

Minutes of the meeting held at The National Park Office, Yoredale, Bainbridge on Tuesday, 24 November 2009.

Present:

R Alderson, RK Bingham, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, WH Brown, SHK Butcher, P Charlesworth, A Colley, G Dalton, W Fenten, TRN Harrison-Topham, KJ Lancaster, C Lis, Mrs S Marshall, S Parsons, Mrs Y Peacock, Dr KM Petyt, JK Roberts, R Welch and W Weston.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

113/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

114/09 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

115/09 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of Item Nos 18 and 19 on the agenda on the grounds that they each involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

116/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from C Armitage and A Barker.

117/09 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

J Blackie stated that he had been lobbied in respect of proposals for development at the Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes.

118/09 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chairman, who added that:

- he had also attended the Dales Volunteers autumn meeting;
- the Authority and the North York Moors National Park Authority were both to be recommended for membership of the proposed Regional Spatial Strategy Group; and
- members would be sent the link(s) to the Natural England “Vision” website.

RESOLVED –

That the report and further comments be noted.

119/09 MEMBER CHAMPIONS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Secretariat Administrator.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

120/09 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

He highlighted three ‘emerging issues’:

- consultation on the review of the circular (12/96) on the administration of National Parks which would be considered by members at a Policy Development Forum (PDF) in December, prior to formal consideration at the Authority meeting in January 2010;
- consultation on whether areas of land between the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks were worthy of designation as national park or area of outstanding natural beauty. He stated that some information on this consultation would also be brought to the December PDF before being formally considered at the next Authority meeting; and
- the consultation on proposals for a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which had been the subject of correspondence amongst members as to whether or not

the Authority should submit a late response in addition to the response submitted by ENPAA (English Association of National Park Authorities).

On the latter issue, members raised a number of points, including:

- accepting that it would not be practicable for the Authority to consider and respond to all consultations and that 'collective' responses were often necessary and appropriate, although it was suggested that on this occasion the consultation had been one which could have benefitted from consideration and response by individual park authorities as well as ENPAA;
- with regard to the view that the authority should endorse comments made by the National Farmers Union and by the Country Land and Business Association, a member suggested that these two organisations would have different purposes and duties to national parks and therefore their responses would be from a different perspective to the national park. It was also suggested that on this occasion the views of those organisations would, however, be in line with national park purposes;
- noting the comment from the Chief Executive that the consultation response was not on the merits of applying CILs but requesting that any legislation relating to CILs should apply to National Parks so they should have the same status as all other local planning authorities;
- proposing (which although seconded was later withdrawn) that a late submission be made to recommend that farm buildings should be exempted from any proposals;
- commenting that the time to debate the detail was if and when CILs were introduced.

Other matters raised by members included:

- with regard to planning applications, asking if that Authority would be adopting a Local Development Framework for the area;
- suggesting that the Authority's annual general meeting should be just that, and only deal with procedural and administrative matters including the election of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Authority's Committees. The Authority's Solicitor reminded members that any proposal that would have the effect of amending Standing Orders, was, under Standing Orders, required to be referred to the Audit and Review Committee for consideration and report back to the Authority; and
- suggesting that a number of 'spare' dates be included in the Authority Calendar.

In respect of the proposals regarding telephone kiosks, members raised a number of issues, including:

- pointing out that the 'adopt a kiosk' scheme would only secure the retention of the kiosk, not the phone;
- agreeing that BT should be informed of the lack of mobile phone network coverage in a significant proportion of the national park; and
- accepting that it would be difficult to support the retention of all kiosks, but suggesting that any removals should be based on the views of local communities.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report and further comments be noted;
- (b) subject to the May 2010 meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee being re-scheduled for 13 May, the draft Calendar appended to the Chief Executive's report be approved;
- (c) the Audit and Review Committee consider and report back to the Authority on a proposal that the Authority's annual meeting should only deal with procedural and administrative matters including the election of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Authority's Committees;
- (d) the Authority will continue to support its three constituent district councils in their objections to the removal of any payphones that would have a significant detrimental effect on the services available to the local community, and in doing so will continue to make the additional case for the preservation of payphones in areas where there is intermittent mobile phone coverage as this could have serious consequences for the safety of local communities as well as our millions of visitors.

121/09 UPLANDS ENTRY LEVEL STEWARDSHIP

CONSIDERED – the report of the Senior Farm and Countryside Officer, together with the Appendix circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the details for the launch of Uplands Entry Level Stewardship in 2010 to replace the Hill Farm Allowance be noted; and
- (b) the officers of the Authority be authorised to tender, potentially in partnership with other organisations, for the Farm Advice Training & Information framework contracts for the North West and Yorkshire and Humber regions.

122/09 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2008-2009

CONSIDERED – the report of the Planning Policy Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the Annual Monitoring Report 2008-2009 be approved for submission to Government Office, and that it be subsequently published on the Authority's website.

