



**Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum**  
**Held on Tuesday 15 October 2013**  
**Yoredale, Bainbridge**

Present: Andrew Colley (AC), David Gibson (DG), Neil Heseltine (NH), Alex Law (AL), Stuart Monk (SM), John Richardson (JR), Jonathan Smith (JS), Sara Spillett (SS), Alistair Thompson (AT), Pat Whelan (PWh), Phillip Woodyer (PW).

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Rachel Briggs (RB) – LAF Secretary, Julie Barker (JMB), Tracey Lambert (TL), David Butterworth (DB), Peter Charlesworth (PC).

The meeting started at 1.20pm.

**1. Welcome**

PW welcomed David Butterworth, Chief Executive of the YDNPA, and Peter Charlesworth, Chairman of the YDNPA, to the meeting. PW then asked all members to introduce themselves.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Jon Beavan (JB), Jerry Pearlman (JP), Nick Thwaite (NT), Kevin Lancaster (KL) Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong (JMA)

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Page 5, item 12: JR asked that the initials JG be changed to JR.

Page 6, item 13: DG noted a spelling mistake in the third paragraph. The sentence should read 'to let your dog go when under attack'.

Page 6, item 13: AL asked that the minutes to be amended to read that it was AT who had concluded that the YDNPA were doing all they could.

Page 7, item 15: AC asked that the minutes be amended to read 'AC attended a local Parish Council meeting in Threshfield'.

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

### Matters Arising from the Minutes

SS apologised that she hadn't had chance to amend the woodland creation guidelines as discussed at the meeting in June. However, she did circulate a reworked document and asked that this be taken up at the next meeting when members had had chance to read it. SS added that this would be her last meeting and, therefore, she would not be present to lead on the discussion. DG agreed to take the paper away and bring it to the January meeting as an item for discussion.

#### **4. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

#### **5. Future Forum Meetings**

##### Dates of meetings

Dates for meetings of the YDAF during 2014 are as follows:

Tuesday 28 January 2014, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge

Tuesday 20 May 2014, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge

Tuesday 30 September 2014, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge

##### Future Agenda Items

Suggested future agenda items put forward by members include:

- Definitive map for North Yorkshire.
- Woodland creation guidelines.

#### **6. Chairman's Feedback**

PW informed members that RB would be leaving on maternity leave in a weeks time. RB's replacement has been appointed. His name is Mohammed Dhalech (MD) and he has a background in equalities and youth work. He is also a member of the Lake District LAF. Mohammed starts work in post on 21 October 2013 and his email address will be [Mohammed.dhalech@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:Mohammed.dhalech@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

PW thanked DB and PC for coming along to the meeting and told members that the purpose was to improve relations between the YDAF and the YDNPA. PW asked both to give some idea as to how they saw relations between the two.

DB explained to members that he had had a meeting with PC, PW, AT and officers from the YDNPA to discuss the matter and that it had been useful to have such an open and frank look at relationships between the YDNPA and the YDAF. His understanding was that the issue had come to a head due to the incorrect consultation with the YDAF on the

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Cam Woodland planning application where the YDAF's views were not considered correctly at Planning Committee. His view was that the YDAF's view should be part of the deliberation on planning issues concerning access and that the role of the YDAF should be clear to both Planning Committee and the full National Park Authority. DB added that he would be giving feedback on the issue to members at next full Authority meeting in December. He thanked members for inviting himself and PC to the meeting and thought it was a positive step in establishing a more informal level of communication between the two and asked members to let him know if they felt the relationship breaking down in the future.

PC endorsed all that DB had said and stated that the key factors were communication and consultation. He added that he will continue to attend meetings where he can.

There was then a discussion on the consultation with YDAF members on planning applications. TL informed members that a mechanism was now in place whereby planning officers identified those applications that contained access issues and then RB determined whether they needed to be circulated to members.

DB said that there was also a mechanism in place whereby members of the NPA who sat on groups were to report back to the full Authority by way of a report. He added that in the YDAF's case, the member champion Nick Thwaite, should be carrying out this duty. JS said he was unsure what the role of the member champion was and asked for this to be confirmed. DB suggested that this be an agenda item at the next meeting of the YDAF.

<b>The role of the Recreation Management Member Champion on the agenda of the next meeting of the YDAF.</b>
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DB and PC were thanked for their contribution to the meeting.

### **7. Feedback from the Recreation Management Member Champion**

NT was absent from the meeting.

### **8. Report back from the Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups**

#### **Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group**

AL presented the minutes of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group. He said that the group appeared to be focussing on equestrian use of the network in the northern dales and that more mountain bikers were needed to keep the balance. SM said he may have a contact and said he would pass it on to AL.

#### **Access for All Advisory Group**

PW presented the minutes of the Access for All Advisory Group and added that it was a positive meeting.

