

**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

ITEM 4

Minutes of the meeting held at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Officers, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL, on Tuesday, 24 May 2022.

Members Present:

John Amsden, Nick Cotton, Richard Foster, Neil Heseltine, Carl Lis, Ian McPherson, Karin Sedgwick, Neil Swain and Derek Twine (in the Chair).

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

13/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Kevin Frea and Julie Hutton.

14/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS / STATEMENTS

No public questions or statements had been received.

16/22 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

There were no declarations of lobbying.

17/22 DRAFT FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT 2021/22

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Finance.

Discussion included the following:

- In response to Members' questions, the Head of Finance confirmed that the year to date variance figure of £134,000 on the Landscape Features programme largely related to the Westmorland Dales project which had faced delays. It was proposed to carry forward the majority of this budget to this financial year;
- Members noted the complexity of financial planning required by project based income streams, and also the increased likelihood of variances, particularly on large projects where the Authority was very reliant on others for delivery of the work;
- Should the Yoredale roof repairs require more substantive work, a further report will come back to the Committee for approval.

Members NOTED the report and RESOLVED –

- a) To approve the carry-forward of 2021/22 budget allocations into 2022/23, totally £619.4k (net) as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report; and
- b) To approve additional spending of £435k in 2022/23, funded from the General Reserve, as detailed in Appendix 8 of the report.

18/22 ACTION PLAN 2022/23

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, who confirmed that “DVRN” at 20.1 of the draft Action Plan is an abbreviation of “Dales to Vale Rivers Network”, and that progress against the Authority’s objectives is reported to the Audit and Review Committee.

Members commended the extremely ambitious nature of the Action Plan and the Deputy Chief Executive advised the Committee that the resultant pressures on staff workloads would be monitored to identify areas where additional resource would be needed.

RESOLVED -

to APPROVE the Action Plan as the basis for managing the Authority’s day-to-day work in 2022/23.

19/22 INCOME GENERATION STRATEGY – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Director of Conservation and Community.

Discussion included the following:

- Members were pleased to note the funding secured for two “Changing Places” within the National Park. Should the costs of these rise due to inflationary pressures, additional funding would be sought;
- In response to Members’ questions, the Director of Conservation and Community advised that the York Flood Resilience Innovation Project would provide scientific evidence of the impact of flood management schemes. This information will be useful for other existing projects and also future funding applications;
- There are a number of current schemes to fund flood management measures such as tree planting and peat restoration. Although flooding could not be prevented altogether, the schemes aim to reduce the frequency and intensity of flooding, as well as having other benefits such as carbon capture and increasing bio-diversity;
- Although not all project funding would cover “core costs”, the Authority was becoming more selective in funding applications and had recently reviewed its charge-out rates to cover additional costs where possible.

The Committee NOTED the report.

20/22 ANNUAL HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Human Resources.

In response to Members’ questions, the Head of Human Resources advised:

- The Authority's website and social media platforms are valuable recruitment tools, generating a lot of interest and some good quality applicants. Additional advertising is used for posts which are difficult to recruit to;
- In addition to the equal opportunities monitoring of applications, the Authority started to monitor employee diversity with a voluntary staff survey in March 2022 and intends to continue such monitoring. The results will be reported as part of the Annual Equality Statement later in the year; and
- Other reasons for a higher staff turnover include more temporary posts as a result of more project-based work.

The Committee NOTED the report.

21/22 VOLUNTEER RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Volunteers Development Officer. The Committee expressed thanks to the volunteers who are an incredible resource.

In response to Members' questions, the Director of Park Services confirmed that the target for the number of volunteer days was increased from 5,000 to 7,000 when the National Park was extended in 2016. First aid training is provided to all volunteers as part of their induction. The backlog in first aid training has not prevented qualified first aiders being present for activities which require these.

The Committee NOTED the report.

22/22 STAFFING

The Committee CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Head of Human Resources.

23/22 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

The Committee CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Head of Human Resources and was pleased to see an increase in the reporting of near-misses following awareness raising.

23/22 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT

The Committee CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Senior Administrative Officer.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:27am.