



ITEM 13

**Minutes of Meeting of
Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum
Held on Tuesday 21 March 2006
Kettlewell Village Hall**

Present: Jon Beavan (JB), Veronica Boulton (VB), Bill Foster (BF), Michael Bartholomew (MB), Richard Johnson (RJ), Geoff Wilson (GW), David Gibson (DG), Richard Spensley (RS), Anne Purbrick (AP), Jerry Pearlman (JP). John Goss (JG), Ben Heyes (BH), Deborah Millward (DM), Pat Whelan (PWh), Alan Hulme (AH), Mark Allum (MA), Rachel Mozley (RM), Richard Parkin (RP).

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

RM welcomed Richard Parkin (RP), YDNPA Secretariat Officer, who had been invited to facilitate the election of Chair and Vice Chair.

RP explained the election procedure to Members and then asked for nominations. JB nominated GW and RJ nominated MB. Both agreed to stand.

GW circulated his statement in support of his nomination to the Forum and Members were given a few minutes to read it. RP invited questions to the candidate. One question was asked.

RP then asked MB to make his statement in support of nomination. MB spoke to the meeting. RP invited questions to the candidate. Two questions were asked.

Voting slips were then circulated and counted by RM and RP. The result was GW 8, MB 6.

GW was elected as Chair.

RP asked Members for nominations for Vice Chair. GW, BF and BH nominated JB for the position of Vice Chair. JB agreed to stand and there were no further nominations. Members of the Forum agreed, unanimously, to elect JB as Vice Chair.

JB was elected as Vice Chair

2. Welcome

GW thanked JB and BH for all their hard work as Chair and Vice Chair of the Forum.

GW welcomed JP to his first official meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

The following observers were welcomed to the meeting:

Wilf Fenten – Chair of the Access Committee
Malcolm Petyt – Vice Chair of the Access Committee
Bronia Hall – Lincoln University
Paul Tibbatts – National Park resident

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Phil Woodyer (PW), Adrian Pickles (APi), Graeme Hall (GH), and Mark Sandamas (MS).

4. Approval of Minutes

Members approved the minutes from the previous meeting (17 January 2006) with the following amendment.

Page 4, Item 10, the paper was presented by JB and not GW.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Page 2 – RM to chase up North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) with regards to the list of responses from Parish Councils on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWiP).

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5. Public Question Time

Paul Tibbatts had informed RM, before the meeting, that he would like to put a question to the Forum. The following question was asked:

With the introduction of Natural England, will there be any effect on the Local Access Forum?

GW replied on behalf of the Forum:

The work of Local Access Forum's comes under the remit of DEFRA. Therefore, it is unlikely that the formation of Natural England will have much effect on the Forum. DEFRA is currently revisiting the Guidance for Local Access Forums and there may be more within that document on the work of Natural England and its relationship to Local Access Forums. This document will be published in the next few months.

6. YDAF Annual Report 2005/06

JB read out the Chairman's Report and members agreed that it should be included in the Annual Report.

The following comments were made on the draft annual report:

The dates within the annual report must be consistent throughout and should be 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006.

There were various comments about the footnotes on page 7. RM agreed to make changes regarding the order of the numbering.

Members thought it necessary to mention the Chair and Vice Chair for the reporting period in section 4.1 on page 9. RM said she would put in details for both past and present Chair and Vice Chair.

Members asked for section title 4.4 'Advice to the Forum' to be removed and for the text to be merged with that of section 4.3. Members also thought that a section should be included on Informal Meetings.

Several Members thought that Appendix 1 was in need of updating in terms of background information. RM asked for Members to read through their pen-portrait and to inform her of any changes.

RM asked members whether they would object to having a line in the financial statement stating how much staff costs have been. All agreed to this.

RM explained that the Annual Report would be widely circulated. She suggested that a full colour summary of the Annual Report be produced to act as promotional material for the YDAF. Members agreed that this would be useful.

The Annual report was approved subject to Chairman's approval of final changes.

7. CRoW Open Access – One Year On

AH presented the paper to Members. He noted that since the preparation of the paper, there has been one notification of dedication of land - The Kennel Field at Thornton Rust, and one 28 day discretionary restriction at Stags Fell, Hawes.

Members went through the paper and asked questions of AH. They were then asked to answer the various questions listed on page 4 of the paper:

1. There was a general agreement that an Open Access Management Plan should be written. Some Members thought that more data needed to be gathered before the preparation.
2. It was agreed that YDAF Members would help in the preparation of a Management Plan.

3. There was much discussion as to the need for routes over access land to be promoted. Members suggested that Officers of the YDNPA find out what has been done elsewhere before making a decision i.e. what other publications have been written, what are other National Park Authorities doing? JP agreed to bring the subject up at the next National Countryside Access Forum (NCAF).

8. Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Public Rights of Way Maintenance Plan

AH presented the Rights of Way Maintenance Plan to Members. The Plan generated much discussion. Comments and questions were put to AH.

AH thanked the Members for their comments and took them away for possible inclusion in the plan.

9. Recreation Charter

MA informed Members that the revised version of the Recreation Charter has now been out to consultation and comments have been received from 12 of the 31 groups consulted.

The final version will be going to the Access Committee on 11 May as a document worked on by the Local Access Forum. It is hoped they will sign up to it.

Members were happy for those Members on the sub group to comment on the final version for Access Committee.

10. National Park Management Plan – Access and Recreation Section

AH went through the draft version of the Access and Recreation section of the National Park Management Plan (NPMP). The following comments were made:

JB asked that point 2 in the objectives read ‘Put in place appropriate management restrictions for motorised recreational vehicles on all unsurfaced sensitive routes by 2010’. He also asked that point 11 be rewritten to make more sense.

RJ asked that principle (e) be expanded to include ‘and to avoid interference with the working environment’.

PWh though it would be a more positive message if objective 10 read ‘By 2010 the range of routes and sites across the national park will ensure that a minimum of 0.5% of the rights of way network is accessible by wheelchair users and a minimum of 5% by those with limited mobility’.

AH informed Members that the NPMP would be going out to consultation and asked whether they wished to comment on the whole document.

It was agreed that Members would only comment on the Access and Recreation section of the new NPMP. The next draft will be circulated to all Members and comments made through GW if the consultation period fell outside the YDAF meeting cycle.

11. Integrated Access Strategy and Green Lanes Policy

Papers from the NPA's Access and Recreation Manager detailing the NPA's present policies on use of green lanes by mechanically propelled vehicles as included in the Parks Integrated Access Strategy document were received.

All Members agreed to continue to support the position statements in the Integrated Access Strategy in relation to recreational vehicular use of unsealed routes (green lanes).

12. Secretary's Report

RM presented the paper of items for information to Members. Various questions were put to Members throughout.

Best Value Performance Plan Actions 2006/07

Members agreed to help Officers of the National Park Authority with the actions highlighted in the paper.

Access Committee

It was agreed that minutes of the YDAF meetings will go to the Chair to approve before being presented to the first available Access Committee. They will also be put on the website as unapproved minutes.

DEFRA LAF Guidance Workshop, Bristol, 8 February 2006.

GW tabled a report on the above workshop for additional information to Members.

13. Update on Members' Activities

Members did not have anything further to report.

14. Future Forum Meetings

The following were suggested as items for the next meeting:

- Sustainable travel/tourism
- YDAF work schedule
- Training session before the meeting.

The next meeting of the YDAF is on the 18 July 2006 at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. The meeting will start at 6.00pm with a buffet from 5.00pm. Details of a potential training session beforehand will be circulated closer to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 16.45