

**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ACCESS COMMITTEE**

ITEM 1

Minutes of the meeting held at Yoredale, Bainbridge on Thursday, 15 October 2009.

Present:

SHK Butcher, G Dalton, W Fenten, TRN Harrison-Topham and Dr KM Petyt.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

35/09 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The report of the Secretariat Officer was noted.

36/09 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Secretariat Officer reminded members of the amended procedure for the election of Chairmen, whereby candidates were able to address the meeting for five minutes and could then be questioned by members also for a period of five minutes.

Messrs Lancaster and Fenten were both nominated for the position of Chairman of the Committee.

In response to a question from a member about a candidate being nominated when not present at the meeting and therefore being unable to be questioned by colleagues, it was confirmed that the Authority's procedure did not prohibit the nomination of an absent candidate. Members were, however, advised that consideration of the item could be deferred until the next meeting when all the candidate(s) may be present. It was proposed that the election of the Chairman be deferred to the next meeting but the proposal was not seconded.

Mr Fenten took the opportunity to address the meeting.

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

KJ Lancaster	-	3 votes
W Fenten	-	2 votes

RESOLVED –

That KJ Lancaster be elected Chairman of the Committee, to hold office until the first meeting of the Committee following the annual meeting of the Authority in 2010.

37/09 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Having been nominated unopposed, it was –

RESOLVED –

That G Dalton be elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee, to hold office until the first meeting of the Committee following the annual meeting of the Authority in 2010.

<p>G DALTON IN THE CHAIR</p>

A member commented that the election process had suffered at this and other meetings as a result of the absence of a number of members. He suggested that proxy or postal voting would enable absent members to vote and referred to the practice in other authorities where Committee Chairmen were elected at the Annual meeting of the Authority when the Committee memberships were agreed.

38/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

[SHK Butcher asked that his apologies for absence be recorded retrospectively. Dr Petyt stated that he did not recall offering to "...arrange for his 'address' to be circulated through the Members' Information Bulletin", although it had been available via another publication.]

39/09 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

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

40/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were presented from A Barker, RK Bingham and KJ Lancaster.

41/09 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

42/09 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Park Management.

[SHK Butcher declared a personal interest in the GoDales Project, being related to the proprietors of The Sunhill (Outdoor Activity) Centre at Rylstone.]

With regard to the proposals for Hawes Interchange, a member suggested that it would be of interest to have further facts and figures with a view to possibly replicating the Interchange elsewhere. Members were advised that the 'brief' for the Interchange project would be considered by the working group of Members and officers who were overseeing development at the Dales Countryside Museum.

RESOLVED –

That the report and member comments be noted.

43/09 DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM - QUARTERLY REPORT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Senior Definitive Map Officer.

In considering the report, members raised a number of issues, including:

- expressing some concern at the intention for there to be an unaccompanied site visit by the Inspector to Cowper Cote Farm (Diversion of Footpath No 16) which could be worrying for the occupant;
- asking for a letter of thanks to be sent to the National Trust tenant for their help and co-operation with the creation of a new path at Malham to provide a safe alternative 'off-road' route to the main village road; and
- welcoming the 'Footnote' to the report as being very informative and asking if it could be expanded to include a summary of exceptions set out in Section 67(2) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

RESOLVED –

That subject to the additional comments of members being taken into account, the report be noted.

44/09 CONSULTATION ON THE NATIONAL BYWAY TRUST – PENNINE SPUR CYCLE ROUTE

[G Dalton declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the item, being related to proprietors of a cycle retail business.]

CONSIDERED – the report of the Transport and Visitor Management Officer.

RESOLVED –

That, in responding to North Yorkshire County Council’s consultation on the proposal by the National Byway Trust:

- (a) the proposal for the development of the spur route through the Yorkshire Dales National Park be supported;
- (b) the views of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum regarding users’ safety be endorsed; and
- (c) it be requested that any signage of the proposed cycle route be as unintrusive as possible.

45/09 INITIAL CONSULTATION ON THE NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

CONSIDERED – the report of the Transport and Visitor Management Officer, with the appended response of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

Members noted that the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, having taken advice from the County Council, had not given any ranking to its responses.

RESOLVED –

That the following be submitted to North Yorkshire County Council as the Authority’s unranked responses to the Local Transport Plan consultation:

<i>Question Number</i>	<i>Response [unless indicated otherwise these answers are all Ranked 1]</i>
1	B
2	B, C and F (Endorsing the comments of the Access Forum that there is a real need to further integrate different types of transport i.e. walking routes/cycling routes/private car use/public transport.)
3	A and E
4	D
5	B, C, D, E and F (Endorsing the comments of the Access Forum that there is a real need to further integrate different types of transport i.e. walking routes/cycling routes/private car use/public transport.)
6	D and I (Endorsing the comments of the Access Forum which expressed particular concern that there should be resources for maintenance of the public rights of way network. The Committee further requests the County Council to increase its financial contribution to the Authority for undertaking the rights of way work under the delegation agreement.)

Question Number	Response [unless indicated otherwise these answers are all Ranked 1]
7	<p>Endorsing the following comments of the Access Forum:</p> <p><i>The Yorkshire Dales Access Forum was particularly concerned that the Local Transport Plan acknowledges the importance of the countryside, and especially National Parks, for recreation and the need to provide sustainable access to and within the countryside.</i></p> <p><i>The Forum was also concerned that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is explicitly acknowledged and fully integrated into both the Local Transport Plan and into funding allocations to ensure implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Members felt more could be done to integrate different modes of travel and transport – e.g. walking, cycling, public transport use and in particular between different public transport services especially those that cross county boundaries.</i></p> <p>and adding that public transport is as important for visitors as local residents.</p>

46/09 YORKSHIRE DALES ACCESS FORUM

CONSIDERED – the draft minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum held on 22 September 2009.

RESOLVED –

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum held on 22 September 2009 be noted.