

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

ITEM 2

Minutes of the meeting held at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Officers, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL, on Tuesday, 27 September 2022.

Members Present:

John Amsden, Libby Bateman, Richard Foster, Kevin Frea, Sue Metcalfe, Jenny Purcell, Karin Sedgwick, Neil Swain and Derek Twine (in the Chair following his election).

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

24/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Derek Twine was nominated for the position of Chair of the Committee. Following a brief election address,

RESOLVED – That Derek Twine be elected Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, to hold office until the first Committee meeting following the annual general meeting of the Authority in 2023.

DEREK TWINE IN THE CHAIR

25/22 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Libby Bateman was nominated for the position of Deputy Chair of the Committee. Following her election address to Members,

RESOLVED – That Libby Bateman be elected Deputy Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, to hold office until the first Committee meeting following the annual general meeting of the Authority in 2023.

25/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Nick Cotton, Neil Heseltine, Julie Hutton and Carl Lis.

26/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

26/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS / STATEMENTS

No public questions or statements had been received.

27/22 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

There were no declarations of lobbying.

Richard Foster and Sue Metcalfe each declared a potential conflict of interests regarding item 14 of the agenda (Langcliffe Quarry). As Leader of, and Councillor for, Craven District Council respectively, they were likely to be involved in decision-making on behalf of the Council on this issue.

28/22 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2021/22

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Finance. In response to Members' questions, the Head of Finance and the Director of Corporate Services advised:

- Savings made and additional income generated during 2021-22 (compared to the budget) had reduced the need to use the Authority's reserves as much as had been forecast;
- Savings from staff vacancies were primarily attributable to the time lag between staff leaving and their posts being filled – there had been no decision to reduce staff numbers;
- With regard to the loans mentioned at page 29 of the draft SoFA, North Yorkshire County Council Treasury provides a treasury service for the Authority; the loan to the Lune Rivers Trust provides advance funding for projects which are to be repaid once grant funding is received afterwards; and the Broadband for the Rural North comprises a number of loans which enable fast internet infrastructure to be installed and are repaid when income is made from customers signing up for the service. Reserves matching the loans made to Lune Rivers Trust and Broadband for the Rural North are held by the Authority, so that any failure to repay does not impact on the planned work of the Authority.

RESOLVED –

- a) To approve the Statement of Financial Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 (SoFA) and the associated Annual Governance Statement (AGS); and
- b) To note that the approved SoFA and associated AGS will be signed by the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Chief Executive, once the external audit of SoFA has been completed, provided that the overall opinion in the audit report is unqualified.

29/22 CHARGING FOR PLANNING ADVICE

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Director of Conservation and Community. Members supported the increase in charges for pre-application planning advice and asked that it be made crystal clear to those using the pre-application advice service that following the advice given could not guarantee that planning permission would be granted once an application is made.

RESOLVED - to approve the new charges for pre-application planning advice, as set out in Annex B to the report.

30/22 FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT (1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022)

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Finance who confirmed (in response to a query), that income from planning applications was recorded under the “Development Management” programme rather than the “Development Planning Programme”.

Discussion included the following:

- The income generated by the increased use of car-parks would be partially offset by the consequential need to spend more on their upkeep due to increased wear and tear. Members had approved spending for surface maintenance earlier in the year;
- The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) income which had been behind target by £88k had now been resolved with DEFRA.

The Committee NOTED the report.

31/22 STAFFING

The Committee CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Head of Human Resources. A request was made that a future report contain an additional table to show which vacancies had been filled.

32/22 SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT

The Committee CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Senior Administrative Officer. As the comparative data from other National Park Authorities added little value due to the inconsistency in what was reported), future reports need not contain this information.

33/22 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FOR ITEM 14 – LANGCLIFFE QUARRY

[Richard Foster and Sue Metcalfe left the meeting at this point, following their earlier declarations of interest in item 14]

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded during the discussion of item 14 (Langcliffe Quarry) on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

34/22 LANGCLIFFE QUARRY

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Director of Corporate Services in the absence of members of the public.

RESOLVED: To approve the acquisition of a plot of land at Langcliffe Quarry, giving the Authority the option to construct a new base to include accommodation for the South West ranger team.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:25 am.