



**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum**  
**Held on Tuesday 19 May 2009**  
**Yoredale, Bainbridge**

Present: Michael Bartholomew (MB) – Chair, David Bartlett (DB), Jon Beavan (JB), Andrew Colley (AC), David Gibson (DG), Michael Kenyon (MK), Ken Miller (KM), Jerry Pearlman (JP), Malcolm Petyt (MP), Alistair Thompson (AT), Paul Tibbatts (PT), Pat Whelan (PWh), Phillip Woodyer (PW), Rob Mayo (RM).

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Rachel Briggs (RB) – LAF Secretary, Kathryn Beardmore (KB), Jon Avison (JA), Steve Hastie (SH).

The meeting started at 6.00pm.

**1. Welcome**

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Peter Bradfield (PB), Stephen Butcher (SB) and Guy Keating (GK).

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.**

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

MB informed members that he had attended the spring meeting of the Dales Volunteers to thank them for all their work with the open access infrastructure survey.

MB had written to Natural England with a response from the YDAF to the national trails consultations. He expressed in his letter members' concern that the YDAF was not consulted directly. No reply had been received to date.

#### 4. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

#### 5. Future Forum Meetings

##### Dates of meetings

There was a discussion about the timing of the meetings. It was agreed that since there were no members of the public attending evening meetings, and as this was the primary reason for having meetings in the evening, all meetings would now take place during the day.

**All future meetings of the YDAF to take place during the day.**

JB asked that one meeting per year be preceded by an optional site visit. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

**One meeting per year to include an optional morning site visit.**

RB informed members that the next LAF meeting was on 22 September at 1.15pm at Hudswell Village Hall (Swaledale). The following meeting will be in early February 2010.

##### Future Agenda Items

MB asked members to send any items for future agendas to RB or MB.

**Members to send any future agenda items to RB or MB**

#### 6. Access and Technology

JB gave a very informative presentation on the progression of technology in access including latest GPS technology, Memory Map etc. This raised a lot of discussion with members regarding the technology.

#### 7. The Three Peaks Project

SH gave a presentation on the Three Peak Project. Questions were asked with regards to the liaison with local businesses. SH explained to members that the same presentation had been given to the local communities to introduce the project, and that businesses had been included in an open invitation. JB suggested other marketing ideas could be explored other than walking the three peaks e.g. photography of the three peaks, archaeology of the three peaks etc. SH said he would take on board this suggestion.

## **8. Report back from Advisory Groups and Other Meetings**

### Access on Foot Advisory Group

DG presented the minutes of the Access on Foot Advisory Group.

MP raised the issue of permissive routes and how to find out information about them. JB said that the problem was that information on access agreements is not always publicly available eg permissive agreements through agri-environment schemes weren't easy to find. He added that he thought the YDAF should be telling the YDNPA to seek ways to publicise the information. AH said he would look into the issue and bring details to the next meeting.

**AH to look into the publicising of permissive routes and report back to the September meeting of the YDAF.**

### Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The minutes from the last meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group were circulated at the meeting. KM presented the minutes.

KM brought members attention to page 5 of the minutes (any other business) and the issue regarding public access to MoD land at Hudswell. KM asked for the support of the full LAF in raising this as an issue for the YDNPA to take forward. Support from the YDAF was given. JA said he would, personally, look into it and asked PWh to send him the history of the issue.

**PWh to speak to JA with regards to access to MoD land at Hudswell.**

KM then raised the issue of funding of Unclassified County Roads (UCRs) and the poor upkeep of the unsealed road network. MB asked if it would help if the YDAF wrote to the two County Councils asking them to put more money into their maintenance. KB told members the LAF can give advice to the County Councils in the same way they can offer advice to the YDNPA. KB reminded the LAF that there had been a working group to look at this issue in North Yorkshire, lead by Doug Huzzard, and that members may wish to seek information via this group first.

**MB and PW to write to officers at NYCC to finds out what has happened to the Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads Working Group and to invite Mr Huzzard to a future LAF meeting to explain NYCC's policy on UCRs.**

## **9. Integrated Access Strategy**

KB presented a paper on the review of the Integrated Access Strategy. Before posing specific questions, she asked for general comments on what members thought of the existing strategy. AT said he was very impressed with the overall document and that the

basics were sound. He did, however, think that it needed updating as it is not very user-friendly. JB agreed that the title needed to be changed. He suggested not using the word 'tourism' as people are moving away from this, as it has negative connotations.

KB asked a series of questions to encourage discussion amongst members eg what had LAF members found most useful in the current strategy and what they would like to see in the new strategy? MP said he felt that this was a difficult question to answer as it appeared most members had still not seen a copy of the document.

JP said that the document should state why people come to the Yorkshire Dales eg history, nature conservation, landscape conservation etc.

AC asked who the document is aimed at. KB said that the audience was user groups and interested parties who want to know the YDNPA policies on certain topics.

DB suggested that, if the document is downloadable, that it could be updated as and when policies change and would, therefore, not need to have a specific date to it. KB explained that all policies need to be agreed by members before being adopted and so a clear process for up-dating was required.

JB said he had found it to be a very useful document in the past. He suggested it be rewritten but without losing the content. He thought there was scope to develop some topics such as Europarc, the Three Peaks Project and sustainable tourism.

AC suggested peace and quiet be adopted as a guiding principle. KB said this was a good idea, as a 'tranquillity' principle.

JB asked if the strategy would be covering policies outside the remit of the YDNPA e.g. quiet lanes. KB confirmed that such issues could be covered, but it was foremost a policy document for YDNPA so where aspects were out of the YDNPA remit it would suggest a partnership approach.

MB suggested a way forward for members would be for everyone to go away and read the strategy and then each answer the questions put forward from KB. KB said that she was working to a very tight schedule and that comments would have to reach her by 29 May. She added that members should make it clear that these comments would be coming from them each as individuals and that at a later date a full YDAF response would be sought on the consultation draft.

<b>All members to send comments on the Integrated Access Strategy to KB by 29 May 2009.</b>
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## **10. Secretary's Report**

RB presented a report of items for Members' consideration and information. These were:

- Access Committee dates and venues.
- CROW Act restrictions and exclusions.
- Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership.
- Registration of common land website.

- English Access Forum.
- Members' expenses.
- Yorkshire Dales Access Forum induction.
- Rights of way annual report.

### CROW Act restrictions and exclusions

AH informed members that twenty six restriction applications had been received during the past week. These were mainly for dog restrictions. AH congratulated the Access Technician on her handling of the restrictions.

### English Access Forum

JP noted that there were various documents referenced within the minutes of the English Access Forum that he had not seen. RB agreed to circulate the details of the documents to all members.

**RB to circulate details of supplementary documents to the English Access Forum minutes.**

### Other business

Members approved the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum annual report for 2008/09.

PT asked if there had been any progress with the TRO court hearing. JA told members that the provisional dates for the high court hearing were 2-3 June and that it would be held in Leeds.

JB informed members that the 'Fix the Fells' project in the Lake District had come under some criticism due to the heavy engineering works carried out to some routes. JB asked officers what their response will be if the debate comes to the Yorkshire Dales. KB said that each route is assessed individually and that in some cases the management techniques required maybe heavy engineering works if the route is to sustain certain types of use in the longer term. However this is never an easy choice to make, as engineering is likely to effect the natural beauty of the area through which the route passes.

## **12. Update on members activities**

MB told members that some members had attended the joint North Yorkshire LAF event in March which had gone well. RB's presentation on disabled access had been particularly enlightening.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm