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# CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING held in the Albert Hall, Ballater on Friday 7 April 2017 at 9.30am

### PRESENT

Peter Argyle (Convener)	John Latham
Rebecca Badger	Eleanor Mackintosh
Angela Douglas	Willie McKenna
Paul Easto	Fiona Murdoch
Jeanette Gaul	Gordon Riddler
Kate Howie	Judith Webb
Janet Hunter	Brian Wood (Deputy Convener)

### In Attendance:

Grant Moir, Chief Executive,  
David Cameron, Director of Corporate Services,  
Murray Ferguson, Director of Planning & Rural Development,  
Hamish Trench, Director of Conservation & Visitor Experience,  
Gavin Miles, Head of Planning & Communities,  
David Berry, Planning Manager (Forward Planning & Service Improvement),  
Dan Harris, Planning Officer (Forward Planning & Service Improvement),  
Katie Crerar, Planning Officer (Forward Planning & Service Improvement),  
Alix Harkness, Clerk to the Board.

**Apologies:**           Geva Blackett           Dave Fallows  
                              Gregor Hutcheon       Gregor Rimell

**Non Apologies:**   Bill Lobban

### Welcome and Introduction

1. Peter Argyle, the Convener, welcomed everyone to the meeting in Grantown-on-Spey.

2. The Convener congratulated Geva Blackett on winning the recent CNPA by-election and welcomed her onto the Board. He went on to advise that Geva had submitted her apologies for today's meeting as she had felt uncomfortable being part of the decision without having been part of the scrutiny.
3. Apologies were received from the above Members.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting held on 10 March, 2017 – for approval**

4. The draft Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 March 2017 were agreed subject to the following amendments:
  - At Para 11a): 'Collaborative Environment' to be changed to 'Cooperation Fund'.
  - At Para 7i): Misunderstanding, the member had requested the meeting notes from the Housing Conference in Dunkeld not in Boat of Garten. The action had been carried out.

### **Matters Arising**

5. There were no matters arising.

### **Declarations of Interest**

6. No interests were declared.

### **National Park Partnership Plan (Paper 1)**

7. Grant Moir, CEO introduced the paper which seeks the Board's agreement to the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-22 and its submission to Scottish Ministers for approval. He reported that there had been a lot of media interest since the paper was published on the website last Friday.
8. David Berry, Planning Manager presented an overview. Hamish Trench, Director of Conservation & Visitor Experience highlighted the three priorities in both Conservation and Visitor Experience and drew attention to the targets on each section. Murray Ferguson, Director of Planning & Rural Development highlighted the three priorities in the Rural Development section and the associated targets. David concluded by highlighting the next steps with the ministerial launch programmed for late May/ June 2017.

9. The Board discussed the Paper and made the following comments and observations:
- a) Out of the 320 responses to the consultation what proportion was from individuals and/ or organisations and did they represent the geographic spread of the National Park? Grant advised that the answers to those questions had been set out in the Consultation Report Paper which had been discussed at the Board meeting in December 2016 and was available on the website.
  - b) Suggestion made to add a paragraph on page 4 that explains the underlying principles under Park For All to encourage everyone to get involved. This was agreed. **(A1)**
  - c) Suggestion made to add a target percentage for the proportion of designated sites in favourable condition. Hamish advised that the approach in the Park Plan had been agreed with SNH and followed the national approach.
  - d) Comment was made that they were happy to see that a sentence around camping and caravanning had been added on page 24.
  - e) Welcomed that the last paragraph on page 38 had been strengthened.
  - f) Suggestion made to add words to accompany the woodland expansion map indicating that it is not intended that all this area should be planted – especially with reference to agricultural land. Hamish agreed to put in a caveat that refers to the Woodland Strategy and some additional wording that advises that the total area shown on the map highlighted in pink is more than the 5000ha target. **(A2)**
  - g) Suggestion made to add reference to integrated land management on page 12. This was agreed. **(A3)**
  - h) Suggestion made to add a sentence that includes individuals contributing to the delivery on page 26. It was agreed that the wording for this be passed onto Hamish after the meeting. **(A4)**
  - i) Under Policy 1.1 on page 27, suggestion made to reword ‘a long term planned approach’ to vision or objectives. Hamish advised that the wording had been carried forward from the previous National Park Partnership Plan and that the aim was to continue to encourage land based businesses to have long term plans and set them out. It was agreed to reference the previous National Park Partnership Plan in this section. **(A5)**
  - j) On page 28, suggestion made to include memories, folklore and spoken cultural heritage and not just build heritage and architecture. Grant advised that it had been changed to reflect that in more recent versions.
  - k) Suggestion made to add a Glossary to avoid misunderstanding. Grant advised that this was not necessary as there would be an executive summary drawn up that sets up the main points which will be available on the website. He added that there would also be video clips explaining what the National Park Partnership Plan means in different areas.

- l) Suggestion was made that where the document referenced other strategies that they should also include links to where those strategies can be found. This was agreed. **(A6)**
- m) Praise given for the excellent introductory overview presentation and suggestion made to use it to explain the National Park Partnership Plan to others.
- n) Praise given for the fantastic levels of engagement to date and praise given to the staff involved.
- o) With reference to page 20 where it said 'significantly more than 10 per square hectare', was this ambiguous? It was confirmed that it had been deliberately phrased that way to show that it was indicative. This was accepted.
- p) With reference to page 37 and Active Cairngorms, the reference to 'young girls' was it referring to teenage girls? It was agreed to change this. **(A7)**
- q) Suggestion made to change the introductory sentence on page 46 to make it more meaningful and comparative to the national average. Grant agreed to look into whether it would be possible to use the fact that the household average income in the Cairngorms National Park is lower than the UK coupled with the average house prices that are higher. **(A8)**
- r) Suggestion made to reword the following part of the sentence on page 14 'but more work is needed to ensure these sites deliver the management required to underpin the outstanding quality of the habitats and species in the Cairngorms National Park'. Hamish agreed. **(A9)**
- s) Suggestion made to explicitly mention VisitAberdeenshire and VisitSpeyside & Moray in the Delivery organisations on page 54. This was agreed. **(A10)**
- t) With reference to 3.3 a) on page 56 the Planning Committee Convener highlighted the implications of the wording and wanted to make sure the Planning Committee were aware of what they were signing up to. Murray advised that staff had checked the wording as described in Scottish Planning Policy and had linked it with that. Gavin agreed to double check this.. **(A11)**
- u) Had the Cairngorms Business Partnership been involved in developing the consultation? Grant advised that they had been involved in all pre-discussions and were part of the Delivery Group.
- v) Suggestion made to make reference to the private sector's role in achieving the objectives as detailed on page 5. Grant advised that it had been added and was included in the most recent version of the Partnership Plan.

10. **The Board considered and agreed the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-22 for submission to Scottish Ministers for approval subject to changes referenced as A1 – A11.**

11. **Actions: As above.**

## **AOCB**

12. Grant reminded Members that the Cairngorms Nature Weekend would be taking place from 12 to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017. He advised that the programme has been released and encouraged members to attend as many events as they could. Pete Cairns would be opening the weekend at Boat Community Hall on the Friday evening, then Nick Baker would be in Blair Atholl on the Saturday and on the Sunday Pete Cairns would close the weekend in Deeside.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

13. Next formal Board meeting to be held on 9 June 2017, The Albert Hall, Ballater.
14. The meeting concluded at 10.50.