

Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held at Hovingham Village Hall on 16 November 2017, commencing at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillor Caroline Goodrick
 Ryedale District Council: Councillor Robert Wainwright (Chairman)
 Parish Councils: Chris Stratton (Hambleton) and Sally Brown (Ryedale)
 Country Land and Business Association: Sir William Worsley
 National Farmers Union: Rebecca Hesketh
 Ramblers: Philip Catterall
 Natural England: Ailsa Kirkup

Officers:

Howardian Hills AONB team: Paul Jackson and Liz Bassindale
 North Yorkshire County Council: Peter Rowe and Kate Arscott (Secretary)
 Ryedale District Council: Howard Wallis

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

91 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of County Councillor Caroline Patmore, Hambleton District Councillor Christine Cookman, Jim Smith of the Forestry Commission, Liz Small of North Yorkshire County Council and Jennine Nunns, Hambleton District Council

92 Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 April 2017

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2017, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

93 Matters Arising

Minute 79 – Matters Arising

The AONB Manager advised that contact was being made with Sight Support Ryedale, in place of Dementia Forward (minute 4 referred).

The new banners were now completed and on display at this meeting (minute 6 referred).

The AONB Manager had attended a meeting the previous week regarding restoration of the former fishermen's car park at Castle Howard to a state more in keeping with the surrounding parkland (minute 11 referred).

Minute 82 – AONB Unit Activity

The AONB Manager reported that Hambleton District Council had confirmed that enforcement action had been taken in relation to Sunley Woods Farm. The JAC recorded their thanks for this.

The AONB Manager also reported that he had checked the time he had spent on planning applications from January to June 2017 and it had taken 6% of his time, not 15% as previously estimated. The JAC recorded their appreciation of the time and effort put into responding to planning applications on behalf of the AONB, and the significance of this as a contribution to the planning process given the development pressures on District Councils.

Minute 85 – AONB Business Plan and Action Programme 2017/18

The AONB Manager updated that there was no progress to report currently regarding the Gilling Castle Lakes Management Plan due to other priorities for the owners. There was a possibility of bidding for funding in 2018/19 to take this forward.

94 JAC Virtual Site Tour of 2016/17 work

JAC members were given a slide presentation of examples of work undertaken in 2016/17.

95 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. This was accompanied by a slide presentation showcasing some of the work undertaken.

The AONB Officer drew particular attention to the Public Rights of Way improvement project being undertaken in conjunction with the County Council's Countryside Access Service. Although it had taken longer than hoped to get off the ground the project was now up and running. Modern apprentices from the National Park were tackling specific areas on a contract basis. All fingerposts marking where Rights of Way leave the road were now being systematically recorded photographically.

She also highlighted information-sharing with Cranborne Chase AONB in connection with the Turtle Doves project, and community consultation events in connection with the Ryevitalise Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership scheme.

Members discussed the proportion of officer time spent on education. It was stressed that the JAC was in favour of schools and young people's involvement, but that there needed to be careful consideration of the prioritisation of limited staff resources. The AONB Manager confirmed that much of the preparation work was carried out by the Arboretum, with AONB staff present on the day.

The AONB Manager reported that less work had been completed through the Monument Management Scheme than during 2016. Poor weather this year had curtailed the work, and in some cases the bracken control had either not taken place or not been effective. It was planned to take a more resilient approach next year.

He also referred to a meeting with the Police regarding the potential extension of the Ruralwatch scheme into the AONB area and advice about trespass. This would be followed up further. The NFU representative recommended that the AONB network with the active Farmwatch in the East Riding, who could provide useful advice on reporting of issues and providing information to meet Police requirements. She also

referred to a national meeting taking place in December in relation to tackling hare coursing, and invited members to provide any information they were aware of to feed into the meeting as case studies.

Members were concerned about 'crime tourism' and the role of social media, including the live streaming of anti-social activity. It was acknowledged that social media could also be a useful community tool for communicating intelligence in response to such activity.

Members of the JAC were very supportive of crime prevention and deterrent work being pursued by the AONB in a facilitation role.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

96 JAC Planning Consultations

Members noted the comments submitted on behalf of the AONB relating to planning applications since April 2017.

97 AONB Indicators

Members noted a report detailing performance against selected indicators used to measure AONB performance annually. It was noted that Defra was now taking more of an interest in developing new Key Performance Indicators for AONBs.

