that:

- Publicity about FiPL was already in hand (including details on the Authority's website, a newsletter for farmers and land managers and an article in the upcoming Dales Newspaper, with a series of webinars for farmers and a series of media releases also planned);
- Recruitment was already underway to appoint additional specialist staff to supplement the experienced team already in place;
- The 2021/22 allocation has to be spent within the financial year, with the maximum spend on any one project being £250k. The aim is to help as many famers and land managers as possible;

- Applications will be scored against set criteria in order to prioritise them;
- Applications of more than £5k will be considered by a Local Assessment Panel who will be trained in how to apply the guidance within the framework;
- There are a number of checks and balances within the FiPL National Framework and its many annexes (for example monthly reporting and a national evaluation and monitoring scheme);
- Projects that have already been funded from other sources will not be able to apply for “double funding”.

Members agreed that this exciting scheme provides a significant opportunity for the Authority to help support farmers across the National Park by funding projects to deliver outcomes related to climate, nature, public access and cultural heritage. In addition, it is hoped that delivering FiPL will enable the Authority to influence and shape future agricultural schemes from 2024.

Members noted the challenging time-frame to deliver the scheme, particularly over the first financial year, and the risks involved in the scheme.

Members thanked the Head of Land Management and his team for all their work over the past months.

The Authority NOTED the final details of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, announced on 24 June 2021, and

RESOLVED –

- a) to confirm that the National Park Authority should manage the programme in the National Park, having regard to the risks identified in Annex C of the report;
- b) to approve the outline membership of the Local Assessment Panel and delegate authority to the Director of Conservation and Community in consultation with the Chair to make the necessary appointments;
- c) to delegate to the Director of Conservation and Community authority to:
 - i. determine applications and authorise payment of Farming in Protected Landscapes grants of up to £5000; and
 - ii. authorise payment of Farming in Protected Landscapes grants of over £5000 that have been approved by the Local Assessment Panel.

26/21 YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN 2023-2040 – HOUSING STRATEGY

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Sustainable Development.

Discussion included the following:

- It was important to take strategic decisions about future new housing in the context of housing more generally in the National Park, the dynamic and rapidly changing housing market and wider societal changes;

- A minimum housing target of 50 new homes completed per year is required in order to provide affordable homes for local people and sustain communities within the National Park;
- Achieving the target will be dependent on many factors including whether sufficient potential sites can be identified, the viability of developments and the willingness of developers to complete buildings once permission has been granted;
- Concern was expressed at the increasing percentage of second homes and holiday homes within the National Park;
- The importance of designating new housing for local occupancy use, where viable, was highlighted. This will be discussed in more depth in the Autumn, when the results of a viability survey on local occupancy will be available;
- Although there was general agreement on the concept of a single National Park “Settlement Hierarchy”, there were queries over some of the details, including whether Post Offices should be included as a criterion; whether some of the places listed in Annex A of the report had been correctly categorised; and whether places in that list had been correctly linked together;
- Flooding is a serious issue which impacts on the potential of sites for development – a Flood Risk Assessment is being undertaken to inform this;
- The re-drawing of development boundaries should not be too restrictive, as this will stifle development of future “windfall” sites. However, it was also acknowledged that the new Local Plan envisages that the majority of new homes will be built in the allocated sites in the local service centres and large villages, rather than on such windfall sites.

RESOLVED –

- a) to set a housing target of a minimum of 50 dwellings completed per year and plans to meet this primarily through site allocations (and existing permissions);
- b) to create a single new National Park “Settlement Hierarchy”, allowing housing sites to be allocated in “local service centres” and “large villages” (Annex A of the report);
- c) to identify small settlements that could accommodate one or two homes as an exception to the policy of focussing housing delivery in the larger service settlements (Annex A of the report);
- d) to use development boundaries as the means for supporting future “windfall” housing, establishing new boundaries in the extension area and reviewing existing boundaries with the objective of including some more opportunity for new housing in local service centres and large villages;
- e) to require a range of house sizes across each site by setting a minimum density, but not to impose a maximum dwelling size; and
- f) to agree to officers taking further steps to encourage potential housing sites to come forward in some of the “local service centres”.

27/21 PLANNING APPLICATION VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS

CONSIDERED - the report of the Head of Development Management.

RESOLVED –

- a) to adopt the revised list of Planning Application Validation Requirements; and
- b) to delegate authority to the Head of Development Management to make future minor revisions to the list as a consequence of changes in legislation or Government guidance.

28/21 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The Authority CONSIDERED the report and presentation of the Director of Conservation and Community.

Following confirmation that the National Park Management Plan Steering Group was carrying out a light touch review of the objectives (none of which have priority over the others), and noting the numerous organisations which have to act in partnership to address flood prevention, the Authority **NOTED** the progress made by a wide range of bodies in implementing the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan.

29/21 PROGRESS ON AUTHORITY OBJECTIVES IN 2020/21

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and **NOTED** the progress made in 2020/21 towards achieving the Authority's objectives.

30/21 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Authority CONSIDERED the report and presentation of the Head of Ranger Service, commented on the importance of the Public Rights of Way Network (highlighted during the pandemic), and commended the staff and volunteers who had contributed to the achievements highlighted, as well as the Communications team for their work in terms of public messaging during the Covid pandemic. The Head of Ranger Service confirmed that the definitive map is the responsibility of the County Council.

NOTED - the Rights of Way Delegated Highway Authority Annual Report, which will be submitted to Cumbria and North Yorkshire County Councils.

31/21 JOINT WORKING WITH THE YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST

The Authority CONSIDERED and **NOTED** the report of the Director of Conservation and Community.

32/21 CHAIR'S REPORT

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** – the report of the Chair, Neil Heseltine.

33/21 REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** – the report of the Chief Executive.

**34/21 MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION AND
MEMBER CHAMPION'S REPORTS**

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** – the report of the Committees Officer and Richard Good's verbal update of the meeting of the Local Government North Yorkshire, York and East Yorkshire Housing Board held on 14 June 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:35pm.