

Minutes of the meeting held at Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton on Tuesday, 31 July 2007.

Present:

R Alderson, RA Bird, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, WH Brown, SHK Butcher, G Dalton, W Fenten, C Hammond, TRN Harrison-Topham, D Heather, KJ Lancaster, C Lis, SR Macaré, Mrs S Marshall, Mrs D Millward, A Osborne, Mrs Y Peacock, Dr KM Petyt, Ms N Stedman and W Weston.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

69/07 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The report of the Secretariat Officer was noted.

70/07 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Having been nominated unopposed, it was –

RESOLVED –

That C Lis be elected Chairman of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2008.

C LIS IN THE CHAIR

71/07 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

TRN Harrison-Topham, Dr KM Petyt and KJ Lancaster were nominated for the position of Deputy Chairman of the Authority and each Member took the opportunity to address the meeting.

A paper ballot was taken and the result of the vote was as follows:

TRN Harrison-Topham	-	10 votes
Dr KM Petyt		8 votes
KJ Lancaster	-	3 votes

As no member had obtained an overall majority, the member with the lowest number of votes was eliminated and a second ballot held between TRN Harrison-Topham and Dr KM Petyt. The result of the vote was as follows:

TRN Harrison-Topham	-	10 votes
Dr KM Petyt	-	11 votes

RESOLVED –

That Dr KM Petyt be elected Deputy Chairman of the Authority, to hold office until the annual meeting of the Authority in 2008.

72/07 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2007, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the deletion of Ms N Stedman and Mrs D Millward from the Declarations of Interest “as members of District and/or County Councils”.

73/07 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

74/07 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of Item 25 on the agenda on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

75/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

76/07 DECLARATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Members made the following declarations of interest:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Interest declared</i>
R Alderson, J Blackie and WH Brown	Personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 18 (Review of Reeth Partnership) as Chairman (Mr Alderson) and Trustees of the Board of Hudson House
KJ Lancaster	Personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 18 (Review of Reeth Partnership) as Finance Director and Trustee of the Board of Hudson House

<i>Member</i>	<i>Interest declared</i>
Ms N Stedman	Personal, non-prejudicial interest, as an employee of Natural England, in the Chief Executive's report (Item No 11)
A Osborne	Personal, non-prejudicial interest, as an employee of Defra, in the Chief Executive's report (Item No 11)

77/07 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made.

78/07 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chairman.

The Chairman, in reminding members that they had been advised ahead of the meeting, that Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward, would not be attending, endorsed members suggestion that a separate meeting, possibly in the form of a Policy Development Forum, might be preferable, with, if possible, a venue in Richmondshire having been requested.

RESOLVED –

That the report and further comments be noted.

79/07 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

In response to a concern raised by a member, the Chief Executive stated that he would contact Natural England expressing members concern at the lack of progress with the national park boundary review.

RESOLVED –

That subject to the Chief Executive's further comments being taken into account:

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Messrs Blackie, Lancaster, Macaré and Weston represent the Authority at the Association of National Park Authorities Annual Conference in September 2007, attendance to be an approved duty;
- (c) as recommended by the Access Committee on 19 April 2007, the Scheme of Delegation be amended as follows -
 - the wording of the current delegation scheme B.5.2.h) be amended to read:
Authorise the making of traffic regulation orders to manage the use of recreational motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1984 (as amended by section 72 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006).

80/07 ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT MEETINGS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Secretariat Officer with a correction to the Annex in respect of KJ Lancaster’s full year attendance to replace ‘17/12’ with ‘17/20’.

It was suggested that, because of their importance, members’ attendance at meetings of the Policy Development Forum (PDF) should also be included in the report. It was pointed out that the report recorded attendance at formal meetings of the Authority and its Committees, and whilst members endorsed the suggestion of including PDF attendance, it was on the basis that there was a note in the report that these were ‘informal’ meetings.

RESOLVED -

That:

- (a) the amended report be noted; and
- (b) subject to a note being included that meetings of the Policy Development Forum (PDF) are ‘informal’, future annual reports on member attendance be expanded to include records of attendance at PDFs.

81/07 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE AUTHORITY’S COMMITTEES

CONSIDERED – the report of the Secretariat Officer.

Following the earlier decision of the Special Meeting of the Authority, members had adjourned to allow revisions to be made to the submitted nominations, primarily in respect of nominations for membership of the Planning Committee.

The Secretariat Officer, with input from members in respect of the District Council and Parish Groups, updated the circulated report as follows:

County Council Group:

Access Committee nominations to be Mrs S Marshall and TRN Harrison-Topham
Planning Committee nominations to be as circulated with Messrs Macaré and Shaw-Wright as Substitute Nos 1 and 2 respectively.