123/09 YORKSHIRE DALES DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME: THIRD REVIEW 2009-2012

CONSIDERED – the report of the Strategic Planning Officer, together with the document “Local Development Scheme Third Review January 2009 – April 2012”.

A member asked whether, because of the significance of the proposals that would come back to the Authority for further detailed consideration, a special meeting of the Authority might be warranted? The Strategic Planning Officer stated that that option would be considered in due course and members advised accordingly.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the Local Development Scheme third review be approved as the Authority’s revised programme for the production of the Yorkshire Dales Development Framework;
- (b) the Local Development Scheme be published on the Authority’s website and submitted to Government Office for its information;
- (c) consideration be given to the calling of a special meeting of the Authority to enable detailed consideration of proposed housing sites for inclusion in the Local Development Framework and members be advised accordingly.

124/09 AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE YORKSHIRE DALES AND HARROGATE TOURISM PARTNERSHIP

[W Fenten declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item as a Director of Europarc Consulting.]

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of External Affairs.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the Authority’s financial contribution towards the work of the Tourism Partnership be set at £10k for 2010/11;
- (b) some editorial space continue to be allocated to the work of the Tourism Partnership in key Authority publications ;
- (c) the Authority continue to deliver Chartermark Principles on behalf of the Tourism Partnership; and

(d) the Authority will work together with the Tourism Partnership wherever possible to achieve our objectives and targets and review progress against these in 12 months time.

125/09 ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Finance and Resources.

RESOLVED –

That the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Head of Finance and Resources, be approved, subject to paragraph 16 being amended to read: “Members and staff must at all times comply with Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, and arrangements for the delegated exercise of powers. In particular...”.

126/09 REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIPS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED –

That the current list of Partnerships, as set out in the Appendix to Chief Executive’s report, be approved.

127/09 PARISH MEMBER ‘ELECTION’ PROCESS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

In endorsing the proposals contained in the report, members raised a number of issues, including:

- asking that the approach adopted by the Peak District NPA be given further consideration;
- requesting that an explanation of the role of members be identified in a future paper;
- commenting on the process operated within the three Cumbria parishes whereby the three parishes ‘managed’ the selection process themselves rather than through the local councils’ association.

RESOLVED –

That the report and members’ comments be noted and a further report produced expanding on those comments and on Options 2 to 8 set out in the Chief Executive’s

report, to provide more detailed suggestions on how the Authority can invigorate the parish member selection process.

128/09 MEMBER FEEDBACK

CONSIDERED – the report of the Secretariat Officer circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the feedback from Mrs Y Peacock and Dr KM Petyt be noted.

129/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8 September and 13 October 2009.

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8 September and 13 October 2009 be received.

130/09 ACCESS COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Access Committee held on 15 October 2009.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Access Committee held on 15 October 2009 be received.

The remainder of business was considered in private.

131/09 PRIVATE MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Private Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

132/09 FUTURE OF SEDBERGH PARTNERSHIP CENTRE BUILDING

[KJ Lancaster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a member of Sedbergh Parish Council and a member of the Sedbergh and District History Society and left the meeting during the consideration and determination of the item; G Dalton declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item, being a member of the Sedbergh and District History Society and Chairman of the Community Office Management Committee; and Dr KM Petyt declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item, being a member of the Sedbergh and District History Society and as his wife worked as volunteer in the Community Office.]

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive which sought instructions from members on the provision of visitor services in the Cumbria part of the National Park and on the future of the Authority building in Sedbergh at 72 Main Street, formerly used as the National Park Centre.

The report addressed a number of members' concerns following their consideration of a report at the September meeting of the Authority. The Chief Executive reported that the building was not considered to be fit for purpose today or in the future, irrespective of the outcome of the impending national park boundary review. He suggested that if the boundary did get extended, he did not foresee many changes being required in terms of planning service provision, but the issue of information services and management of the rights of way network would need further consideration.

In generally supporting the proposal for the disposal of the property, Members raised a number of issues, including:

- noting the financial arguments which supported disposal of the property;
- suggesting that if an Authority presence was required in Sedbergh, alternative accommodation was available;
- accepting that some capital investment on the property would soon be needed. However, it was suggested that a full appraisal of the Authority's accommodation needs could not be made until the outcome of the boundary review was known. The current property benefitted from being in a central location and having adjacent car parking;
- reminding colleagues that in 2002 the Authority had undertaken a very full review of Information Centre provision in the National Park, when Sedbergh had clearly been shown not to be viable. It was suggested, therefore, that another review was not required, and even if the boundary was extended to the maximum possible, the Authority would have no need for these particular premises.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the disposal of the property at 72 Main Street, Sedbergh be agreed in principle;
- (b) the Authority openly and transparently seeks expressions of interest in its sale;

- (c) the Authority enters into a further lease arrangement for 12 months with the Sedbergh Book Town Group;
- (d) in line with the Boundary Review, the Authority considers its long term presence in the Cumbria area of the National Park; and
- (e) Sedbergh Parish Council be involved at all stages of the discussions on the future of 72 Main Street, Sedbergh.