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There was a discussion with regards to the Wensleydale Railway as the accessibility of Aysgarth had been a topic of discussion at the meeting. AL suggested a way to open a further stretch of the railway would be to purchase one of the redundant bridges from the old A1. DG thought this was a great idea and suggested writing to the Wensleydale Railway to make the suggestion and to let them know that the YDAF supported the wider work they are doing.

**PW to write to the Wensleydale Railway to support their work on opening up the railway and to suggest the purchase of redundant bridges from the old A1.**

DG noted that Threshfield Quarry was to be an agenda item at a future meeting and asked if the Access for All Advisory Group needed any help from the Access on Foot Advisory Group. PW said that the route was already open to those on foot and that the issues were more toward those with mobility issues. AC said that he was a member of the Threshfield Quarry Trust and that he would raise the access issues with them.

**AC to speak to the Threshfield Quarry Trust about the access issues at the site.**

### **9. Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy**

RB presented the Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy (CCAS) and asked for comments.

AC thought that there were some good ideas within the strategy and added that it needed to be open due to the potential cuts.

AT wondered if the figures within Part 2 of were achievable. AH said that they had been worked out very carefully and that the three Authorities were confident that they could be achieved.

DB added that Cumbria County Council are becoming more interested in the work of the YDNPA and that he would be attending a meeting to discuss shared areas of work. He suggested that any further comments be passed to RB/MD so that these could form part of the discussion.

### **10. Boundary Review**

DB gave a verbal repost on the Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary review.

He told members that he had attended the public enquiry earlier in the year and he found it fascinating. The advice of the inspector has now gone to Owen Patterson, Secretary of State, and once the advice has been taken, it will become public. A decision is expected by the end of the calendar year.

DB added that the future funding for the boundary review has not yet been decided but that it was not feasible to continue with the extended area on the same financial settlement.

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AL asked what the opinion was of the landowners in the proposed new area. DB said that the general consensus was positive apart from in the Barbondale area where there is strong opposition from landowners.

JS wondered if anything had been mentioned about the name as many people see it as an important issue. DB said that it hadn't been part of the public enquiry but he agreed the National Park needed to be branded accordingly.

PW thanked DB for his informative presentation.

### **11. Tour de France**

TL gave members an update on the Tour de France.

SS said, from what she has seen and heard, the coverage on the National Park's input has been really positive and urged officers to 'keep up the good work'. She added that she had heard about a ladies tour the day before the race and asked if this were true. TL said she had heard nothing on this but that she would find out.

<b>TL to find out if there is a ladies tour planned prior to the Tour de France</b>
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### **12. Secretary's Report**

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

- Authority Meeting Dates and Venues.
- Meetings of the YDAF for 2014.
- YDAF membership.
  - RB added that this would be the last meeting of SS and thanked her for her work over the past three years.
- Appointment of YDAF members.
  - SS said that the advert for new members should go on the YDNPA's website under recruitment. RB agreed to add this to the web page.
  - DB added that the YDNPA would be looking for new members at the end of the year and that one area that was lacking was members with access and recreation interests.
- Meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional LAF
  - RB asked for two members to attend the meeting in Leeds on 21 March 2014.
- National Trails.
  - AH gave an update on the review of National Trails. He told members that the YDNPA and the North Pennines AONB had bid to be the lead partner for both the Pennine Way and the Pennine Bridleway.
- Fencing on Bluecaster and Grisedale Common.
- LARA – Byway Code.
- YDAF Annual Review.

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- RB told members that the YDNPA would no longer be producing an old style annual report and that this was the preferred reporting method by Natural England.
- Letter to LAFs from Richard Benyon.

### Any other business

#### Turbury Road

SM raised an issue with an unclassified unsurfaced road (UUR), Turbury Road, which was currently blocked and was displaying a misleading sign. The landowner thinks the route is following the wrong line and the matter has been raised with NYCC.

SM asked NH, as a landowner, if farm payments are affected when routes of access are poached. NH said that payments would be reduced but that there was a real need to establish the rights and wrongs of the situation before discussing single farm payments.

AH said he had been in the loop on this issue and that he had had a response from Doug Huzzard of NYCC. The route is a UUR with a minimum access right on foot. Higher rights need to be proved. AH then asked what the YDAF would like to happen on the issue.

SM said the next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green lanes Advisory Group (YDGLAG) was not until mid 2014 and that he felt the issue needed to be resolved before then.

NH suggested he look at the route with SM and bring it back to the next meeting of the YDAF. AC thought this was a good idea but thought it would be better to ask NYCC to verify the correct route and status before any site visit.

AH suggested the YDAF write to NYCC to establish the route and status, the result of which may require a site visit by NH and SM who can then establish whether or not a special meeting of the YDGLAG is required.

**PW to write to Doug Huzzard from NYCC to establish to the route and status of the Turbury Road before deciding on where a site visit by NH and SM is required and/or a special meeting of the YDGLAG is necessary.**

### **15. Update on members activities**

Members had nothing to add.

The meeting closed at 3.55pm