District Council Group:

Planning Committee nominations to be as circulated with the fourth member to be C Lis and Substitute Nos 1 and 2 to be Mrs Y Peacock and KJ Lancaster respectively.

Secretary of State Group:

Planning Committee nominations to be as circulated with the fourth member to be A Osborne

Secretary of State (Parish) Group:

Planning Committee nominations to be as circulated with the third member to be C Hammond and WH Brown as Substitute.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report, as amended, be noted;
- (b) the quorum for each of the Authority's Committees be as follows:

<i>Committee →</i>	<i>Access</i>	<i>Appeals</i>	<i>Audit & Review</i>	<i>Finance & Resources</i>	<i>Planning</i>	<i>Standards</i>
Membership/ Quorum	8/4	5/4	11/6	11/6	15/7	8/4

- (c) subject to (d) below, Committees be established as follows in accordance with the nominations circulated and amended at the meeting -
- Access Committee: WH Brown, SHK Butcher, G Dalton, TRN Harrison-Topham, KJ Lancaster, Mrs S Marshall, Mrs D Millward and Dr KM Petyt
 - Audit and Review Committee: WH Brown, W Fenten, D Heather, KJ Lancaster, SR Macaré, Mrs S Marshall, A Osborne, Mrs Y Peacock, Dr KM Petyt, S Shaw-Wright and Ms N Stedman
 - Finance and Resources Committee: R Alderson, RA Bird, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, SHK Butcher, G Dalton, C Hammond, TRN Harrison-Topham, C Lis, Mrs D Millward and W Weston
 - Planning Committee: R Alderson, RA Bird, J Blackie, Mrs A Brooks, SHK Butcher, G Dalton, W Fenten, C Hammond, TRN Harrison-Topham, D Heather, C Lis, Mrs S Marshall, A Osborne, Ms N Stedman and W Weston, with Substitutes members to be as follows and in the order listed: County – SR Macaré and S Shaw-Wright; District – Mrs Y Peacock and KJ Lancaster; Secretary of State – Dr KM Petyt and Mrs D Millward; Parish – WH Brown.
 - Standards Committee: R Alderson, J Blackie, G Dalton TRN Harrison-Topham and Ms N Stedman and three Independent members to be appointed
- (d) the appointment of members to the Appeals Committee be deferred until a meeting of that Committee becomes necessary and at such time appropriate training be held if necessary.

82/07 AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

Members endorsed the proposal that a number of 'representations ' should be revised to the appropriate Member Champion.

A number of issues were raised including:

- seeking guidance on the indemnities available to members when they are representing the Authority on partnership bodies;
- enquiring about the possibility of G Dalton continuing as the Authority's representative on the Settle and Carlisle Railway Trust in the event that the Authority has no Member Champion for Cultural Heritage;
- noting that the Authority had no formal representative on Hudson House, despite KJ Lancaster having been nominated originally by the Authority

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) as recommended in the Annex to the Chief Executive's report, the Authority's representation on the bodies specified be amended to the appropriate Member Champion;
- (c) the Audit and Review Committee consider and report back to the Authority on
 - representation on Partnerships, in particular those where there have been infrequent or no recent meetings, and
 - the need for a mechanism to ensure that the Authority has continuing membership of partnerships in the event of a Member Champion role becoming vacant; and
- (d) members be advised by the Solicitor of the position regarding indemnities.

83/07 REVIEW OF THE MEMBER CHAMPION INITIATIVE

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

Members commented as follows on the issues raised in the 'Conclusions' section of Annex A to the Chief Executive's report:

- the 'overlap' issue of being able to be a member of the Planning Committee and a Member Champion (MC) had been addressed and decided in the earlier Special meeting, with the principle of no overlap being rejected;
- the allocation of MC roles to follow the seven areas of the Authority's work was endorsed, although there was a suggestion that some roles could have been combined;
- it was accepted that there should be a Development Control MC, but that the role be renamed as Planning MC;
- the original 'up to two members per role' rule to be continued; and
- further work was required on the mechanism for MCs to report back to the Authority on their work.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the Review of the Member Champion initiative and members' further comments be noted;
- (b) the revised 'job descriptions' as set out in Annex B of the Chief Executive's report be adopted; and
- (c) under the leadership of the Chairman of the Authority, further work be undertaken on devising a mechanism for Member Champions to report back to the Authority on their work.

84/07 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive, who added that he had received a further self-nomination from Mrs S Marshall to be a Member Champion(MC) for Forward Planning, although this had been on the assumption that she would not be a member of the Planning Committee to which she had been appointed.

At the meeting further nominations were made as follows:

Conservation of Cultural Heritage: W Fenten, Mrs A Brooks and TRN Harrison-Topham
Planning: J Blackie

As Mr Fenten had left the meeting, and members believed that as the former MC he should be given ‘first refusal’ for the role, it was suggested that the Chief Executive pursue the matter outside the meeting and, after consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, finalise the appointment of MC(s) for Conservation of Cultural Heritage.

