

North York Moors National Park

c/o Local Access Forum Secretary,
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YORK
YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Tuesday 8 September 2009.

PRESENT: Mr J Bateman, Mr P Cody, Mrs C Cook, Mrs C Cussons, Mr D Hanson, Mrs J King, Lady E Kirk, Mr M Knaggs, Mr D Leyshon, Mrs N Taylor, S Scoffin, Mr G Winn Darley

Mr D Hanson in the Chair.

Apologies: Mr J Cavana, Mr P Hay, Mrs M Mitchell

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

The Chair welcomed back Cllr Knaggs and welcomed Mr Scoffin as Member representative from the National Park Authority.

30/09 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2009 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31/09 **Matters Arising**

a) Proactive LAF Members

The Chair thanked Mrs Mitchell in her absence for providing information and noted that items on the agenda such as the LTP3 was a proactive opportunity.

b) Lottery Funding

A Forum Members questioned whether it was possible to receive funding from Sports England. It was confirmed that this was not possible at present due to the Olympics. The Director of Recreation and Park Management confirmed that the National Park Authority would be recruiting a part time external funding officer in the near future

A Forum Member confirmed that as yet no chair had been found for the North Yorks Local Access Forum meeting.

32/09 **Forestry Commission Strategic Policy Consultation**

Paul Cody presented this item.

Mr Cody reported that the Secretary of State has requested the Forestry Commission look at the public forest estate and carry out a public consultation to see if the organisation is achieving what it wants to achieve. A number of stakeholder meetings have been organised but this has been done by the Secretary of State. An online questionnaire is available and it is requested that the Local Access Forum as a group submit one response.

A Forum Member noted that it was a wide ranging consultation document which the group should complete collectively. It was also noted that Regional Access Forums and the England Access Forum would also be responding.

RESOLVED:

That:

- a. A copy of the smaller questionnaire be completed by each Forum Member.
- b. The Head of Recreation and Access compile the responses, complete the on-line questionnaire for the Chair to look at before being sent.

33/09 **Verbal Update on Moorsbus Review**

The Director of Recreation and Park Management gave a presentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made the following comments:

- Potential problem if Sutton Bank became closed.
- Timetable has improved and pleased it now links with other services.
- Possible marketing required to target teenagers.
- Had cycle carriers been looked into?
- The service from Hull, does it always go via York?
- Sample timetable could be included in Moors Messenger.
- Commend service.

The Head of Recreation and Park Management answered as follows:

- A cycle carrier may be used for the new service from Scarborough to Dalby Forest.
- Only one service goes via York from Hull, the majority go direct from Hull to the feeder centre at Pickering.
- The Review had yet to be approved by Members.

RESOLVED:

That Members fully supported the service and the review.

34/09 **Local Transport Plan – LTP3**

The Head of Recreation and Access outlined the report in the agenda.

Members made the following comments:

- No mention of horse related activity.
- Concern at NYCC prioritising DMMO applications that meet ROWIP targets.
- Document welcomed.
- Why the sudden influx in 'bend' road signs?

RESOLVED:

That:

- a. Members noted NYCC progress with LTP3.
- b. Agreed that the Head of Recreation and Access would compile a response to be signed by the Chair.
- c. The Head of Recreation and Access to find out more information on the 'bend' signs.

35/09 Verbal Summary of LAF chair election process

The Director of Recreation and Park Management thanked Mr Winn-Darley and Mr Hanson for their hard work in chairing the meetings.

The Director of Recreation and Park Management commented as follows:

- No job description existed
- The Chair needs to manage the meetings.
- The Chair has an important role in representing all views of the Forum Members.

The Director of Recreation and Park Management noted that in the future the Chair would have the benefit of Legal and Code of Conduct training and a meeting with the Chief Executive and Chair of the Authority.

A Forum Member noted that it was not best practice for the Chair to be an Authority representative.

36/09 Monitoring of Performance Indicators

The Director of Recreation and Park Management outlined the report in the agenda. A Forum Member congratulated the upgrade of a track which they had used on a Pony Club group ride.

