

Minutes of the meeting held at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Officers, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL, on Tuesday, 30 May 2023.

Members Present:

Libby Bateman, Richard Foster, Julie Hutton, David Noland, Stuart Parsons, Neil Swain and Derek Twine (in the Chair).

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

10/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Phil Dew, Neil Heseltine, Simon Myers, Jenny Purcell and Karin Sedgwick.

12/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

13/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS / STATEMENTS

Ruth Annison read out a public statement regarding the resourcing of the Hawes-Garsdale Multi User route and the Chair replied.

14/23 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

There were no declarations of lobbying.

15/23 Draft Financial Outturn Report 2022/23

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Finance and a presentation from the Chief Executive on the wider context for the report.

In response to Members questions:

- The Head of Finance confirmed that the carried forward projects which are due to be complete in 2023/24 were expected to be complete when under the control of the Authority, where completion relied on third parties such as in the Westmorland Dales project those will hopefully complete but we have no control over the outcome. Where the project budget is not spent, the funds will not be claimed back from the Heritage Lottery Fund so has no impact on the bottom line.
- In answer to a Member's question relating to the income, fees and charges for the Public Rights of Way, the Head of Park Management explained that National Trails

attract funding mainly from hosting the Pennine National Trails for Natural England and from events and donations for the Three Peaks. No funding is currently received from the bodies responsible for rights of way.

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the report; to approve the carry-forward of 2022/23 budget allocations into 2023/24, totalling £460k (net), as detailed in Appendix 5; and to approve the additional budget allocation of £440k in 2023/24, funded from one off additional core funding, as detailed in paragraph 12.

16/23 Action Plan 2023/24

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, noting flexibility is key to the delivery of the plan.

In response to Members' questions:

- The Chief Executive advised that acceleration of the organisational culture shift to a new way of working was continuing. It was intended that staff would predominantly have permanent contracts but their work programmes would be more flexible. Member should recognise that greater flexibility will be needed in terms of replacing existing corporate actions with new ones when appropriate. The Authority did not have the capacity to keep adding additional work to its programmes.

RESOLVED

To approve the Action Plan as the basis for managing the Authority's day-to-day work in 2023-24

17/23 Three Counties Partnership

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Director of Park Services.

In response to Members' questions:

- The Chief Executive advised that the decision to provide match funding was in principle only and that further approval will be required from Members when the project was developed in greater detail.
- The Head of Park Management outlined the timescales for the different application stages of the Scheme confirming that if successful, the Scheme would start in Autumn 2025.

RESOLVED

That the Authority be the accountable body for the delivery phase of the Three Counties: Lune Valley Area Partnership scheme and provide in principle, up to £300,000 match funding depending on the final projects within the National Park area, overall intervention rate, and subject to successful development and delivery applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

18/23 Sustainable Development Fund Application (Smardale Gill Viaduct)

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Sustainable Development Officer.

RESOLVED

That the Authority offers a grant of £15,000 to the Northern Viaduct Trust from the Sustainable Development Fund.

19/23 Market Rate Supplement Policy

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Head of Human Resources. The Head of Human resources confirmed that the revised policy now includes options for a retention supplement to be made available.

RESOLVED

To approve the Market Rate Supplement Policy as set out in Appendix A.

20/23 Treasury Management Performance Quarterly Report

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Treasurer.

A discussion took place regarding the current arrangement of outsourcing of Treasury Management to North Yorkshire Council. The Treasurer confirmed that the current contract was considered good value for money.

The Committee NOTED the report.

21/23 Income Generation Progress Report

The Committee CONSIDERED and NOTED the report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

22/23 Annual Human Resources Report

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

23/23 Annual Volunteer Resources Report

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Volunteers Development Officer.

Discussion included the following:

- The Director of Corporate Services will raise two questions with the Volunteers Development Officer and report back to Committee Members (Para 4 – how many prospective volunteers has the Authority turned down and Para 5 – why are Dark Skies volunteers not included in the details of new volunteers).

- The Head of Human Resources to explore whether the volunteer who gave a presentation to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group would be happy to speak to Members about their experience of being a volunteer.

The Committee NOTED the report.

24/23 Annual Health safety and Wellbeing Report

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

Discussion included the following:

- Members were pleased to note the reduction in accidents and requested costs for the ELMS training system to be included in the next report.
- The Head of Human Resources to include the amount spent on health, safety and wellbeing in future reports.

The Committee NOTED the report.

25/23 Staffing

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

The Committee NOTED the report.

26/23 Sickness Absence

The Committee CONSIDERED the report of the Senior Administrative Officer and a discussion took place regarding the decrease from the last quarter for sickness absence and the possible reasons for this.

The Committee NOTED the report.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:39 a.m.