

Minutes of the meeting held at the offices of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL on Tuesday 30 June 2026.

Present:

Libby Bateman, Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Michael Hanley, Robert Heseltine, Julie Hutton, Peter Jackson, Allen Kirkbride, Andrew Murday, Simon Myers, David Noland, Yvonne Peacock, Karin Sedgwick, Graham Simpkins, Steve Shaw Wright, Nigel Swales, and Derek Twine.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

18/26 Election of Chair

Derek Twine was elected as Chair of the Authority, to hold office until the Annual General meeting of the Authority in 2027.

Derek Twine in the Chair

The Chair thanked Members for their support over the past year, which has been a challenging one and that it had been a privilege to work towards all the Authority has achieved.

The Chair welcomed Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, the newly appointed Member from North Yorkshire Council.

19/26 Election of Deputy Chair

Lizzie Bushby was elected as Deputy Chair of the Authority, to hold office until the Annual General meeting of the Authority in 2027.

20/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Libby Bateman, Neil Heseltine, David Ireton, Stuart Parsons. Late arrival - Felicity Cunliffe-Lister

22/26 Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 March 2026.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 31 March 2026 having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

23/26 Public Question Time

Steve Webb on behalf of Threshfield Village Concern Development Group read out a statement relating to the Local Plan and Major Developments in Threshfield.

Ruth Annison read out a public statement on the subject of public transport.

The Chair responded to both statements.

24/26 Declarations of lobbying

Allen Kirkbride declared an interest in Agenda Item 11- Min ref 31/26 because he was proposing a woodland planting scheme within the White Rose Forest.

25/26 Appointment of Members to Committees

The Authority **considered** the report of the Chief Executive.

Resolved: That, the Authority's Committees be established as follows:

Audit and Review Committee (12 Members):

Saira Ali, Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Richard Foster, Michael Hanley, Robert Heseltine, Richard Ingram, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Yvonne Peacock, Steve Shaw Wright, Graham Simpkins.

Finance and Resource Committee (13 Members):

Libby Bateman, Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, Neil Heseltine, Dan Holmes, Peter Jackson, Ian Mitchell, Andrew Murday, David Noland, Stuart Parsons, Karin Sedgwick, Nigel Swales, Derek Twine.

There is a vacancy for Secretary of State (National)

Planning Committee (17 Members):

Saira Ali, Libby Bateman, Mark Corner, Richard Foster, Michael Hanley, Robert Heseltine, Dan Holmes, Richard Ingram, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Ian Mitchell, Andrew Murday, David Noland, Yvonne Peacock, Steve Shaw Wright, Graham Simpkins, Derek Twine.

Substitute members for the Planning Committee to be as follows: -

Local Authority – Felicity Cunliffe-Lister (North Yorkshire Council) and Peter Jackson (Lancaster City Council) Secretary of State (Parish) – Neil Heseltine, Lizzie Bushby Secretary of State National)

Standards Committee (5):

Mark Corner, Allen Kirkbride, David Ireton, Ian Mitchell, and Andrew Murday

26/26 Appointment of Members to Partnerships

The Authority **considered** the report of the Committees Officer. It was noted that Grassington Moor Management Association had no meetings but anticipated the next to be in October 2026.

Resolved: That the representation of Members to the Partnership bodies listed in the **annex** attached to the report be confirmed.

27/26 Appointment of Member Champion for Planning and Sustainable Development

Resolved: To appoint Andrew Murday as Member Champion for Planning and Sustainable Development until the Authority meeting in September 2027.

28/26 Adoption of Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2025-2040

The Authority **considered** the report of the Planning Policy Officer and **noted** the 8 stages of consultation and Public Examination that had been gone through to produce the Local Plan 2025-2040.

Members thanked the officers involved and concluded that a great deal of time and effort had gone into the preparation and production of the plan.

Members asked general questions in relation to the Plan's targets and if the plan included new houses for rent – it was confirmed that it did.

A Member queried an apparent discrepancy in some of the figures. The Planning Policy Officer explained that the annual target for permissions was higher than the target for completions because a proportion of permissions are either delayed or never get built.

Resolved: That the Authority noted the Inspector's examination report and adopt the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2025 – 2040 for the purpose of making development decisions across the National Park.

29/26 Yorkshire Dales Design Guide

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report and presentation of the Acting Director of Conservation and Community. He pointed out that, once approved, the Guide would become a material consideration for planning applications.

Resolved: To adopt the Yorkshire Dales Design Guide

30/26 Media Procedure and Protocol

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Communications Manager.

Members were particularly impressed by the photographs taken by Officers and the interlinking of the Social Media policy also in place.

Resolved: To approve the updated Media Procedure and Protocol

31/26 White Rose Forest

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Acting Chief Executive.

