

40th Annual General Meeting of Friends of the Dales

In person Saturday 23 September 2023 at 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 pm.

Attendance: A total of 42 members including Trustees Kevin Armstrong, Kyle Blue, Mohammed Dhalech, Ken Humphris, Bruce McLeod, Ian McPherson, Jonathan Riley, Nancy Stedman, Marion Temple.

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director, Penny Lowe, Administration Officer and Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer.

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Bruce McLeod, Chair, welcome members to the AGM and introduced himself and Ann Shadrake, Executive Director. Safety notices were given. One formal question had been submitted in advance, if time informal questions will be taken after that. The meeting will close by 12:15 pm to allow time for lunch.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Dr Amy-Jane Beer, Scarlett Armstrong, Rachael Caton, Ian & Prue Harrison, David & Judith Joy, Kate Ashbrook, Nicholas Hocking, Gayle Wray, Valerie Youell, Barbara McBeth, Janice Thompson, Veronica Boulton.

124 members completed a proxy voting form.

3. **To confirm the Minutes of the 38th AGM held online on Saturday 24 September 2022**

Proposer: David Harrison

Seconder: Colin Speakman

Vote: For = unanimous

Result: motion carried

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

BML noted that everyone has had opportunity to view the minutes in advance and that no matters arising have been submitted. No matters raised in the room.

5. **Chair's Review on the Year and Report on Dales and Bowland CIC**

Presentations given by Bruce McLeod, Chair and Prof Chris Nash, Chair Dales and Bowland CIC. These will be made available after the AGM on the website.

Of special note, BML gave tribute to Wilf Fenten, Trustee, Deputy Chair and Chair of Policy & Planning Committee, who sadly passed away in early August. Fleur Speakman gave a personal memory of Wilf. A memorial event will be organised for 2024. BML extended his thanks to fellow Trustees and staff.

6. **Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts**

Ken Humphris, Trustee and Chair of Events Communication and Membership Committee presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Ian Harrison, Treasurer. No questions were raised.

Approval of the Trustees Annual Report & Accounts 2022-2023

Proposer: Mark Corner

Secunder: Mike Stephenson

Vote: Against - none

Vote: Abstain - Proxy 6

Vote: For - Proxy = 118

In the room = unanimous

Result: Motion carried

7. Election of Directors

BML noted his thanks to Kyle Blue and Marion Temple who are stepping down as Trustees this year on completion of their two consecutive terms of 3 years – i.e. 6 years as Trustees. AS led the elections for Directors. AS noted that on the proxy forms, an incomplete entry was taken as an abstention.

Ken Humphris standing for re-election for a second term of 3 years

Proposer: Rhona Thornton

Secunder: Nancy Stedman

Vote: Against - none

Vote: Abstain - Proxy 5

Vote: For

Proxy = 119

In the room = Unanimous

Result: motion carried

Mohammed Dhalech and Jonathan Riley, both co-opted by the Board at their meeting of 6 June 2023, standing for election each for a first term of 3 years.

Mohammed Dhalech

Proposer: Chris Wright

Secunder: Marion Temple

Vote: Against - none

Vote: Abstain - Proxy 10

Vote: For

Proxy = 114

In the room = unanimous

Result: motion carried

Jonathan Riley

Proposer: Ian McPherson

Secunder: Ken Humphris

Vote: Against -none

Vote: Abstain - Proxy 8

Vote: For

Proxy = 116

In the room = unanimous

Result: motion carried

AS noted that Bruce McLeod has very kindly agreed to stay on as Chair for one last year (his 5th) as Chair, on the understanding that a Trustees will continue to support and reduce his workload, whilst a successor is secured. Ian Harrison has expressed his willingness to continue in his role as Honorary Treasurer.

8. Notification of President and Vice Presidents

BML thanked our President Dr Amy-Jane Beer for her support over the past year and noted she has expressed her willingness to continue in her role for a further year. Dr Beer's appointment as President for the forthcoming year 2023-2024 was confirmed by Trustees at their recent meeting of 6 September 2023.

BML thanked the Vice Presidents – Prof Rick Battarbee, Mr Mark Corner, Mr David Joy, Dr Malcolm Petyt, Dr Colin Speakman – for their support over the year and to note that all with the exception of David Joy have been able to join us today. All five Vice Presidents were confirmed as appointed for the forthcoming year 2023-2024 by Trustees at their Board meeting on 6 September 2023.