A Forum Member had forwarded a question, as to why the length of footpaths had been reduced? The Director of Recreation and Park Management confirmed that this was because some were upgraded to bridleways and so the length of bridleways has increased.

RESOLVED:

That Members noted the performance against the headline indicators for 2008/9.

37/09 Report back from the National Park Authority

- Mr Scoffin gave a verbal update.
- Review of the Ranger and Field Services has been completed and Bernie McLinden had been appointed as Head of Park Management. Naomi Dillon has been appointed as Senior Ranger for the Northern Area.

- The Authority have produced a 'Walking with Dogs' Guidance Leaflet which is available in hard copy or on the website, where 20 suggested walks will be found.
- A field services depot now exists at Castleton, it is also being used by volunteers and the Cleveland Way Maintenance Ranger.
- Field Work – New bridges at Grinkle Park and Ellerbeck on an open access walk from, Newtondale to Goathland; bridleway works at Gormire, erosion maintenance on Cleveland Way.

A Forum Member asked what was been done about moorland path overgrown by heather. The Director of Recreation and Park Management confirmed that this was included in a larger programme of work and that Rangers used their judgement in discussion with the landowner as to which paths should be waymarked or flail mown.

The Head of Recreation and Access noted that a lot of requests had been received this year asking for moorland paths to be defined.

RESOLVED:

That a paper on guidance for determining which paths to define/upgrade would be brought to the next meeting.

38/09 Alley-gating in Redcar and Cleveland

The Head of Recreation and Access circulated information received from Redcar and Cleveland at the Meeting.

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred until the next meeting.

39/09 Coastal Change Consultation June 2009

The Head of Recreation and Access outlined the consultation document circulated with the agenda.

Members made the following comments:

- The Coastal Forum is a more appropriate group to comment on the document.
- Points not addressed include, cliff top paths disappearing and not being restored; access paths to beaches.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Recreation and Access to draft a response to be signed by the Chair with a copy being forwarded to the convenor of the Coastal Forum.

40/09 Times Newspaper Mosaic Article "Another Country"

A Forum Member noted that the Mosaic Project was to be rolled out to all National Parks within England and Wales.

RESOLVED:

That the article be noted.

41/09 Natural England: Open Access Briefing Note

In answer to a question from a Forum Member the Head of Recreation and Access confirmed that no answer had yet been given with regards to Section 15 land.

42/09 **DEFRA Newsletter**

RESOLVED:

That the newsletter be noted.

43/09 **Secretary of State's Guidance on Local access Forums in England**

RESOLVED:

That the guidance be noted.

44/09 **England Access Forum Minutes from 30 June 2009**

A Forum Member confirmed that they had not attended the last meeting and therefore did not know the outcome of discussions on hard surfacing of all cycle routes.

The Director of Recreation and Park Management confirmed that the Authority is working closely with Scarborough Borough Council on 'Future Jobs Fund' and the 'Groundwork Trust' with regards to the old railway line from Scarborough to Whitby.

A Forum Member noted that a vast number of cyclists did not want all routes tarmaced.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

45/09 **Yorkshire and Humber Regional Access Forum Minutes from 25 March 2009**

A Forum Member confirmed that they had attended the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

46/09 **North East England Regional Access Forum**

A Forum Member noted that a review of the working of the group was taking place at present.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be noted.

47/09 **Technical Publications Received**

RESOLVED:

That Members noted the publications could be obtained in hard copy or electronically from the Forum Secretary.

48/09 **Items for Future Meetings**

- Draft Guidance on Moorland Paths
- Gating Orders – Alley Gating

- Dogs on Leads

49/09 **Other Business**

The Chairman ruled that the following items could be considered as a matter of urgency, in order;

- a) That Members could be updated on dogs and cattle.

A Forum Member noted that at the last meeting of North Yorkshire LAF Members discussed the possibility of not allowing people with dogs on leads into fields with cattle.

RESOLVED:

That dogs and cattle conflicts should be added as an item for future meetings.