

# National Park Authority Board Meeting



**Minutes of Meeting held at  
2pm on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
National Park Headquarters, Balloch**

Present: Linda McKay (Convener) Colin Bayes (CB)  
Owen McKee (Depute Convener) Fergus Wood (FW)  
David McKenzie (DMcK) William Nisbet (WN)  
Angus Allan (AA) George Freeman (GF)  
Lindsay Morrison (LM) David McCowan (DMcC)  
James Robb (JR) Petra Biberbach (PB)  
Martin Earl (ME)  
Bob Ellis (BE)

In Attendance: Fiona Logan (FL) Tony McInnes (TM)  
Gordon Watson (GW) Sandra Dalziel (SD)  
Jaki Carnegie (JC) Sharon McIntyre (SMcI)  
Bridget Jones (BJ)  
Stuart Mearns (SM)  
Scott Nisbet (SN)

Apologies: Hazel Sorrel (HS)  
David Warnock (DW)

Item	Action	Action by
1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>The Convener opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Apologies had been received from HS and DW.</p> <p>The Convener offered congratulations to SM on promotion to Head of Planning &amp; Rural Development and advised that this would be FL's final Board meeting.</p> <p>The Convener highlighted that agenda items seven and eight would be confidential items and proposed to Board Members that these items be held in a closed session from which officers and members of the public would be excluded. SD read the resolution to allow these items to be held as a closed session.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members agreed to address agenda items seven and eight as confidential agenda items.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No declarations of interest were received.</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October</b></p> <p>CB highlighted that on page four of the Minute there is reference to a</p>	

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	<p>statement from MB, but MB is not listed as being in attendance at the meeting. It was agreed that the minute be amended to reflect Mairi Bell's attendance.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Minute to be updated to include Mari Bell as present on the attendee list.</p> <p>Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed.</p>	<b>SM</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>JC introduced the report and provided an update on the open actions listed. It was noted that there is still a vacancy on the Planning &amp; Access Committee and this will be discussed at the next Strategy group meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Recruitment of Planning &amp; Access Committee member to be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Strategy Group.</p> <p>PB enquired as to whether it was planned to hold a Board meeting outside of the Park. SD advised that these meetings have not been confirmed yet, it was then agreed to update the matters arising to detail this as an open action.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Matters arising item in relation to offsite meetings to remain as an open item.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members <b>noted</b> the report.</p>	<b>SM</b>       <b>SD</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>CEO Appointments Panel</b></p> <p>JC introduced this report and advised Members that its purpose is to seek approval to establish an Appointments Panel consisting of the Convener, Board members; OM, CB, JR and Keith Connal, Depute Director Scottish Government Natural Resources Division and for this panel to be given delegated authority to appoint a new Chief Executive</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members agreed. to the creation of an Appointments Panel as specified and delegated authority to the Panel to appoint a new Chief Executive.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Special Board Meeting – Cononish Goldmine</b></p> <p>GW introduced this paper requesting Member's agreement to hold a Special Board meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to consider a "section 42" planning application for an amendment to a condition for a gold and silver mine at Cononish Farm, near Tyndrum. GW advised that planning consent</p>	

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	<p>would expire on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 therefore this meeting would require to be held to ensure that a revised legal agreement is in place before this deadline. GW advised Members, that, if approved, the planning application would be to extend permission for a further three years as of the date of the new revised consent.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members <b>approved</b> the recommendation to hold a Special Board meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</p> <p>The Convener advised that the Board would now address confidential agenda items seven and eight.</p>	
9	<p><b>Corporate Update</b></p> <p>FL asked members to note the information detailed in the report.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members <b>noted</b> the report.</p>	
10	<p><b>Planning Committee Update</b></p> <p>OM, Chair of the Planning &amp; Access Committee gave a verbal update, congratulating SM in his new role as Head of Planning &amp; Rural Development and the team on the commendation received at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.</p> <p>OM highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of Local Review Body meetings. OM invited nominations for the vacant position on the Planning &amp; Access Committee.</p>	
11	<p><b>Audit Committee Update</b></p> <p>LM, Chair of the Audit Committee, gave a verbal update informing the Board that following the Audit Committee meeting the Corporate Risk Register continues to be updated and this will be posted on the microsite for reference.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> JC to post the updated Corporate Risk Register on the microsite for members' reference.</p>	<p><b>JC</b></p>
12	<p><b>Delivery Group Update</b></p> <p>CB, Chair of the Delivery Group, gave a verbal update on the work of the Delivery Group advising that the four high risk projects; LIVE Park, Pontoon, Your Park and the Gateway Centre were discussed.</p>	

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	<p>CB advised that a response rate of 80% was received for the Best Companies staff survey. The Park Authority was rated as being only nine points short of being a 'one star' company. CB offered credit to managers and staff for achieving this rating.</p> <p>CB advised that the first meeting of the Access Forum took place and that this went well.</p> <p>CB noted that the statistics received in relation to planning application and pre-application service had improved for quarter four.</p> <p>CB highlighted that a longstanding complaint had been referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.</p> <p>CB informed the Board that the NPA was predicting a slight over spend on budget for this year.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members <b>noted</b> the report.</p> <p>There was discussion around the need for Heads of Service to attend for the duration of Board meetings. It was agreed, while they are very welcome at meetings, if there were time pressures, Head of Service should only attend for their items.</p> <p>The Convener invited updates on significant items from Heads of Service. BJ advised Stuart Crawford had received the Volunteer of the Year Award at the UK National Parks Volunteer Awards and the Board congratulated Stuart on his success.</p>	
	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>The Convener invited DMcK to give a brief update on attending the Argyll Economic Summit. DMcK informed members that one of the key messages was that population numbers in Argyll and Bute are expected to fall by 2035 with a 13% decrease in the number of working people and an 8% increase in the number of retired. The Convener thanked DMcK for attending this meeting on behalf of the NPA</p> <p>The Convener advised that as agreed today the date of the next meeting will be Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</p> <p>The Convener highlighted that this was FL's final Board meeting as Chief Executive and thanked her for her significant contribution during her time in</p>	

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	<p>the organisation. The Convener advised that there would be a partnership event on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 and following this, an official leaving event for FL was being planned.</p> <p>The Convener thanked all for attending the meeting and for their contributions to discussions.</p>	

DRAFT