RESOLVED –

That:

(a) the following Member Champions be appointed:

Conservation of the Natural Environment:	Mrs D Milward
Conservation of Cultural Heritage:	[See (b) below]
Recreation Management:	Dr KM Petyt
Promoting Understanding:	SR Macaré
Planning:	J Blackie
Forward Planning:	Mrs Y Peacock [see (b) below]
Corporate Management:	KJ Lancaster

(b) the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority:

- (i) finalise, from W Fenten, Mrs A Brooks and TRN Harrison-Topham, the Member Champion(s) for the area of Conservation of Cultural Heritage; and
- (ii) contact Mrs S Marshall to ask if she still wished to be appointed to the role of Forward Planning Member Champion or, in view of her appointment to the Planning Committee, whether she wished to withdraw her nomination.

85/07 RELATIONSHIP WITH YORKSHIRE FORWARD – POSITION STATEMENT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED –

That, in view of the earlier decision to seek a further meeting with Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward, consideration of the report be deferred until that time.

86/07 THE ROLE OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

A number of members commented that the paper was one of the most important to come before the Authority and that it was disappointing that so few members had stayed in the meeting to contribute to the debate.

A member referred to a presentation on climate change that he had attended through the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Forum and suggested that it might be beneficial for members.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the particular likely impact of climate change on the Yorkshire Dales National Park be noted;
- (b) the work already carried out, underway or planned by the Authority to tackle climate change be noted, with the Member Champions for Natural Environment and Corporate Management to be on the two Climate Change Working Groups;
- (c) approval be given to the Authority signing up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

87/07 REVIEW OF REETH PARTNERSHIP

CONSIDERED – the report of the Sustainable Tourism Manager.

Comments were made, including from the Chairman of Hudson House Board, about the value of Hudson House as an enterprise centre in this sparsely populated area of the Park.

Some concern was expressed at the 'value for money' of the project as far as the Authority was concerned and it was questioned whether the Authority could better use its contribution elsewhere in the park for other projects.

There was, however, considerable support for the project as a successful community initiative, which overall provided a valuable community resource. Members were reminded that the Authority had obtained a significant capital receipt from the sale of the former National Park centre in Reeth.

Members supported the suggestion of the Authority's delegation that had met representatives of Hudson House, that the terms of the agreement should be for five years with a three year break clause.

RESOLVED –

That the Authority confirms that it wishes to continue as a partner in Hudson House on the basis of the new arrangements set out in the report of the Sustainable Tourism Manager, subject to the proposed five year agreement including a three year break clause.

88/07 PRINCIPLES OF RETAIL

CONSIDERED – the report of the Chief Executive.

Members asked that officers, with input from a small group of members, should come forward with suggestions to optimise retail income. They were advised that any such exercise would need to take account of the legal powers of the Authority.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) officers, with input from Messrs Lis, Blackie, Weston and Macaré, prepare a further report on proposals for optimising income from the Authority's retail services.

89/07 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Planning.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) landscape character guidelines be developed as a Supplementary Planning Document, following the appropriate statutory consultation procedures;
- (b) the National Park Management Plan steering group be asked to oversee the process of producing the guidelines and making final recommendations to the Authority.

90/07 ADOPTION OF A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Authority adopts, with effect from 1 August 2007, the document set out as Appendix 2 to the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, as the code of conduct which is expected of members of the Authority, and of co-opted members on Committees.
- (b) That the Authority retains its existing statement on bullying and harassment.
- (c) That in future, declarations of personal interests by members should be dealt with on an item by item basis at all meetings where such declarations are required.
- (d) That declarations of lobbying continue to be dealt with as a separate single agenda item, prior to the substantive business on the agenda.

(e) That those members who were unable to attend the training on the new code of conduct, originally given on 19 July, be invited to attend the training that will be arranged for the new members of the Standards Committee.

91/07 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted and the appointments of Independent Members to the Standards Committee be made as follows:

- Mrs Victoria Reed for 3 years from 1 August 2007
- Mr Atiq Hassan for 2 years from 1 August 2007
- Mrs Yvonne Rose for 2 years from 26 January 2008

92/07 MEMBER FEEDBACK

There was no member feedback for consideration.

93/07 PLANNING COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 1 May and 12 June 2007.

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 1 May and 12 June 2007 be received.

94/07 FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 9 May 2007.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 9 May 2007 be received.

95/07 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 19 June 2007.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 19 June 2007 be received.

The remainder of business was considered in private

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

96/07 FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED – the draft private minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 9 May 2007.

RESOLVED –

That the draft private minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 9 May 2007 be received.