

Minutes of the meeting held at the offices of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL on Tuesday 13 December 2022.

**Present:**

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

***COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK***

**54/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Julie Hutton, Karin Sedgwick and Neil Swain.

**55/22 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022, having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**56/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS**

Ruth Annison read out a public statement regarding public transport and the Chair replied.

**57/22 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING**

No declarations of lobbying were received.

**58/22 YORKSHIRE DALES PRIORITY SPECIES**

The Authority CONSIDERED the report and presentation of the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer.

In reply to Members' questions, it was confirmed that:

- The draft YDNPA Priority Species list is a list of those species which require bespoke conservation action(s), over and above protection and improvement of their habitats, to help reverse their decline. Species such as the golden plover may fall within the "Key Species" list and not the "Priority Species" list, where the

main requirement is to conserve their habitat and no additional bespoke actions have been identified;

- Once the list is finalised, it would be incorporated into the Yorkshire Dales Nature Recovery Plan; and
- Consideration would be given as to how to involve and engage the public, including interpretation work.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) To endorse the approach being taken to identify Priority Species; and
- b) That the Authority works in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum and others to develop a final Priority Species list for inclusion in the Yorkshire Dales Nature Recovery Plan, to be published in June 2023.

**59/22      DARK SKIES RESERVE STATUS – ANNUAL REPORT**

The Authority CONSIDERED the report and presentation of the Dark Skies Project Manager and NOTED the work outlined in the Annual Report to retain Dark Skies Reserve status for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

**RESOLVED:** To agree “in principle” to the Authority producing a technical advice note to accompany the emerging Local Plan.

**60/22      YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY’S OBJECTIVES FOR 2023 - 24**

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, who advised Members that the wording of objective 26 should finish with “...*and identify measures to reduce the number of under-occupied properties in the National Park*”.

**RESOLVED:** To AGREE that the current set of objectives be continued with the amendments set out in the Annex to the report.

**61/22      PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN**

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Principal Planning Officer (Minerals and Enforcement).

Discussion included the following:

- Members highlighted the importance of good communication with parish councils who had raised enforcement issues;
- The training session on planning enforcement delivered to parish councils earlier in the year had usefully provided general information about how enforcement matters are dealt with;

- Some concern was expressed about the length of time some matters took to resolve. The Principal Planning Officer confirmed that, under the new policy, officers would review investigations after 6 months of cases being opened. Where no significant progress had been made, with little prospect of this, a decision would be taken to either move to enforcement action or close the case, to help resolve breaches of planning control more swiftly;
- Prioritisation of cases was necessary, to allocate limited resources to those cases which would otherwise cause the most harm to the environment and communities of the National Park.

**RESOLVED:** to ADOPT the revised Planning Enforcement Plan as set out in the Annex to the report.

## **62/22      REVIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING POLICY**

The Authority CONSIDERED the report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer. In response to Members' questions about matters to include in the Policy, she confirmed that she would look at the following issues raised and include suitable amendments where appropriate:

- Whether the Policy should cover issues related to the Chief Executive, with these to be reported to the Chair;
- Whether the definition of "workers" extends to former employees;
- Whether there is a process of appeal. It was confirmed that an appeal to the Authority would not be appropriate - other steps (such as legal action) could be taken if a complainant was unsatisfied with the outcome.

**RESOLVED:** To APPROVE the Confidential Reporting Policy as set out in the Appendix to the report.

## **63/22      APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS FOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT, PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

CONSIDERED - the report of the Chief Executive and the statements of Lizzie Bushby, Libby Bateman and Derek Twine.

**RESOLVED:**

- That Lizzie Bushby be appointed as Member Champion for Recreation Management for a term of 3 years;
- That Libby Bateman be appointed as Member Champion for Cultural Heritage for a term of 3 years; and
- That Derek Twine be appointed as Member Champion for Promoting Understanding for a term of 3 years.

*[Members expressed thanks to the former Member Champions for their work in the above roles, namely Nick Cotton, Derek Twine and Kevin Frea respectively]*

**64/22      REVISIONS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS TO COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS**

CONSIDERED - the report of the Committees Officer.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) To approve the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation including confirmation that the Statutory roles are undertaken as follows:
  - Head of Paid Service = Chief Executive
  - Monitoring Officer = Director of Corporate Services
  - Section 151 Officer = Head of Finance; and
- b) To authorise officers to make consequential changes to other documents (such as the Financial Regulations), to ensure consistency with, and give effect to, the revisions in the Scheme of Delegation.

**65/22      REPORT ON UK NATIONAL PARKS CONFERENCE 2022**

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** the written report together with the verbal report from Richard Good on creating a plastic-free community.

**66/22      CHAIR'S REPORT**

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

**67/22      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.

**68/22      MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION AND MEMBER CHAMPION REPORTS**

CONSIDERED and **NOTED** – the report of the Committees Officer, the reports contained therein together with the verbal updates on the meetings of Campaign for National Parks and the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:40pm.**