

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

held at The Community Hall, Boat of Garten  
on 25 May 2012 at 9.30am

**Members Present**

Peter Argyle	Gregor Hutcheon
Angela Douglas	Eleanor Mackintosh
Jaci Douglas	Ian Mackintosh
Dave Fallows	Willie McKenna
Katrina Farquhar	Martin Price
Kate Howie	Gordon Riddler
Marcus Humphrey	Gregor Rimell

**In Attendance:**

Don McKee, Head Planner  
Mary Grier, Senior Planning Officer, Development Management  
Andrew Tait, Senior Planning Officer, Development Management  
Pip Mackie, Planning Systems Officer  
Matthew Hawkins, Heritage Manager

**Apologies:**

Duncan Bryden	Brian Wood
David Green	Allan Wright
Mary McCafferty	

**Agenda Items 1 & 2:**

**Welcome & Apologies**

1. Peter Argyle, the Vice – Convenor welcomed all present and advised that Dave Fallows would be arriving late due to being on Highland Council business.
2. Apologies were received from the above Members.

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## **Agenda Item 3:**

### **Minutes & Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

3. The minutes of the previous meeting, 27 April 2012, held at The Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore were approved.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. The Convener provided an update on the Action Points from the previous meeting:
  - Action Point at Para. 20: Tesco were still finalising details with SEPA and no Decision Notice had yet been issued.  
Members will receive updates on the works involved in the translocation of the Damselyfly.
  - Action Point at Para. 49: The letter from Duncan Bryden to the Planning Minister was circulated to Members.  
The Minister had responded and acknowledged the progress the CNPA had made on the thinking regarding future planning progress and would look for an update in due course. The Minister apologised that he would not be able to visit the CNP over the summer months.

## **Agenda Item 4:**

### **Outcome of Electronic Call-In**

6. The content of the Outcome of the Electronic Call-in held on 11 May 2012 was noted.

## **Agenda Item 5:**

### **Declaration of Interest by Members on Items Appearing on the Agenda**

7. No declarations of interest were made.

## **Agenda Item 6:**

### **Report on Consultation Response to Scottish Government:**

#### **On Etteridge to Boat of Garten Rationalisation Scheme**

#### **(Beaully Denny Transmission Line)**

#### **Section 37 Electricity Act**

#### **(Paper I)**

8. Mary Grier presented a report on the consultation and recommended that the Committee agree a response of no objection, subject to the modifications stated in the report.

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9. The Committee were invited to ask the Planning Officer points of clarification, the following were raised:
- a) The possibility of Archaeological remains being present in the area where the Line was due to enter the Rothiemurchus Estate.
  - b) The capacity of the replacement Line being lower than the current Line and if it would be able to cope with current electricity demand and future needs. Matthew Hawkins responded that the current Line was already operating at a lower capacity, essentially equivalent to a wooden pole line, however it was double phased between Kingussie and Aviemore which is why two new pole lines were needed in places along this section. He advised that future demand should also have been taken into account in the strategic assessment. Don McKee advised that SSE had been involved in the discussions regarding the proposed new settlement at An Camas Mor. However, the issue of future capacity would be raised with SSE.
  - c) The high cost of connecting renewable energy sources to the National Grid.
  - d) Clarification of the proportion of the scheme to be undergrounded. Matthew Hawkins responded that approximately half of the proposed length (40km) was to be undergrounded.
  - e) Clarification of the equipment required on site where the undergrounding element met the pole line. Matthew Hawkins advised that it would be in the form of an 'H' pole with a small cabinet attached.
  - f) If there could be any adverse impact on wildlife due to heat being generated from the undergrounded line. Matthew Hawkins advised that to his knowledge this would not be an issue due to the low voltage being carried and the heat generated being consequently negligible.
  - g) The plant machinery to be used during the Line excavation works. Matthew Hawkins advised that the use of a Mole Plough was preferable as it was cheaper and less damaging to the environment.
  - h) The reference in Table I to Agriculture and Forestry possibly including the loss of habitat. Mary Grier advised that Table I had been reproduced directly from the Applicants Environmental Statement.
  - i) The need to take the height of agricultural equipment into account where the pole line crossed agricultural land and raise the pole line, if necessary. Mary Grier responded that this issue had already been taken into account and higher poles were proposed in some areas due to safety issues.
  - j) Commendation to Officers on the comprehensive report and the amount of work undertaken to bring the report forward.
  - k) Clarification if where the existing Pylons have already been removed, the concrete foundations will also be removed. Matthew Hawkins advised that they would be about 600mm below ground.
10. The Committee agreed that the response of no objection, subject to the modifications stated in the report be submitted.

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11. **Action Points arising:** Officers to raise the issue of future electricity demand, including provision for An Camas Mor with SSE.

### **Agenda Item 7:**

#### **Report on Called-In Planning Application for Alterations and Extension to Memorial Hut**

#### **At The Hutchison Memorial Hut, Glen Derry, Braemar (Paper 2) (2012/0105/DET)**

12. The Convener informed Members that a request to answer questions had been received, within the given timescale, from:
- Applicant – Bert Barnett, Mountain Bothies Association
13. The Committee agreed to the request.
14. Andrew Tait presented a paper recommending that the Committee approve the application subject to the conditions stated in the report.
15. The Committee were invited to ask the Planning Officer points of clarification, the following were raised:
- a) Concern that Advice Note 4 was too onerous. Andrew Tait responded that the Applicant had advised that the works would only take 3 / 4 weekends and should be completed within the given timescales. He also stated that it was only an Advice Note and should a small part of overlap occur it should not be too serious an issue.
  - b) The transport of fuel to the Bothy. Andrew Tait advised that all fuel should be carried to the Bothy, under the Bothy code no live wood should be felled for use as fuel. He advised that an agreement stating where dead wood could be sourced for fuel and potentially transported in, between the Mountain Bothies Association and Marr Lodge Estate had been proposed.
16. There were no questions for the Applicant.
17. The Committee agreed to approve the application subject to the conditions stated in the report.
18. **Action Points arising:** None.

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### **Agenda Item 8:**

#### **Any Other Business**

19. Dave Fallows arrived at the meeting.
  
20. Don McKee advised that a Developers Form had been held on 16 May 2012 at The Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown on Spey with about 30 attendees from a cross-section of sectors. It was an opportunity for an exchange of information and views on planning issues. The evening had included a presentation by Alan Rankin, Chief Executive of the Cairngorms Business Partnership (CBP) regarding the proposed economic development forum and economic strategy for the Cairngorms. Don McKee advised that the next Forum was to be held in October 2012 and the CNPA were looking for the development community to take the lead and bring forward ideas for discussion.
  
21. **Action Points arising:** None.

### **Agenda Item 9:**

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

22. Friday 22 June 2012 at The Albert Memorial Hall, Ballater.
23. Committee Members are requested to ensure that any Apologies for this meeting are submitted to the Planning Office in Ballater.
24. The public business of the meeting concluded at 10.16am.