BML announced that Marion Temple, who is stepping down this year on completion of her 6 year term as a Trustee, was appointed as a Vice President by Trustees at their Board meeting on 6 September 2023, and she has accepted that role for the coming year.

9. Notification of Honorary Members

Bruce explained that Honorary Members are individuals who have made a major contribution to the charity over a long period of time and to whom the Board wishes to award recognition of that service. They are members of the charity but, in recognition of their past service, are not required to pay membership subscriptions. They are elected by the Board annually and notified at the AGM.

In answer to a comment from the floor, AS clarified that Honorary Members are entirely separate to the paid subscription option of Life Membership, though this is of course recognised as a high level of personal endorsement to the charity's purposes. Honorary Members are recognised on an annual basis by the Board, and during their period of Honorary Membership are not required to pay any subscription fee (albeit that by co-incidence some have previously taken up Life Membership).

BML noted that Trustees awarded Honorary Membership to the following individuals at their Board meeting on 6 September 2023, together with a new Honorary Membership awarded to **Mike Stephenson**

Mrs Hilary Baker	Mrs Ann Cryer	Mr Richard Harvey	Mr Chris Hartley
Dr Richard Muir	Mr Alan Pease	Mr Bernard Peel	Mr David Morgan Rees
Mrs Fleur Speakman	Dr Chris Wright		

10. AOB

One set of questions has been submitted in advance about Affordable Housing

What is classed as affordable housing in terms of cost? Is it affordable for people who live and work in the Dales, what's affordable based on?

Are we pushing for more local occupancy? There's still plenty of houses that are for sale that are going for far above what is affordable. For those who live and work in the dales it's not affordable yet none of them offer local occupancy.

AS had prepared a response in advance which she read out at the meeting.

"This a big and complicated topic! Many aspects are covered by the forthcoming Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2023-2024, and Friends of the Dales has actively engaged in all six stages of the consultation since the process began in December 2019.

And you can read all our responses on our website, or on request by emailing me, plus the very detailed YDNP Strategic Housing Market Assessment prepared as part of the Local Plan process.

And there are people in the room today, including our Trustee Nancy Stedman, and Vice President Mark Corner, who are very well informed on the topic, so mine is just a headline answer....

In response to the specifics of the question, we actually did highlight the confusing and non-defined use of terms in the Local Plan such as continuous occupation, and primary or principal residency and we hope that has now been cleared up.

Remember! Local occupancy restrictions can only apply **to NEW dwellings** ie new build or barn conversions and this is a **tiny percentage** of the existing housing stock.

local occupancy does actually have clear definitions and these currently are (in very simple terms)

- Existing residents of YDNP (min 3 years)
- In/taking up full time or pt employment (min 16 hrs/week) in the YDNP
- Has a child at a school in YDNP
- Currently in unsatisfactory housing in YDNP (min 3 years)
- Elderly/disabled needing better accommodation who already live in YDNP (min 3 years)
- Former residents who plead their case for returning (min 10 years previously resident)

However! After 12 weeks marketing if a qualifying household doesn't buy the property, the boundary is extended to those within the constituent district council (!) ie all of Craven, all of Richmondshire etc. We argued that should extend to 6 months to enable sufficient marketing to local people! This proposal was not taken up by YDNPA to my knowledge.

Affordable housing definition as in the Local Plan – housing for sale or rent for those whose needs are not met by the market and is – **at least 20%** below the local market rent or sale price.

The issue is that the local market is vastly inflated by market for second and holiday homes...

That may be influenced by a shift to the criteria of principal residency on new homes as part of final stages of Local Plan and other initiatives such as higher council tax on non principal residencies. The Local Plan proposed targets of % affordable housing on new build sites of between 30% and 50%.

But we said in the last response to the Local Plan (recognising the important role that Wilf Fenten took in drafting this response)

“Based on decades of research, we have concluded that no amount of new housing, affordable or otherwise, will keep our Dales communities alive – and will certainly do little to conserve and enhance the landscape – unless we spend at least an equal amount of energy, time and money on finding ways of bringing together businesses, councils and other partners to look across the national park and see how we can use our beautiful landscape to bring to this area jobs which are in tune with the Dales, not work against them.”

BML thanked members for their attendance and close the formal meeting at 12 noon. A number of informal discussions continued before and over lunch.