

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: ELECTION OF BOARD DEPUTY CONVENER AND PLANNING COMMITTEE CONVENER

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Purpose

This paper seeks agreement of Board members that the election for the position of Board Deputy Convener and Planning Committee Convener will take place at the following Board meeting, to be held in December 2017, and summarise the process for this election.

Given the short delay to the standard timetable for the elections of these roles that this decision would represent, the paper also seeks Board members' agreement to the extension of the term of office of both the current Board Deputy Convener and Planning Committee Convener from 30 September 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board:

- a) Agree to extend the period of election of the current Board Deputy Convener and Planning Committee Convener until 31 December 2017.**
- b) Agree that election for the Board Deputy Convener and Planning Committee Convener shall take place at the Board meeting in December 2017, with members elected to these positions taking up their roles with effect from 1 January 2018.**
- c) Note that the election for both positions will follow the process set out in paragraphs 4-7 of the CNPA Standing Orders. These paragraphs have been extracted and set out in the Annex to this paper for ease of reference.**
- d) Agree that the order of the elections to be undertaken at the December Board meeting shall be to first elect the Board Depute Convener and secondly to elect the Planning Committee Convener.**

**ELECTION OF BOARD DEPUTY CONVENER AND PLANNING
COMMITTEE CONVENER – FOR DECISION**

Information

1. The terms of the Board Deputy Convener and Planning Committee Convener came to an end on 30 September 2017. Under the terms of the National Park Authority's Standing Orders, these positions should have been filled through the agreed electoral process prior to the end of the existing term.
2. However, the period since the local authority elections in May 2017 has been one of significant change to Board membership. Consequently, the date of the Autumn Board meeting was deferred from September 2017 to October 2017 to allow new members to take up their formal appointments prior to the Board meeting. It also seems appropriate to defer elections for the posts of Depute Convener and Planning Committee Convener for a short time until the new Board members have become slightly more familiar with the operations of the Authority and its Planning Committee.
3. It is therefore recommended that the Board agree to extend the terms of office of the current Board Deputy Convener and Planning Committee Convener until 31 December 2017, with notice of election for both these posts being received at the October Board meeting as set out in this paper. This also allows for the full briefing for the Planning Committee Convener to have taken place prior to the October Planning Committee meeting, which is scheduled to follow directly after the October Board meeting.
4. The alternate is for the Board to move to elect both these posts, without notice of election, given that no notice of election was presented to the Board at its previous meeting in June 2017.

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Extract of Board Standing Orders

Convener and Deputy Convener

- I. In accordance with schedule I, paragraph 11, of the Act, the board elects the Convener and Deputy Convener from among its number. At the second-last CNPA meeting before the term of office of a current Convener expires, election of the next Convener shall take place. The process of election for Convener shall be conducted by the proper officer. The process of election will be as follows:
 - a) The proper officer will seek nominations from members of the NPA at the meeting. Any member may propose another NPA member as Convener, and a third member must second the nomination for it to be valid.
 - b) Each candidate who has a valid nomination will be asked if they wish to make a short statement to the meeting.
 - c) Members who are absent from the meeting may be put forward for election, nominate or second a candidate, provided they have made appropriate, signed written statements prior to the meeting to the proper officer their consent to being nominated. A statement by a candidate who is unable to be present at the meeting may be circulated at the meeting.
 - d) Election will be by absolute majority, as follows:
 - i. Members may only cast one vote in each round of voting;
 - ii. Only Members who are present may vote;
 - iii. Once the first set of votes has been cast, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be excluded;
 - iv. A fresh vote will be taken on the remaining candidates where again each member can only cast one vote for the candidate of their choice; again the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be excluded.
 - v. This process will continue until one candidate emerges with an absolute majority of the votes cast by those members present and voting.
 - vi. Where there is an equality of votes among those candidates who have least votes, then a decision on who is to be excluded will be determined by lot.
 - vii. If it is the case that there is only one candidate for either position, then that person will be declared elected.
 - viii. Voting will be by secret ballot.
2. The duration of the office of Convener and Deputy Convener will be 3 years (unless the member concerned ceases to be a Member of the NPA, or resigns from the position of Convener/Deputy Convener before the end of the period).

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3. For cases in which a Convener/Deputy Convener resigns or ceases to be a Member, the election process will apply as the first item of business at the next board meeting following the vacancy arising.

4. The above process in paragraphs 4-5 will also apply to the election of Deputy Convener, which shall take place after the election of Convener if both posts are to be decided at the same meeting.