

Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee

The Minutes of the meeting held at Hovingham Village Hall on 19 April 2018, commencing at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

North Yorkshire County Council: County Councillor Caroline Goodrick
 Ryedale District Council: Councillors Robert Wainwright (Chairman) and Fiona Farnell
 Hambleton District Council: Councillor Christine Cookman
 Parish Councils: Chris Stratton (Hambleton)
 Country Land and Business Association: Sir William Worsley
 Forestry Commission: James Shallcross
 Ramblers: Harry Whitehouse

Officers:

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

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

103 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of County Councillor Caroline Patmore, Sally Brown (Ryedale Parish Councils), Jim Smith (Forestry Commission) and Rebecca Hesketh (National Farmers Union). Members noted that Harry Whitehouse had replaced Philip Catterall as the Ramblers representative.

104 Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 November 2017

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

105 Matters Arising

Minute 82 – AONB Unit Activity

The AONB Manager provided an update on enforcement action and a subsequent further planning application in relation to Sunley Woods Farm, Husthwaite. It was noted that, as of the previous week, the caravans had not yet been moved to the approved area and the local councillor had been made aware of the situation. This would be reported back to Hambleton District Council.

Minute 95 – AONB Unit Activity

The AONB Manager reported that a meeting about Ruralwatch was due to take place at Hovingham Village Hall on 25 April. All local farmers and parish councils had been invited and speakers were attending from the Police and National Farmers Union.

106 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 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 8 November 2017 to 8 April 2018

Appendix 2 - full details of the wide range of projects that the AONB had assisted during the year

Appendix 3 - details of the consultations that the JAC had received during the year

Appendix 4 – full details of the activities and attendance for the 2017-18 Junior Rangers activity sessions

Members commented on how good the wall at Grimston looked.

The Committee noted the partnership working with North Yorkshire County Council Countryside Access Service in relation to Rights of Way. It was noted that the AONB funded the 'enhanced' element of signage. The value of the apprenticeship scheme which provides up to 6 weeks of work for £3,000 was welcomed. The AONB Officer agreed to check whether the team still had any signage discs available for permissive paths.

The AONB Manager clarified the policy in relation to the choice of metal or wood when replacing gates, with a preference for wood in rural areas, but each location being considered on a case by case basis.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

107 Development within the AONB

Members considered a report from the AONB Manager giving details of the number and type of planning applications determined within the AONB during 2017. The report outlined the main conclusions to be drawn from the applications scrutinised over the past year. It was noted that, whilst there had been more development activity than in 2016, it had still been a relatively quiet year, particularly in the Hambleton villages. This continued to be an unpredictable area of workload for the team.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

108 AONB Action Programme 2017/18

Members considered a report on progress made on implementing the AONB Management Plan during 2017/18. A detailed summary of progress against each objective was provided in an annex circulated separately to the agenda. 82% of targets were fully achieved; 4% were 25-75% achieved; 6% were less than 25% achieved; and 8% were not progressed at all.

Progress was reported under the headings of:

- The ecosystem approach
- Natural environment
- Historic environment
- Local communities
- Agriculture
- Forestry and woodland
- Development and the rural economy
- Roads, transport and traffic management
- Recreation, access and tourism
- Awareness and promotion
- Implementation
- Monitoring
- National Association for AONBs
- Management Plan

The Committee noted that volunteers had supported 17 projects or tasks, providing at least 139 days assistance.

Resolved

That the achievements against targets for 2017/18 be noted.

109 AONB Business Plan and Action Programme 2018/19

Members considered a report on proposed activity to implement the AONB Management Plan during 2018/19. A detailed set of proposed targets against each objective was provided in an annex circulated separately to the agenda.

The AONB Manager presented the key areas of proposed activity for the forthcoming year, which would include a major focus on the review of the AONB Management Plan.

Resolved

That the targets for 2018/19 as contained in the Action Programme be approved.

110 AONB Management Plan Review

Members considered a report on the progress of the AONB Management Plan review and next steps. A detailed review timetable was set out in the appendix to the report.

Resolved

That the progress and next steps be noted.

111 Defra Consultation: The Future for Food, Farming and the Environment in a Green Brexit

Members considered a report giving selected details of the Government's recent consultation paper, released in February, following the publication of the 25 Year Environment Plan in January. Appendix 1 provided a summary of the key points of the consultation paper, prepared by High Weald AONB. Given that agriculture is fundamental to the character of the AONB because of its inextricable link to sustainable land management, the JAC was invited to discuss and comment on the relevant sections of the consultation paper.

The JAC was specifically invited to consider any points which it wished to be input to a response by the National Association for AONBs, and to consider whether to also submit a separate Howardian Hills AONB JAC response.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Concern about the lack of replacement for ADAS as a national free advice service
- The significance of soil health issues, and also the requirement for more education on this issue
- The impact on smaller farms, such as typify this area, as kit tends to get bigger
- Field margin and hedgerow management
- Public access
- Conversion of land from food production to crops used for alternative functions (eg maize for biogas electricity generators)
- Funding issues and profitability/viability with regard to the Basic Payment Scheme
- Lack of capital and infrastructure investment
- The role of forestry
- Costs associated with livestock farming, especially beef and sheep and the impact on the environment and landscape if animals are not present

Resolved

- (a) That the points raised in discussion be submitted for input to a National Association for AONBs response.
- (b) That the AONB Manager also submits a separate Howardian Hills AONB JAC response.

112 National Association for AONBs Activity

The Committee received an update on activity by the National Association for AONBs, covering the following topics:

- NAAONB Chairman's Conference
- Landscapes for Life 2017 Annual Report
- Latest News
- A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment
- AONB Lead Officers' Meeting

Resolved

That the activities be noted.

113 Reports from Partner Organisations

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

Hambleton District Council

Councillor Cookman reported on proposals to take on additional planning staff to address workload, particularly in relation to enforcement activity.

North Yorkshire County Council

Liz Small reported that the final session of the independent examination of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan had taken place the previous week, and the Inspector's final report was awaited. Members shared feedback from the examination sessions, including the robust approach to buffer and visual sensitivity zones.

Ryedale District Council

Howard Wallis reported that the Ryedale District Plan had been submitted for independent examination, which would probably take place over the summer.

Forestry Commission

James Shallcross drew Members' attention to a Yorkshire Tree Health event being held on 30 April in Bingley. Places were still available.

Ramblers

Harry Whitehouse reported on the rights of way monitoring scheme set up by Ryedale Ramblers, with the aim to have a representative for each parish. 50% coverage had already been achieved and Parish Clerks were being contacted to try and expand this.

114 Date of next JAC Meeting

Resolved

That, following a request that the date be changed to avoid a clash with the North York Moors National Park Authority's Planning Committee, the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 22 November 2018 at 10am at Hovingham Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 12.05pm

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