

**HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

**JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting held at Hovingham Village Hall on 5 November 2009.

**PRESENT:-**

Ryedale District Council: District Councillor Robert Wainwright.  
Hambleton District Council: District Councillor Christine Cookman.  
North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillor Caroline Patmore  
Parish Councils: Ian Reid (Ryedale) and Tony Cowan (Hambleton).  
Country Land and Business Association: Jane Harrison.  
National Farmers Union: Ken Harrison.  
Forestry Commission: Vince Carter.  
Natural England: Justine Clark, Brian Davies and Clare Storey.  
Ramblers Association: Geoff Eastwood.

**Officers:**

Paul Jackson, Liz Bassindale and Maggie Cochrane – Howardian Hills AONB.  
Jane Wilkinson (Secretary) – North Yorkshire County Council.  
Ann Cooper – Hambleton District Council.

**Present by Invitation:**

Steve Toase Historic Landscape Characterisation Project Officer NYCC.

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

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**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED –**

That District Councillor Robert Wainwright is elected to serve as Chairman of the Joint Advisory Committee for the next 12 months.

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**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ROBERT WAINWRIGHT IN THE CHAIR**

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**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Were submitted on behalf of County Councillor Clare Wood (North Yorkshire County Council), Graham Megson (North Yorkshire County Council), Paula Craddock (Ryedale District Council) District Councillor Percy Featherstone (Hambleton District Council) and Dorothy Fairburn (Country Land and Business Association).

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2009, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED –**

That County Councillor Clare Wood is elected as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Advisory Committee for the next 12 months.

**5. ELECTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND PANEL REPRESENTATIVES**

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) That Ryedale District Councillor Robert Wainwright and Dr Tony Cowan (Parish Councils Hambleton) are nominated to represent Howardian Hills AONB on the Sustainable Development Fund Panel for the next 12 months.

**6. AONB UNIT ACTIVITY**

**CONSIDERED –**

The joint report of AONB Officers detailing their activities and progress achieved by the AONB Unit since the previous meeting.

The Committee received a power-point presentation of photographs of completed and on-going projects referred to in the report, together with on-going countryside management works, community projects, volunteer activity and Junior Ranger Club days.

A copy of the new Howardian Hills Management Plan 2009-2014 together with a copy of the Autumn/Winter 2009 "Outstanding" magazine were circulated for information at the meeting.

Members requested that further information on the Castle Howard Ground Source Heat Pump Project, especially details of the payback period, be supplied to inform similar projects in the local area.

Members suggested that a media campaign timed to coincide with the work by the volunteers to stop the spread of Himalayan Balsam would be an effective means of enlisting additional support from local people. It was further proposed that the suggested media campaign could include Ragwort, Rhododendrons and Japanese Knotweed as well as Himalayan Balsam. The AONB Manager stressed that in order to successfully eradicate Himalayan Balsam it was essential that follow up work was carried out at the affected sites on an annual basis over a period of three or four years.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report be noted.

**7. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION PROJECT – NORTH YORKSHIRE**

The Committee received a presentation from Steve Toase, (Historic Landscape Characterisation Project Officer NYCC). He described the aims of the project, to study and map the historic development of the modern day landscape of North Yorkshire. The five year project formed part of a nationwide programme which commenced in 1994. The majority of the work in North Yorkshire was now complete and the final report would be available at the end of March 2010.

He described the methodology used to study the whole landscape and stressed that the project was concerned with the locally distinctive and commonplace as well as the special and unique. Examples of maps depicting cultural and historic evolution within the AONB were shown as part of the presentation. Practical examples of how the project could help with the reinstatement of boundaries, research, and applications for High Level Stewardship Agreements were cited. It was hoped that in time all the information collated for the Project would be available on the internet.

The AONB Manager said that the Project would enable future Howardian Hills Management Plans to contain suggestions for conserving the historic context of the area.

The Chairman thanked Steve Toase for his attendance and interesting presentation and for the painstaking work done to date.

**RESOLVED –**

That the content of the presentation be noted.

**8. LEADER PROGRAMME**

**CONSIDERED –**

The report of the AONB Manager on progress achieved to date by the LEADER Local Action Group.

Members noted that the schedule of supported projects included Hovingham Village Hall and Community Project and commented favourably on the improvements made to the kitchen facilities at the Village Hall (the venue of the meeting that day). It was reported that at the meeting of Hovingham Parish Council held the previous day it had been resolved not to proceed with the Parish/Community Caretakers Scheme as it was feared that the community spirit already generated by the Project would be lost if the work was to be handed over to a third party. Sustainability was also identified as a further concern.