The AONB Manager provided updated information in relation to indicators 4 and 5 to reflect the total amount spent by the unit, including the use of reserves:

4b – now 96%
4c – now £171,000
5a – now £249,952
5b – now 47% and 21%

Resolved

That the Performance Indicator results contained in Appendix 1 and the updated information above be noted.

98 AONB Budget

Members noted a report detailing final income and expenditure during 2016/17, setting out the current position with the 2017/18 budget and considering the anticipated budgetary requirement for 2018/19.

The AONB Manager reported that there had been a 9% underspend in 2016/17 mostly in relation to projects. The AONB call on reserves had not been as high as anticipated and reserves stood at £71k, with around £4k allocated for 2017/18. 182 volunteer days had been achieved with a value of £10.2k.

The 2017/18 budget was on track, and the AONB Manager also reported that it had been agreed to aim to reduce the reserves balance to around £40k over a period of time, which was felt to be a more appropriate level to reflect the AONB's ongoing liabilities.

For 2018/19 it was proposed to increase staffing, for one year only, to provide an additional day per week in support of the preparation of the new management plan and to deliver a sustained level of project work.

Resolved

- a) The details of the JAC expenditure during 2016/17 be received for information
- b) Partner authorities be asked to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets for the work of the JAC in 2018/19, in line with Appendix 2 and section 4 of the report.

99 AONB Management Plan Review

The AONB Manager presented a report outlining the suggested programme for reviewing the AONB Management Plan. The Management Plan was a statutory plan which provided the framework for the delivery of the constituent Local Authorities' statutory duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated landscape.

The new plan would cover the period 2019-2024 and the review timetable was set out in the appendix to the report. Members queried whether there was the need to revise the JAC's meeting timetable to enable discussion of the Plan. However the AONB Manager indicated that consultation with JAC members had moved from a dedicated meeting to a virtual process over a longer timeframe.

It was anticipated that AONB Management Plans would become more important for Defra moving forward post Brexit and for the delivery of agri-environment schemes. Members looked forward to more information on the future direction being available from Defra with the anticipated publication of its 25 year plan. The AONB Manager confirmed that, in common with many organisations, the National Association of AONBs were seeking to work with Defra to help shape the development of the Plan.

Resolved

That the suggested timetable for the AONB Management Plan review as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved and implemented.

100 National Association for AONBs Activity

The Committee received an update on activity by the National Association for AONBs. The AONB Manager briefed the Committee that he was part of a small national working group involved in looking at new Key Performance Indicators for AONBs to put forward to Defra. It was expected that these would align with the themes of the Defra 25 year plan

It was noted that Outstanding Week – the national celebration of AONBs – took place in September and included walks organised by the Ramblers and events at Yorkshire Arboretum.

101 Reports from Partner Organisations

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

Natural England

There was a possibility of funding for heathland restoration. Ailsa Kirkup agreed to contact the AONB Manager with details.

National Farmers Union

Rebecca Hesketh reported that the farmers' update meeting had been very well received and showed the level of interest.

Ramblers

Phil Catterall reported on very positive joint working with the Countryside Access Team in relation to Rights of Way issues.

Hambleton Parishes

Chris Stratton queried whether the Forestry Commission were planning to plant deciduous trees as part of the work at Wass Bank and the AONB Manager confirmed that he believed that was the case.

He also asked about road safety advice and equipment for volunteer parish working parties. Sally Brown indicated that the local County Council highways area office had provided helpful advice for Ryedale groups and the District Council had provided equipment.

Ryedale District Council

Howard Wallis reported that public consultation was currently taking place on the Ryedale District Council Local Plan Sites Document, prior to submission for public examination. Once adopted this would complete the Ryedale Local Plan.

He also reported on the formation in July of the A64 Partnership, bringing together the County Council, Ryedale District Council, Scarborough Borough Council, City of York Council and businesses to put pressure on Highways England and government in relation to improvements and to achieve the maximum amount of dualling of the A64 from Hopgrove to Malton. The Local Enterprise Partnership was collating evidence. The AONB would have a role in regard to future plans and consultations. The AONB Manager commented that the new Management Plan would need to take account of this work.

102 Dates of next JAC Meetings

Resolved

That the next meetings of the Joint Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 19 April and Thursday 15 November 2018 at 10am at Hovingham Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 12.05pm

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