



The countryside charity North and East Yorkshire

AGM Minutes

Friday 7th November 2025 – 10.00am

Via Zoom

Present: Jan Arger - Chair
Sally Learoyd – Vice Chair
Clair Jones (via zoom) – Treasurer
Julie Chapman - Trustee
Morris Charlton – Trustee
Holly Fawcett – Admin

Guests: Katie Atkinson – To be reappointed as Vice Chair
Fleur Strong, Victoria Russell, Carmel O’Toole- to appoint as Trustees

Public: [REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Approve 2024 minutes

Proposed by Jan Arger, Seconded by Katie Atkinson.

Introductions

Each attending trustee introduced themselves and a brief background to the work they offer to CPRENEY.

Elections

This year there would be a re-appointment of Katie Atkinson as co-vice chair and planning lead trustee and three new appointments of new trustees.

Each member of CPRENEY was posted a proxy vote form, Holly Fawcett counted the votes to endorse the re-election of the current trustee board and the new appointments.

34 votes to endorse the current trustee board - 2 votes that could not be counted as they weren't signed.

Jan Arger, Chair read out the resolution - Notice is hereby given that the 2024 AGM of CPRE North and East Yorkshire is being held today Saturday 23rd November via zoom.

The meeting will consider and, if thought fit, pass the resolutions in relation to the re-appointments of trustees. If you have not already voted by proxy in advance of this meeting and are a member of CPRE North and East Yorkshire, please do so now so that we can count your vote.

Public attendee [REDACTED] was happy to vote in favour of all appointments.

1. To reappoint Jan Arger as Trustee / Chairman - Unanimously agreed.
2. To appoint Katie Atkinson as Trustee / Co- Vice-Chairperson - Unanimously agreed.
3. To reappoint Clair Jones as Trustee / Treasurer - Unanimously agreed.
4. To re-appoint Morris Charlton as Trustee - Unanimously agreed.
5. To re-appoint Julie Chapman as Trustee - Unanimously agreed.
6. To re-appoint Sally Learoyd as Trustee / Co-Vice Chairperson - Unanimously agreed.
7. To appoint 3 new trustees – Victoria Russell as Trustee and Supporter Development Lead. Fleur Strong as Trustee and Local Authority Communication Lead. Carmel O'Toole as Trustee.

The board also needed the CPRENEY members to vote upon a change to the constitution.

The trustees are satisfied that the Charity Commission consented to the amendment to the charity's objects under Section 226(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011 on 13 December 2024 and that the amendments to the objects, name and references to the charity in its constitution will not change the charity's activities but are necessary to avoid confusion for its members, supporters and volunteers, the organisations and planning authorities with which the Charity collaborates, and the general public. 29 votes were given in favour of the following requested changes

1. The objects of the charity, being 'TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE AND IN PARTICULAR NORTH YORKSHIRE INCLUDING REDCAR & CLEVELAND AND ITS TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND THE BETTER DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT' be replaced by the following:

“to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement and protection of the English countryside, in particular that of North and East Yorkshire as defined by CPRE from time to time, and its towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment”

2. The name of the charity, being 'THE NORTH YORKSHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND' be replaced by the following:

“CPRE North and East Yorkshire”

3. The references to the charity, being 'THE BRANCH' be replaced by the following:

“the charity”

4. To ensure the effectiveness of a viable trustee board, it is proposed that 'NO TRUSTEE CAN SERVE MORE THAN NINE CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF OFFICE' where the trustee board has previously identified an exceptional case for the benefit of the charity in doing so.

Treasurers Report

In 2024,

- expenditure on charitable activities totalled £54,737 (2023: £55,372)
- income totalled £30,787 (2023: £18,668)

At 31 December 2024

- the Charity held funds totalling £165,665 (2023: £189,615), comprising
- unrestricted funds of £164,025 (2023: £108,393) and restricted funds of £1,640 (2023: £81,222)

Remaining balance of restricted fund related to a legacy donation from the Isabel Paton Estate in 2006 was transferred to unrestricted funds

- In early 2024

- With Charity Commission approval
- Using a 'Section 275 resolution' based on the Charities Act, 2011
- Changed the purpose from 'for use in Wensleydale district' to 'for the improvement and protection of the countryside of North Yorkshire'

Designated fund for North Yorkshire reported in the accounts of CPRE comprising the balance of a legacy gift from the estate of Serena Moore, née Denholm-Young

- Totalled £275,348 at 31 December 2024 (2023: £283,598)

The Trustees revised the Charity's reserves policy in May 2024

- revised policy is to hold 'zero-level' reserves
- developed taking into consideration the small size of the Charity, the simplicity of its structure and activities, the few and negligible risks to these activities, and the Charity not having any significant or long-term financial commitments.

On 31 December 2024

- reserves totalled £164,025
- balance of two generous legacies in 2005 and 2018
- facilitated a significantly higher level of activity and greater influence and impact in recent years than would have been possible based on the regular donations from our members
- strategic and financial plan sets out how reserves will be utilised and brought into line with the charity's revised reserves policy over a 10-year period, at the end of which time the Charity intends to fund its activities from the regular donations from our members only

Public Questions

1. [REDACTED] requested a copy of the financial report as the Treasurer's Report gave lots of figures.
- This will be sent out and communicated with members in early 2026.

Meeting closed at 10.35am.