The AONB Manager commented that for the reasons outlined at the meeting it was more likely that only larger communities would take advantage of the Parish/Community Caretakers Scheme.

**RESOLVED –**

That the information contained in the report and provided at the meeting be noted.

**9. CAN DO LIME AND ICE PROJECT**

**CONSIDERED –**

The report of the AONB Manager on progress made to date by the CAN DO Lime and Ice Project.

The AONB Manager summarised each of the projects outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

**RESOLVED –**

That the content of the report and progress made to date be noted.

**10. AONB INDICATORS**

CONSIDERED –

The report of the AONB Manager detailing the Indicators used to measure AONB Partnership performance and AONB Condition.

The AONB Manager stated that this would be a standing item on future agenda. Members were advised that no information on Condition Indicators was yet available as the Management Plan was brand new. The AONB Manager anticipated being able to report information on Condition Indicators to the April 2010 meeting of the Committee, failing which it would definitely be available for the October/November 2010 meeting.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Performance Indicator results contained in Appendix 1 be noted.

**11. AONB BUDGET**

CONSIDERED –

The report of the AONB Manager detailing expenditure during 2008/09 and highlighting anticipated budgetary needs for 2010/11.

The AONB Manager drew Members attention to paragraph 3.12 of the report and sought approval of the proposed mechanism for viring money between budget heads.

Brian Davies commented that given the current economic climate, cuts in future funding from Natural England were to be expected. The current funding package was guaranteed for three years but upon its expiry there was every likelihood that future funding would not be at the same level. He anticipated that at the next round of funding only those AONB's able to attract funding from other sources would be successful. It was reported that, nationally, many AONB's had drawn monies from the SDF Fund and that this was now seen as a means of front line service delivery.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the details of JAC expenditure during 2008/09 be noted.
- (b) That the mechanism for authorising virements between budget heads, as outlined in paragraph 3.12 of the report, be approved.
- (c) That Partner authorities be asked to consider making financial contributions towards the work of the JAC in 2010/11, in line with Appendix 5 and paragraph 4 of the report.

**12. JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

CONSIDERED –

The responses submitted by the AONB Manager to Hambleton and Ryedale District Councils in respect of planning applications received within the area of the AONB since the previous meeting. Members attention was drawn to the application for wind turbines - the first of their kind within the area of the AONB.

Members endorsed the responses made by the AONB Manager in respect of the 13 applications appended to the agenda.

The AONB Manager advised that results of applications already determined were available upon request.

**RESOLVED –**

That the responses attached to the agenda be noted.

**13. ORAL REPORTS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

Hambleton District Council

Following the retirement of Glen Robinson Members welcomed Ann Cooper to her first meeting. Members agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Glen Robinson thanking him for all his hard work whilst a Member of the JAC and wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Local Development Framework – it was reported that the core strategy was now approved. In respect of the Allocations the second consultation stage was due to end on 13 November 2009. Submission of the plan to Government was anticipated at the end of the year with hearing sessions being held in April and final adoption by the Council now due to take place in late 2010.

Natural England

A guidance document on on-shore wind farms was now available on line and contained the criteria that Natural England would apply to all applications of this type.

A new Higher Level Environmental Stewardship agreement was about to go live in the AONB, which brought the total of such agreements to four. During 2010 seven Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreements would expire and it was anticipated that of these approximately half would go on to transfer into Higher Level Stewardship agreements.

It was reported that a permissive footpath in the Crayke area had now expired and it was hoped it would be renewed as part of a Higher Level Stewardship agreement.

Countryside Stewardship – Funds from Natural England and English Heritage had been secured to restore the Stray walls at Castle Howard. Further funding had also been obtained to develop a management plan for The Avenue.

Forestry Commission

Vince Carter reported that there had been two national public consultations during 2009. Record numbers of responses had been received and the results were now with the Minister. The final policies were expected to be announced before the May 2010 general election.

Ramblers Association

Geoff Eastwood reported that the Association published an annual programme of 400 walks many of which were within the area of the AONB. He agreed to provide details of the walks in the AONB to the AONB Manager so that they could be publicised on the AONB website.

Ryedale District Council

Local Development Framework -\_The final document was due to be approved at full Council on 15 December 2009.

**14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) That the date of the next meeting of the Committee is Thursday, 1 April 2010 at 10.00 am at a venue to be confirmed.
- (ii) That the date of the annual site visit is 23 July 2010.

JW/ALJ