

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Public minutes of the meeting held at Yoredale, Bainbridge on Monday, 15th May 2006.

Present

Mrs A Brooks (in the Chair), C Hammond, TRN Harrison-Topham, D Ireton, OJ Kendall, A Osborne, Mrs FG Ramsbottom and W Weston.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK**17/06 MINUTES****RESOLVED –**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2006, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.



In response to a member's question, the Head of Finance and Resources stated that a report on Retail Services would be coming to the next meeting of the Committee.

18/06 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

19/06 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**RESOLVED -**

That pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed in column 1 of the following table on the grounds that each involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph in column 2:

<u>Item No on the agenda</u>	<u>Paragraph No</u>
17	1, 7, 8 and 9
18	7, 8 and 9

20/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs D Millward.

21/06 DECLARATIONS OF THE EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

A Osborne declared personal non-prejudicial interests in Agenda Item Nos 7, 8 and 9 as an employee of DEFRA.

22/06 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

None.

23/06 DRAFT FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT: YEAR ENDED MARCH 2006

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Finance Officer.

In response to a number of issues raised by members, officers commented that:

- details of who was responsible for the Rural Housing logo, financed by the Authority (£500) would be researched and members advised accordingly
- the 'Public Spaces, Private Places' project had overspent because it had been decided to complete the project using consultants and not all the costs had been recoverable
- whilst the outturn had not highlighted any particular financial issues, it had drawn attention to a need for a general improvement in the budget management of projects
- an extra column could be added to the appropriate appendices to indicate the 'policy priority'.

RESOLVED –

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

- (a) the year-end position against the 2005/2006 budget be noted; and

- (b) the revenue reserve from 2005/06 (£241k) be allocated to the Opportunities Fund for 2006/07, and consideration of the detailed allocation of the Fund be reserved until the August meeting of the Committee.

24/06 DRAFT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS (SOFA) 2005/06

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Finance Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the Statement of Final Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2006, which will be presented to the Authority on 30th May 2006 for approval and signature by the Chairman of the Authority, be noted.

25/06 DEFRA CORE GRANT AND PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2006/07

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Finance and Resources.

Members congratulated the Chief Executive and other officers on their obvious success in lobbying central government for additional funding for National Park Authorities.

In response to a number of points raised by members, the Chief Executive commented that:

- it was important that the Authority was able to deliver rural elements of the work of the Regional Development Agency, in order to be able to access funding that would be directed through the Agency; and
- a report would be considered at the May meeting of the Authority that would recommend the setting up of an 'External Funding Group' to consider the Authority's policies and processes for attracting external funding.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) the report be noted; and
- (b) the proposed approach to the Authority's consideration of its future spending plans, as outlined in the report of the Head of Finance and Resources, be agreed.

26/06 IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT: STATEMENT 6

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Information Technology Officer.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

27/06 STAFFING MATTERS

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Administrative Officer.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

28/06 SICKNESS ABSENCE

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Senior Administrative Officer.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

29/06 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

CONSIDERED –

The joint report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer and of the Head of Finance and Resources.

RESOLVED –

That the amendments to Financial Regulations, detailed in the joint report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer and of the Head of Finance and Resources, be approved, including the complete re-writing of Regulation 5.12 as set out at the end of the Appendix to the report.

30/06 POTENTIAL LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

CONSIDERED -

The report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer.

He reported that the advice awaited from the Authority's Treasurer had not been received and, therefore, he recommended that the Committee might wish to refer the report to the Authority for consideration.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) in view of the fact that advice from the Treasurer had not been received, consideration of the report of the Solicitor/Monitoring Officer on potential liabilities for members and officers be deferred, and
- (b) subject to the receipt of that advice, the report be referred to the Authority for consideration.

31/06 MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOURS FRAMEWORK

CONSIDERED -

The report of the Chief Executive.

In considering the report, a number of comments were made by members, including:

- suggesting that 'Respect of People', that may have been missed from the list of Core Values, could be included in "Valuing People" by widening 'the people who work for us' to include colleagues and partners and, in Appendix 3 in 'Management Behaviours' to refer to empowering people 'within their areas of responsibility and the authority as a whole'; and
- the need for simple indicators of performance, such as timely responses to letters.

The Chief Executive stated that simple indicators of performance were being considered, and whilst there was a need to maintain an appropriate balance between time spent on 'management' and time spent on 'work', it was essential that there was adequate 'management' when 67% of the Authority's budget was spent on staff costs.

RESOLVED –

That, subject to member and officer comments being noted, the approach being taken to develop a Management Behaviours Framework be endorsed.

32/06 NORTHERN OFFICE SUB-COMMITTEE

CONSIDERED –

The Public Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Office Sub-Committee held on 3rd and 14th March 2006.

RESOLVED –

That the Public Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Office Sub-Committee held on 3rd and 14th March 2006 be received.

The remainder of business was conducted in private

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

(a) Private Minutes

The Committee confirmed, as a correct record, the Private Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2006 that had been circulated with the agenda. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

(b) Northern Office Sub-Committee

The Committee considered and received, the private minutes of the meeting of the Northern Office Sub-Committee held on 3rd and 14th March 2006.

(c) Northern Office Project - Update

The Head of Finance and Resources and the Chief Executive informed members of the latest position following recent discussions with the Contractor over final project cost figures.