

Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held at Terrington Village Hall on 11 April 2019, commencing at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillors Caroline Goodrick and Caroline Patmore
 Ryedale District Council: Councillor Robert Wainwright
 Hambleton District Council: Councillor Christine Cookman
 Parish Councils: Victoria Ellis (Ryedale), Christopher Pickles (Ryedale)
 Forestry Commission: James Shallcross
 Ramblers: Harry Whitehouse

Officers:

Howardian Hills AONB team: Paul Jackson and Liz Bassindale
 North Yorkshire County Council: Daniel Harry and Hugh Clear Hill
 Ryedale District Council: Howard Wallis

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

125. Election of Chair

Daniel Harry opened the meeting and began the process of the election of a Chair and Vice Chair.

Sir William Worsley (Country Land and Business Association) was nominated to be the Chairman, in his absence. This was seconded by County Councillor Caroline Patmore. A vote was taken and Sir William Worsley unanimously elected.

In the absence of Sir William Worsley, County Councillor Caroline Patmore was asked to chair the next part of the meeting.

Resolved -

That Sir William Worsley be elected Chair of the Committee.

County Councillor Caroline Patmore in the Chair

126. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Ryedale District Councillor Fiona Farnell, Sir William Worsley (Country Land and Business Association), Andy Stephenson (National Farmers Union) and Ailsa Kirkup (Natural England).

127. Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 22 November 2018

Resolved -

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Under matters arising, Paul Jackson said that the Glover Review of AONBs was expected to be published in November 2019.

128. Election of Vice Chair

Daniel Harry asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the committee.

County Councillor Caroline Goodrick nominated County Councillor Caroline Patmore. This was seconded and a vote taken. County Councillor Caroline Patmore was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

In the absence of Sir William Worsley, and as the newly elected Vice Chair, County Councillor Caroline Patmore proceeded to chair the meeting.

Resolved -

That County Councillor Caroline Patmore be elected Vice Chair of the Committee.

129. AONB Unit Activity

Members considered a detailed report of the work areas and progress achieved by the AONB Unit since the last meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee. The Appendices to the report set out the following:-

Appendix 1 - details of the work, meetings and site visits that had been carried out by the AONB Manager and AONB Officers in the period October 2018 to March 2019.

Appendix 2 - full details of the grants offered and projects developed to date during the financial year

Appendix 3 - details of the consultations that the JAC had received during the year and the AONB Manager's detailed responses to specific applications

Appendix 4 – full details of the activities and attendance for the 2018-19 Junior Rangers activity sessions.

The report was accompanied by a slide presentation showcasing some of the work undertaken.

The presentation by Liz Bassindale covered the following:

- Hedge planting and replacement of trees
- An update on the management of land using Exmoor Ponies
- Ongoing work to push back rhododendron
- Clearance of Himalayan Balsam
- The Ryevitalise Project
- The Turtle Dove Project
- Junior Rangers
- Bracken control on Scheduled Monuments
- Village hall repairs and maintenance.

The Ryevitalise Project has a strong focus on the river Rye and three themes of: water quality; water level management; and reconnecting people. A formal announcement on the project will be made after the local government and EU elections in May 2019.

Paul Jackson informed the committee of the work being done on a Geodiversity Audit. This had started with 153 possible sites of special interest, which had then be reduced to 16 sites that had been formally approved in the Ryedale DC area.

Members requested more information about the Turtle Dove Project and what types of seeds were best to encourage their return to an area and then successful re-establishment.

Members also queried whether other species of birds needed to be controlled in order to protect Turtle Doves.

In response, Paul Jackson informed the committee that all wild birds are protected and special licences have to be granted to enable any form of control.

There was a discussion about the ongoing maintenance of village halls. It was confirmed that the County Council Locality Budgets and Environmental Budgets could be used. The challenge is to reduce running costs.

Paul Jackson summarised the end of year financial position as follows:

- The overall budget has been fully committed with a slight overspend
- The Carry over into 2019/20 will be around £53,000
- Maintain a reserve of £40,000
- Keep a further £10,000 to enable a response to any recommendations in the Glover Review.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

130. Development within the AONB

Considered -

The report giving details of planning applications determined within the AONB during 2018.

Paul Jackson introduced the report and referred members to the full list of applications in the years 2014 to 2018 by Parish and by type of development. The following is a summary of some of the key points made:

- The level of applications was steady until 2018, when it increased significantly
- There is a new trend for applications for smart meter masts
- Approval rates have remained steady over the past 5 years and the average is 92%.

A member of the committee noted that it was a shame that the input of the AONB did not have more weight in local planning decisions.

In response, Paul Jackson stated that the Glover Review was considering whether AONBs should become statutory consultees in the planning process.

