

Minutes of the meeting held at the offices of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL on Tuesday 20 September 2022.

Present:

John Amsden, Libby Bateman, Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Nick Cotton, Richard Foster, Kevin Frea, Richard Good, Neil Heseltine (in the Chair), Robert Heseltine, Julie Hutton, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Sandy Lancaster, Carl Lis, Sue Metcalfe, Ian Mitchell, Jim Munday, Andrew Murday, Yvonne Peacock, Jenny Purcell, Neil Swain and Derek Twine.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The Chair welcomed Sue Metcalfe and Jenny Purcell to their first meeting of the Authority.

41/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Liz Hall.

42/22 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2022, having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

43/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

No notifications of public questions or the intention to make a statement had been received.

44/22 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were received.

45/22 YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK GREENHOUSE GAS ASSESSMENT

The Authority CONSIDERED the report and presentation of the Deputy Chief Executive, outlining the results of the recently received baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from the National Park.

Discussion included the following:

- Given the urgent need to deliver measures to address climate change at scale and pace, the report was very much welcomed. It was informative to have a

- “consumption-based” approach to complement existing “production-based” data, and to have consistency in the reports produced across all UK national parks;
- Partnership working in developing a “big vision” and delivering this strategy would be crucial – the next National Park Management Plan would play a vital role;
 - It would be useful to share the findings from the baseline assessment with partners, in addition to providing individuals with information about how to reduce their own emissions;
 - Sequestering carbon (through new woodland, restored peatland and better-managed soils) was one of the most effective contributions the National Park could make to support the statutory UK Government aim to achieve net zero by 2050. Better soil management has the potential to reduce carbon emissions alongside new woodland and hedgerow planting and peat restoration. The report’s findings were an endorsement of the woodland strategy already adopted;
 - Limited public transport in the National Park results in more car use, by both visitors and residents. Members expressed a desire to see what the Authority could do to encourage more sustainable travel, both to and within the National Park, noting the tension between wanting to reduce emissions produced by visitors and the Authority’s second statutory purpose;
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from domestic heating was a challenge due to the many old stone-built houses in the area, most of which would require substantial investment to bring up to modern standards. One suggestion was to encourage and support local energy-generation co-operatives or consortia;
 - The government’s final version of the ELMs scheme was awaited, and was needed in order to finalise the farming strategy. The Farming in Protected Landscapes projects, including individual farm carbon audits, were already providing information on the most effective measures farmers could take to reduce their business’s carbon footprint;
 - The details from the assessment would be further analysed to help inform the development of the next National Park Management Plan.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the results of the greenhouse gas emission baseline assessment for the Yorkshire Dales National Park be NOTED; and
- b) That the results be used to develop future strategy.

46/22 YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE’S “ROUTEMAP TO CARBON NEGATIVE”

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

In response to Members’ queries, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that targets for planting of new woodland were being allocated geographically (as part of the White Rose Forest and other programmes); that York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&YNLEP) team and partners were working on implementation plans; and

that the routemap would enable the new Mayor of the new combined authority to seek governmental and private funding to help deliver on the ambitious targets proposed.

Discussion included the following:

- General support was expressed for the ambition in the routemap; namely to enable the region to becoming the first carbon negative region in the UK;
- Some Members expressed doubt as to the achievability of the overall aims that the region become carbon zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040;
- The ambition to reduce private car usage and increase the use of buses and trains was welcomed;
- There was currently a lot of reliance on oil for heating in the Yorkshire Dales, with many properties not connected to mains gas and some not connected to mains electricity. The nature of the old stone dwellings also meant that retrofitting would be far more expensive in areas such as the Yorkshire Dales, compared to urban areas;
- Reducing consumption should feature more highly;
- Caution should be exercised when considering how much land should be used for bio-energy crops, as there are other demands on land such as food production;
- The risk of “greenwashing” should be noted;
- There was a request for Members to use the routemap to influence their appointing bodies and to call on government to not lose focus of the need to address climate change.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the progress on the development of YNYLEP’s routemap to carbon negative and the key actions to which the Authority can contribute directly be NOTED; and
- b) To ADOPT the routemap.

47/22 YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY’S HOUSING STATEMENT

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

Members expressed support for, and commended the clarity of, the proposed statement. It would be a useful tool when communicating the YDNPA’s views on housing policy with relevant housing bodies, including the new unitary councils.

On the topic of making better use of existing housing stock, a Member advised that North Yorkshire County Council had approved, in principle, a 100% uplift in council tax on second homes. A request was made that the Chair formally write to the Council to support this decision.

One Member suggested that Homes England could provide funding to build affordable housing, provided the site was all affordable and did not include any open market properties.

RESOLVED:

- a) To AGREE the draft statement in the annex to the report as the Authority's broad position on housing; and
- b) To ASSIST local partners to develop a programme of measures to reduce the number of "under-occupied" properties in the National Park.

48/22 REVIEW OF ANTI FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION POLICY

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Solicitor / Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: subject to an amendment to the wording of paragraph 1.4 of the policy to remove reference to the complainant not being informed of the "outcomes" of the investigation (final wording of which was delegated to the Monitoring Officer), to APPROVE the updated Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy.

49/22 FARMING AND LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY WORKING GROUP

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Land Management.

RESOLVED: To retain the Farming and Land Management Policy Working Group, to meet only when there are substantive new policy issues for it to consider.

50/22 LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION NO 5 – "PREFERRED OPTIONS"

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

Members commended officers on the work undertaken to develop the new local plan and were pleased to note the overwhelming support for a policy to require all new housing to be for permanent occupancy.

The Authority NOTED the summary of public comments received and the next steps in producing the Local Plan.

51/22 CHAIR'S REPORT

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

52/22 REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** – the report of the Chief Executive, who provided further detail of some of the meetings in response to Members' questions.

53/22 MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION AND MEMBER CHAMPION REPORTS

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** – the report of the Committees Officer and the reports contained therein.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3:14pm.