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## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd November, 2016 at 2.00 pm in  
Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell Country Park PR3 2NL**

### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

#### **Committee Members**

Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council  
County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association  
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council  
Councillor Ian Thompson, Craven District Council  
Councillor Val Wilson, Wyre Borough Council  
Helen Dix, Environment Agency  
Michael Helm, LALCDavid Kelly, Ramblers Association  
Marilyn Pilkington, Friends of Bowland  
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum  
Barrie Tyrer, Bowland Experience Limited

#### **Officers**

Jayne Ashe, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit, Graduate Trainee  
Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council  
Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Elliott Lorimer, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
David Padley, Lancashire County Council  
Alex Shutt, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Sarah Robinson, Bowland Haytime Officer and AONB Biodiversity Lead  
Tom Wiggans, Preston City Council  
Mike Williams, Pendle Borough Council  
Cath Rawcliffe, Legal and Democratic Services

#### **Apologies**

County Councillor Kevin Ellard, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Councillor Jane Parkinson, Lancaster City Council  
Jeremy Duckworth, The Moorland Association  
David Porter, Lancaster City Council  
Liz Small, North Yorkshire County Council

## **1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

**Resolved:** County Councillor Albert Atkinson and County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year.

## **2. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, welcomed all to the meeting. Round the table introductions were made and members of the public were welcomed.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

## **Presentation**

The Chair of the Committee presented Tarja Wilson and Dave Padley of the Forest of Bowland AONB Unit with the National Association of AONB 'Landscapes for Life' long service awards.

The Committee joined with the Chair in thanking both Tarja and Dave for their long and valuable service and wished them well for the future.

## **3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None declared.

## **4. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference**

**Resolved:** The Committee approved the Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference for 2016/2017.

## **5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 April 2016**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2016 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

## **6. AONB Partner Updates**

A number of AONB Partners provided verbal updates regarding activities taking place in the Forest of Bowland including:

### **Wyre Borough Council:**

Alison Boden informed the meeting of the various initiatives and activities taking place in the Wyre area of Bowland. These included working with young people from Lancaster and

Morecambe College to help improve access and habitats along the River Wyre. The Council had also enlisted the help of the Ramblers Association to identify and report on issues associated with public rights of way.

Photographs were circulated showing examples of the work carried out by volunteers.

Plans for the next Garstang Walking Festival were well underway, with around 50 walks and events having been organised. The Festival dates will be 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

#### **Craven District Council:**

Councillor Ian Thompson described the work being undertaken by volunteers in the Lower Wharfedale area and advised that a further phase of works was planned.

#### **Friends of Bowland:**

Marilyn Pilkington informed the meeting that the 'Friends' had organised 24 practical task days which involved hedge planting, balsam clearance and woodland management etc. The 'Friends' had also organised 5 guided walks and more walks and task days were planned for 2017. It was reported that links to forthcoming activities were available on the Friends of Bowland website at <http://forestofbowland.com/Friends-Bowland>

#### **Environment Agency**

Helen Dix explained that the EA were supporting the development of a programme of improvements works across the Ribble catchment in partnership with Ribble Rivers Trust. These included fish passages, woodland and wetland management, flood risk management and an initiative linking landscape to water at various sites in the Bolton By Bowland area, including Bashall Brook and Sabden Brook

**Resolved:** That the AONB Partner updates be noted.

#### **7. Revised Estimates 2015/16 and Revenue Budget 2016/17**

Elliott Lorimer presented a report on the Revised Estimates 2016/2017 and Revenue Budget 2017/2018.

The revised estimates took account of an estimated reduction in salary costs due to the secondment of the Development and Funding Officer and additional funding which had been obtained to support the delivery of projects within the area.

Elliott also drew attention to the Revenue Budget 2017/18 on page 15 of the agenda papers.

**Resolved:** That:

- i) The 2016/17 Revised Estimates be noted.
- ii) The 2017/18 Revenue Budget as set out in the report be approved.
- iii) That the funding authorities be requested to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets.

## **8. AONB Team Activity Report**

The Committee received the AONB Unit report which provided updates on a whole range of issues and projects drawn from delivery of the AONB management plan.

In addition to the issues raised in the report, the Committee discussed the following matters:

- The plight of black grouse - It was expected that a bid would be submitted to the Lancashire Environment Fund to help fund the translocation of black grouse from their core breeding areas further north in the Pennines to Bowland.
- The Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has been working local hill farmers in Bowland to establish a Northern Hill Farmers Panel to represent upland farming at a national level and to influence government policy.
- The plight of hen harriers and Peregrine falcons - The meeting was advised that hen harriers had failed to nest successfully in Bowland in 2016. In addition, this year was the first time that Peregrine falcons had failed to nest in the Bowland in over a decade.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted

## **9. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Update**

Cathy Hopley, Development Officer, presented an update on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.

The meeting was informed of the objectives of the development phase of the project and the progress to date.

Cathy also provided an update on the current development commissions, match funding and programme and project development work.

Jayne Ashe, a graduate trainee was introduced to the Committee. The Committee heard that Jane would be assisting with the volunteering group, supporting audience development and outreach work and developing the Story Map project.

It was noted that a programme Steering Group had been set up with Cathy, Jayne and Elliott providing technical advice and support to the Partnership Board on key issues around funding and partnership working.

**Resolved:-** That the report be noted.

## **10. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved:** That future meetings of the Committee be held on the following dates:

Thursday 20 April 2017 at a Bentham Sports Pavilion, Burton in Lonsdale.

Thursday 19 October 2017 at a venue to be arranged in Ribble Valley

Cath Rawcliffe  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston