

**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**ACCESS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at Yoredale, Bainbridge, on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

**Present:**

TRN Harrison-Topham, KJ Lancaster, SR Macaré, JJ Pearlman and Dr KM Petyt (in the Chair).

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

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**13/06 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**14/06 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**15/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**16/06 DECLARATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

None.

**17/06 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING**

None.

**18/06 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK MANAGEMENT**

**CONSIDERED –**

The report of the Head of Park Management.

## **RESOLVED –**

That:

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) members of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum be invited to Access Committee training sessions, except for those sessions that are identified by the Head of Park Management, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, as being of a confidential nature; and
- (c) the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee, respond to the Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation on behalf of the Access Committee if this falls outside of the committee cycle.

## **19/06 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE PLAN**

### **CONSIDERED –**

The report of the Ranger Services Manager who, in presenting his report, provided members with a demonstration of the Geographical Information System (GIS) which will assist in the monitoring of the maintenance plan and overall condition of the PROW network. Members were impressed with the information provided and requested that their congratulations be passed to Kate Hilditch and Mark Butler who had primarily been responsible for the database and for the Dales Volunteers for assisting in the collation and recording of data.

Members made a number of comments on the Plan, including:

- suggesting that in Paragraph 3 – Legal Requirements – some reference could be made to the Local Access Forum
- noting that signing the destination of some rights of way was not always appropriate
- commenting on issues relating to cairns and efforts by the Authority to discourage their building
- commenting that the repair of route surfaces needed to be done with appropriate materials, particularly in terms of durability and geology
- suggesting some revisions to ‘Obstructions’, including the inclusion of reference to the Highways Act and distinguishing between long and short term
- noting that the Dales Volunteers were undertaking an Access for All audit

### **RESOLVED –**

That, subject to member and officer comments being taken into account, the draft Maintenance Plan and associated targets be adopted for implementation.

## **20/06 DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM – QUARTERLY REPORT**

### **CONSIDERED –**

The report of the Senior Definitive Map Officer.

In response to a number of comments raised on items in the report, members were advised that:

- copies of Section 66 (restricts the creation of new rights of way, based on use, for mechanically propelled vehicles), Section 67 (extinguishes unrecorded rights of way for mechanically propelled vehicles, over routes which are not shown on the Definitive Map or which are shown only as footpath, bridleway or restricted byway) and Section 72 (allows the Authority to make traffic regulation orders) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and of the Explanatory Note to the Act would be provided for members of the Committee; and
- soundings would be taken from members following the circulation of a short report setting out the issues involved in the request to delete Footpath No 16, Appletreewick from the Definitive Map and, if requested by a majority of members, the matter would be brought before members for consideration.

**RESOLVED –**

That, subject to member and officer comments being taken into account, the report be noted.

**21/06 OPEN ACCESS (CROW ACT) – UPDATE**

CONSIDERED –

The joint report of the Access and Recreation Manager and of the Ranger Services Manager.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report and works completed to date in implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 be noted.

**22/06 A RECREATION CHARTER FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES**

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Access Projects Officer.

Members, in welcoming the document, suggested that reference might be included to discourage the building of cairns or the damaging of hedges; to warn about avoiding ground nesting birds and their young, and to expand the reference to dogs.

**RESOLVED –**

That:

- (a) subject to members' comments being taken into account, the draft Recreation Charter for the Yorkshire Dales be endorsed, and
- (b) the help and support of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum in producing the document be noted.

**23/06 MANAGEMENT OF THE USE OF GREEN LANES**

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Park Management.

In response to a question, the Head of Park Management advised that it would be better to set up a group to cover just the Yorkshire Dales rather than a joint group with the North York Moors National Park Authority. He added, however, that there was regular close contact with officers from other Park Authorities and an annual review of how the Group was working might be appropriate.

A member expressed concern about the reference to the 'list of streets' and it was suggested that this would benefit from some clarification.

**RESOLVED –**

That, subject to member and officer comments being taken into account:

- (a) the draft 'Management of the Use of Green Lanes' document be sent out for consultation; and
- (b) the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum be asked to set up a balanced group, that will include representatives of green lanes users, to advise the Authority on the management of green lanes based on the framework outlined in 'Management of the Use of Green Lanes' in the Yorkshire Dales.

**24/06 YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM - ANNUAL REPORT 2006**

CONSIDERED –

The Annual Report of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, presented by the Forum's Chairman.

Some concern was expressed about the level of staff time dedicated to servicing the Forum and the Head of Park Management confirmed that he would be discussing the issue with the Forum's Chairman.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Annual Report for 2005-06 of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum be received.

**25/06 YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM**

CONSIDERED –

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

**RESOLVED –**

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum held on 21st March 2006 be noted.