



Final Minute of meeting held at 10am on 15th March 2021 – Live webcast Agenda Item 4

National Park Authority Board Meeting 15th March 2021

Paper for information

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Present
James Stuart (Convener)
Bobby Good (BG)
Heather Reid (HR)
Bob Darracott (BD)
Martin Earl (ME)
Danny Gibson (DG) – Agenda Items 1-3
Sarah Drummond (SD)
Ronnie Erskine (RE)
William Nisbet (WN) (Depute Convener)
Murray Lyle (ML)
Diane Docherty (DD)
Iain Shonny Paterson (ISP) – Agenda Items 3-10 (By Audio)
Billy Ronald (BR)
David McCowan (DMcC)
Chris Spray (CS)
Claire Chapman (CC)

In Attendance - National Park Authority Staff
Gordon Watson (GW), Chief Executive Officer
Pete Wightman (PW), Director of Corporate Services
Stuart Mearns (SM), Director of Rural Development & Planning
Simon Jones (SJ), Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations
Anna MacLean (AM), Head of Communications
Sharon McIntyre (SMcl), Committee Clerk (Proper Officer)
Margaret Gallacher (MG), Minute Clerk
Eilidh McKerry (EMcK), Financial & Performance Manager – Agenda item 8
Matt Buckland (MB), Visitor Operations Manager – Agenda item 9
Joanne Ford (JF), Communications Manager – Agenda item 9
Nik Turner (NT), Litter Prevention Manager – Agenda item 9
Elaine Wade (EW), HR Manager – Agenda item 11
Susan Brooks (SB), Development Planning & Communities Manager – Agenda Item 12

Apologies

None

Items and Actions
<p>Session 1: Introduction and Governance Matters (10am – 11.00am)</p> <p><u>Item 1: Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>The Convener opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees to the virtual Board meeting.</p> <p>The Convener advised that this meeting was able to take place in this format as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board Standing Order 25 which allows for meetings in exceptional circumstances (with agreement of the Convener) to be held as a virtual meeting; - The Board agreed at the 7th December 2020 Board meeting that the provisions of Standing Order 25 continue to apply, and Board, Committee, and Local Review Body meetings will continue to be held virtually, until government restrictions on physical distancing are lifted such that in person meetings can be held safely. - The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 denotes that public are to be excluded from a meeting of a local authority whenever it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be a real and substantial risk to public health due to infection or contamination with coronavirus. We hope that by providing a live webcast of this meeting allows for the public to view proceedings as they would normally without a risk to health. <p>The Convener welcomed any members of the public and the Youth Committee viewing the virtual meeting.</p> <p>The Convener then asked Board members and National Park staff participating in the virtual meeting to introduce themselves.</p>

Items and Actions

No apologies have been received for this meeting from Board Members.

JS advised he is the Convener and Chair of this meeting, WN is the Vice-Convener, GW is CEO and SMcl is Proper Officer.

ISP joined the meeting (by audio due to technical difficulties).

Item 2: Declarations of Interest

ISP declared an interest for agenda item 15, as the result of a potential commercial interest.

Should the confidential minute lead to discussion, SP will leave the meeting:

Item 3: Remembering Graham Lambie

The Convener and Board members reflected on the huge contribution Graham made to the Park Authority as a member of the Board. They all shared the opinion that he was a true gentleman who was passionate about the Park and conducted himself in a quiet and dignified manner. He will be a huge loss to the Board and will be sadly missed.

The Convener advised he has written to Graham's mother to pass on the condolences of the Board.

DG left the meeting.

Item 4: Minutes of Meeting held on 7th December 2021

There is a minor amendment to the minutes. The minutes are now in an accessible format for website users and when moving to the new format some Board Member names were omitted.

Action: David McCowan, Chris Spray and Claire Chapman to be added to the minutes.

The minutes were proposed by CS and seconded by BD.

DECISION: Members agreed to approve the minutes. WN approved the minutes for all items except Agenda Item 11. ML approved the minutes for the items he was present for Agenda Items 7, 10 and 11.

Item 5: Matters Arising

PW introduced the matters arising. Members were invited to note the report.

Items and Actions

DECISION: Members agreed to note the report.

Item 6: CEO Report

The paper was introduced by GW. Discussion and questions from Members followed.

The Scottish Government Director and Deputy Director for Environment and Forestry, Bridget Campbell and Keith Connal, with responsibility for National Parks, are retiring in the coming weeks. The Board acknowledged their support to the National Park and wished them well in their retirement. The Convener advised he will be writing to them both formally.

DECISION: Members agreed to note the contents of the report.

Comfort Break: 11:00am – 11:15am

Session 2: Decision Paper and Financial Update (11:15am – 12:30pm)Item 7: 2021/22 Annual Operating Plan and Budget

GW and PW introduced the paper. There followed discussion and questions by Members.

DECISION: Members agreed to approve:

- 1) The proposed Annual Operational Plan for 2021/22
- 2) The proposed budget for 2021/22, with recognition that we will return to the Board in June 2021 to finalise the unallocated balance

Item 8: Financial Report

The paper was introduced by PW and EMcK. There followed discussion and questions by Members.

DECISION: Members agreed to note this report and the Management Accounts to 31 December 2020, as set out in Appendix 1.

Lunch break: 12.30 – 1:30pm

Session 3: Update Papers and Confidential Item (1:30 – 3:30pm)Item 9: National Park Joint Response Visitor Management Plan 2021 and Litter Update

The papers were introduced by SJ with MB, NT and JF available for questions. There followed discussion and questions by Members.

DECISION: Members agreed to note the contents of this paper and associated appendix 1 (Draft Joint Response Visitor Management Plan 2021).

Items and Actions

Item 10: 2020/2021 Annual Operating Plan Progress Report

The paper was introduced by PW. There followed discussion and questions by Members.

DECISION: Members agreed to note the contents of the report.

SP left meeting.

Item 11: Corporate Focus: Health & Safety

The paper was introduced by EW. There followed discussion and questions by Members.

DECISION: Members agreed to note the contents of this report.

Item 12: Community Support & Engagement Update

The paper was introduced by SM. There followed discussion and questions by Members.

The Convener recorded his thanks to the Board and staff of the Community Partnership.

DECISION: Members agreed to:

- 1) Note this report
- 2) Record their thanks to the Board and staff of the Community Partnership, recognising the many years of work supporting the Park's communities and leaving a strong legacy of engaged and empowered communities

Item 13: Any Other Business

There was no further business.

Item 14: Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Board meeting will be Monday 14th June 2021. The Convener proposed that there will be a Board meeting held on 13th September 2021 with a view for the December Board meeting to be rescheduled or cancelled to allow us to prepare for COP 26 which is currently scheduled for November.

Item 15: Session 4 Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 7th December 2020

There was no further discussion required and the minutes were approved with the addition of David McCowan present at the meeting.

The minutes were approved by RE and seconded by BD.

Items and Actions
DECISION: Members agreed to approve the minutes. SP, DD, BR and ML withheld from approving as they were not present at the meeting.
<u>Additional Item</u> As this was last Sharon McIntyre's last meeting before she leaves the organisation to take up a role with East Renfrewshire Council, the Convener and Board Members thanked her for the huge help and support she has given to the Board over the years and wished her well in her new role. Sharon thanked the Board for their good wishes and wished them well for the future.

Signed

James Stuart, Convener