

Minute of the Representatives' Meeting of the
Association of Cairngorms Communities
held on 30 October 2014 at the Lecht Ski Centre

Present

Roger Clegg	Kirriemuir Landward West CC
Kate Adamson	Carrbridge CC, Carr-Bridge Ahead, VABS
Alasdair Colquhoun	Braemar CC
Jane Angus	Ballater and Crathie CC
Val Emmett	Kingussie CC
Ailsa Schofield	Kingussie CC
John Grierson	Aviemore & Vicinity CC
Lee Haxton	CNPA
Justin Prigmore	CNPA
Mike Cottam	CNPA
Jane Tansley	Laggan Community Association
Jeff Tansley	Laggan Community Association
David Kinnear	Kincraig & Vicinity CC

Apologies

Patricia Grant	Kirkmichael and Tomintoul CA
Maggie Lawson	B & S Community Transport
Donald Isles	Blair Atholl and Struan CC
Liz Cowie	Ward Manager, Badenoch and Strathspey
Gregor Rimell	Highland Councillor
Karen Derrick	VABS
Yvonne Birnie	Aviemore & Vicinity CC
Nick Mardall	BRD/DDDP
Morag Craig	Laggan CA
Dave Brown	Kincraig & Vicinity CC

Sad death of Mary Clark Roger opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation of her work with the AoCC, particularly as Secretary. She passed away only a few days after being admitted to hospital unexpectedly

Minutes of meeting held on 3rd September 2014 Accepted as a correct record

Matters arising from previous meeting's minutes None

Finance Jane Tansley reported that we have just over £2000 in the Bank. For the next financial year, the CNPA have moved back to providing the AoCC with an annual Grant. After much discussion among the Directors initially and then between our Chairman, Sandra Middleton and Lee Haxton it has been agreed at £4000. The AoCC would prefer to have a 3 year agreement and this is a future subject for debate

Survey of AoCC

- Feedback to CCs, CAs etc It is very important that the Reps do feed back so Community organisations better recognise the work done by the AoCC. The Minutes/Notes of the Planning meeting have never been available, and the reps would like them to be. Lee to talk to Gavin Miles and let us know
- Location and timing of meetings Meetings to take place on both sides of the Park not practical, as experience tells us that attendance drops. Agreed that one meeting a year would be held in a Community who have completed an interesting project. Ideally this could demonstrate transferability to other communities. Lee suggested that a minibus could be organised by CNPA
- Substitutes Roger proposed that if a Rep could not attend, then another person or persons would be welcome, without formally being called substitute
- Widening membership The AoCC and Lee are working on identifying Community organisation which are not down on our attendance list. There are several Reps who are also on the Boards of Community Companies and trusts, and we will in future record those on our Attendance list
- Membership to suggest topics etc for meetings We need to increase topics suggested by Reps. It is felt that we have had too many CNP topics, but this is because no ideas have been forthcoming from Reps
- Website, Newsletter At a meeting with Lee, it was clear that no extra CNPA funding would be available. Problems: Cost and maintenance issues. Who would look at AoCC website rather than looking at individual Village/town websites? Could add links to other organisations like Learning Partnership, VABS

as well as Communities. Ailsa felt that Social Media were essential. CNP website being redeveloped and we could have a Page on it and Ailsa will liaise with Lee to investigate further.

Deer Management. Mike Cottam CNPA. October 2014 activity about Deer Management includes Scottish Government Strategies as they affect Land Owners. Mike is also Secretary of Cairngorms Deer Management Group, so is involved in private sector as well as public sector
Strategies: Scotland's Wild Deer – a National Approach (WDNA); EU Legislation Nature 2000 with regeneration of Caledonian Pine; Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Scotland) 2011 – governs deer welfare and public safety in culling.

There will be a review at end 2016 of current practice of private deer management and effectiveness as it seems that there is improvement but it is not moving fast enough.

In CNP there are 3 Deer management Groups, and these have become more like Land Management Groups, due to what has been learned so far. There is a long list of items being assessed (see slide).

Communication Only one website Cairngorms and Speyside Deer Management Group which has some pages of regularly updated information with the rest being older and more factual. It is noted that there are not many hits or comments and therefore it will probably change to a link in the CNP's new website.

In answer to an enquiry there is little hybridisation with Sika deer so they are not considered an issue.

Cairngorms Learning Partnership. Stephanie Wright, CLP coordinator, gave a presentation about the work of the Learning Partnership, an independent educational charity providing learning opportunities for adults of all ages within their communities across the National Park. (See paper attached from Val Emmett, who is involved with the CLP).

Stephanie requested that individual Community Councils and Associations respond directly to her regarding the Cairngorms Learning Partnership. The question she posed was, "What do you think would be the benefits of having a Learning Centre or a Learning Network in your community."

Cairngorms Nature and work with communities Justin Prigmore. The Project on Capercaillie is of working with Communities on CNP Caper framework. CNP feel that this is essential and draft recommendations have been produced (see attached list); there was discussion around the highlighted items.

Widespread 'education' is necessary re issues involved so communities understand better. But generally it appears that there is community buy-in, but visitors are not so easy to control. Suggestion of maps showing locally sensitive areas to raise awareness of importance of conservation. Some communities find communication with Land Owners difficult and there may be a need to develop 'refuges' which Land Owners cannot damage by tree felling.

Reports from Representatives attending external meetings

Developers' Forum Notes from Ailsa attached

Leader Local Development Strategy has been sent to Scottish Government for agreement and this will be the Guide to CNPA generally and to the Leader Group for future activity re funding. Members of the Group are now being recruited. It will be a different process from Leader in the past, with the Group taking a much more strategic approach. Specific allocation of 20% must be spent on Business and agricultural diversification

Outdoor Access John Grierson. See Item 4 of Lee's CNPA update

CNPA update. Lee Haxton sent it out in advance of the meeting

AOB Braemar Award

New Secretary for AoCC Ailsa Schofield has kindly agreed to take this on
Meeting on Community Land Ownership and Buyout Nov 20th 2014

Date of Next Meeting This will take place on 17 March 2015 at 1030.

Useful email addresses: Roger Clegg: rclegg@easterderry.plus.com
Kate Adamson: adamsonk@btinternet.com
Ailsa Schofield: panda@croila.plus.com