Resolved: That the Authority

- a) noted the purpose of the new National Forest, and the bid being prepared by the White Rose Forest (Annex); and
- b) approve the Authority providing support for the development of the bid, as a member of the White Rose Forest partnership.

32/26 Attendance at the UK National Parks Conference 2026

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Acting Chief Executive.

Resolved: That the Authority appointed four Members including the Chair, Deputy Chair, Neil Heseltine (Member Champion for Promoting Understanding) and Katie Norgate (co-opted Young Member) to represent the Authority at this years National Parks Conference taking place in Aviemore on 16-18 September alongside the Acting Chief Executive.

33/26 Progress on Authority Objectives 2025-26

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report and presentation of the Acting Chief Executive.

The Deputy Chair requested that the climate change Implications be contextualised, suggesting they could be presented in terms of household data to make them more meaningful. This was noted for future consideration.

Members recognised that there was much to celebrate in the Authority's progress but expressed some frustration at the limited progress being made by other bodies on water quality and raptor persecution (Objectives 18 and 19). They asked whether the Authority's influence on these issues is local or national and how it can affect the organisations involved.

The Acting Chief Executive acknowledged that these are both national issues. Responsibility rests with a number of organisations. The National Park Management Plan Partnership (NPMP), which includes organisations such as Natural England and the Environment Agency, is monitoring progress, and will consider whether further action is needed. The Partnership is awaiting updated water quality data from the Environment Agency. Members were reminded that Yorkshire Water has a specific commitment within the NPMP to improve 10 waste treatment works in the National Park. The Authority Chair and NPMP Chair will continue to hold partner organisations to account. A suggestion was made that the Authority could seek to engage more directly with landowners on raptor persecution. Hen Harrier nesting and breeding on the Swinton Estate had been successful, and that continued encouragement of landowners remains important.

Members thanked officers for the significant work undertaken with the farming community, which has contributed positively to environmental improvements.

In response to a question about increasing the focus on biodiversity, the Acting Chief Executive referred Members to the Authority's Nature Recovery Plan, published approximately 18 months ago, which contains a wide range of relevant targets.

Members praised the success of the North Yorkshire Natural Health Service project and the provision of Changing Places accessible toilets.

A Member asked whether the lower number of planning permissions for housing was linked to the transition between the current and forthcoming Local Plans, with developers potentially delaying proposals. The Acting Chief Executive agreed that this may well be a factor, alongside wider economic pressures, including the cost of living crisis. He confirmed that the matter will be kept under close review and emphasised that the Authority would be active in encouraging suitable sites to come forward, including exception sites.

Resolved: That Members noted the progress made towards achieving the Authority's objectives.

34/26 Public Rights of Way 2025-26

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Head of Park Management Committee.

Resolved: That the Rights of Way Annual Report be submitted to the three Councils.

35/26 Joint Working with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Acting Chief Executive.

36/26 Chair's Report

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Chair.

37/26 Acting Chief Executive's Report

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Acting Chief Executive.

The Acting Chief Executive provided an update on two key issues:

- A tragic incident at Burnsall on 31 May resulted in a loss of life and is currently the subject of a coroner's inquiry. The Authority has offered support to the agencies involved and continues to promote water safety messages to the public.
- Heightened visitor pressures were reported in some locations in the south of the National Park over the May Bank Holiday, including unsafe parking and littering. The issues have been discussed with North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Council, which hold enforcement powers. A multi-agency meeting was held on 15 June at Skipton Police Station to coordinate actions. These include:
 - Increased Polic and NYC parking enforcement activity, with support from Authority Rangers.
 - The North Yorkshire Safety Team establishing stakeholder and landowner meetings to examine the issues in more detail and improve coordination between agencies.

- Recruitment of two seasonal Rangers to support visitor management, particularly in busy areas.
- Since May, the Authority has further intensified its communications, increasing the frequency and prominence of visitor safety and responsible visiting messages across all its channels.

One other meeting to add to the Acting Chief Executive's report was that Yvonne Peacock MBE and the Acting Chief Executive met His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales when he met the Trustees of the Bainbridge Hydro power scheme, which was part-funded by the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund.

A Member raised awareness of the Hope Moor Wind Farm just outside the National Park boundary. The acting Chief Executive agreed to share the Authority's response to the consultation with all Members. This has also been made available on a dedicated Hope Moor Wind Farm webpage on the Authority website.

38/26 Member Feedback on Partnership Representation and Member Champions' Reports – Natural Environment and Corporate Management

The Authority **considered** and **noted** the report of the Committees Officer.

The Chair thanked Julie Hutton for her 8 years of service as a Secretary of State Member

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:56 p.m.