It was noted that the Ryedale Local Plan was currently under review and that there may be increased pressure for development of housing in villages in the AONB.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

131. AONB Action Programme 2018/19

Considered -

The report giving details of progress made on implementing the AONB Management Plan during 2018/19. The Action Programme for 2019/20, incorporating business planning requirements, was covered under a separate report on today's agenda.

Paul Jackson introduced the report and noted that many elements of the report had been covered in earlier agenda items. He then identified the following:

- Work is underway with the River Derwent Partnership on natural water level management
- The work to recreate old direction markers and village name signs was continuing and more should be installed in the AONB in the next month
- Working with the Destination Partnerships Officer to promote tourism in the AONB
- Linking in with apprenticeships schemes at North Yorkshire County Council and the National Parks
- The total amount of volunteer effort was 179 days, which is equivalent to £10,500.

There was a discussion about issues relating to Broadband masts and infrastructure. The consensus was that it was better to have overhead lines installed underground but the increased costs associated with that were recognised.

James Shallcross from the Forestry Commission informed the committee about some felling of trees that had taken place north of Whenby. This was currently under investigation and may result in a 'restocking notice'.

Resolved -

That the report and Action Programme 2018/19 be noted.

132. AONB Business Plan and Action Programme 2019/20

Considered -

The report asking Members to agree details of proposed activity to implement the AONB Management Plan during 2019/20.

Paul Jackson introduced the report and noted that there was a revised version of the AONB Management Plan. He said that there was a renewed focus upon:

- Grassland sites
- Highlighting the importance of local geology
- Offering farmers and landowners support to go into environmental stewardship schemes
- Historic environment work and the protection of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings at Risk
- Audit of lime kilns and the removal of vegetation that can damage the stonework

- Ash dieback
- PROW work
- Educational activity under the Ryevitalise banner
- Countryfile Live is due to visit Castle Howard.

Committee members raised concerns about the spread of ash dieback.

In response, James Shallcross from the Forestry Commission said that the visual impact upon the AONB would be less severe than other areas as there was a good mix of different broadleaf trees. Also, grants were available to enable the planting of broadleaf trees in areas that had been affected by the loss of ash trees.

Resolved -

That the proposed activity to implement the AONB Management Plan 2019/20 be agreed.

133. AONB Management Plan Review

Considered -

The report giving details of the progress of the AONB Management Plan review since the last meeting of the JAC, and the next steps.

Paul Jackson introduced the report and said that they were near the end of the process. The Plan had been signed off by Natural England, Adopted by the three constituent local authorities and Defra had been informed. The final designed version of the Plan will shortly be posted on the AONB website.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

134. Defra Protected Landscapes Review Panel Visit

Considered -

The report giving details of the visit by Sarah Mukherjee, Chief Executive of the Crop Protection Association, to the AONB.

Paul Jackson introduced the report and said that the visit had been very positive and that it had created an opportunity for awareness to be raised about the issues affecting smaller AONBs, which in turn may influence the Glover Review and the Agriculture Bill. Issues that were identified by Sarah Mukherjee included:

- Housing development pressures
- Green prescribing
- Tourism and balancing the costs and benefits
- Working with partners.

Resolved -

That the notes of the visit be noted.

135. National Association for AONBs Activity

Considered -

The report giving details of the work areas currently being covered by the NAAONB Team.

Paul Jackson introduced the report and said that much of the detail had been covered in previous reports and discussions. As such, he would focus on the information in Appendix 1 to the report. The key issues therein were relating to the Environment Bill, the Agriculture Bill and the Glover Review.

Resolved -

That the work being carried out by the NAAONB, with assistance from the AONB Teams including the Howardian Hills Team, be noted.

136. Reports form Partner Organisations

Considered -

Members of the Committee shared the following information not already covered elsewhere on the agenda:

James Shallcross from the Forestry Commission updated the committee on work to reduce the impact of ash dieback, the protection of larch plantations and the management of rhododendron.

Hugh Clear Hill from North Yorkshire County Council said that the timeline on the Minerals and Waste Plan, particularly the section relating to hydraulic fracking, would become clear once the inspector had received further information from Government.

Ryedale District Councillor Robert Wainwright said that there was currently a local protest underway at Kirby Misperton as anti-fracking protestors celebrated one year without fracking.

Hambleton District Councillor Christine Cookman said that the Hambleton DC Local Plan was on course to go to the June 2019 Cabinet.

Harry Whitehouse representing Ramblers said that he welcomed the work around increased signposting and replacement of old signposting as it would help to open up the countryside to people.

Resolved -

That the updates be noted.

137. Date of next JAC Meeting

Resolved -

That the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 7 November 2019 at 10 am. The venue of the next meeting is to be confirmed but Husthwaite Village Hall is a likely venue.

The meeting concluded at 12:20pm

DH/JR