



Draft minutes of meeting held at 10am on 14th June 2021 – Live webcast

Agenda Item 3

National Park Authority Board Meeting 14th June 2021

Paper for information

Present	1
In Attendance - National Park Authority Staff	2
Items and Actions	2
Session 1: Introduction and Decision Papers (10am – 12.00pm)	2
Session 2: Update Papers (1:00pm – 2:45pm).....	4
Session 3: Confidential Items (3:00 – 4:00pm).....	6

Present
James Stuart (Convener)
Bobby Good (BG)
Heather Reid (HR)
Bob Darracott (BD)
Martin Earl (ME)
Danny Gibson (DG)
Ronnie Erskine (RE)
William Nisbet (WN) (Depute Convener)
Diane Docherty (DD)
Billy Ronald (BR)
David McCowan (DMcC)
Chris Spray (CS)
Claire Chapman (CC)

In Attendance - National Park Authority Staff
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Gordon Watson (GW), Chief Executive Officer

Pete Wightman (PW), Director of Corporate Services
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Stuart Mearns (SM), Director of Place

Simon Jones (SJ), Director of Environment and Visitor Services
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Anna MacLean (AM), Director of Engagement and Innovation
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Yvonne Christie (YC), Proper Officer

Jane Cook (JC), Executive & Business Support Manager
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Margaret Gallacher (MG), Minute Clerk

Kenny Auld (KA), Head of Visitor Services – Agenda Item 6

Eilidh McKerry (EMcK), Financial & Performance Manager – Agenda items 7 & 10
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Ali Cush (AC), Education Adviser – Agenda Item 12

Claire Ferguson (CF), HR Adviser – Agenda Item 12

Apologies

Iain Shonny Paterson

Murray Lyle

Sarah Drummond

Items and Actions

Session 1: Introduction and Decision Papers (10am – 12.00pm)

<u>Item 1: Welcome and Apologies</u>

The Convener opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees to the virtual Board meeting.

The Convener advised that this meeting was able to take place in this format as a result of:

- Board Standing Order 25 which permits participation by Members at board meetings to be either in person or by video or audio link;
- The Board agreed at the 14th September 2020 Board meeting that the 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 provides that members of the 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 we are allowing members of the public to view proceedings as they would normally without a risk to health.

The Convener welcomed any members of the public and the Youth Committee viewing the virtual meeting.

The Convener then asked Board members and National Park staff participating in the virtual meeting to introduce themselves.

Items and Actions

Apologies have been received from Iain Shonny Paterson, Murray Lyle and Sarah Drummond.

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

The Convener advised Board members that it is proposed agenda items 15 and 16 will be held in closed session. YC advised of the resolution Members required to vote on to allow agenda items 15 and 16 to be held in closed session.

DECISION: All Members were in agreement to hold agenda items 15 and 16 in closed session.

Item 2: Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were noted at this point.

Item 3: Minutes of Meeting held on 15th March 2021

Agenda item 4 – amend the date from 14th December 2021 to 14th December 2020.

Action: Minutes to be amended with the correct date.

The minutes were proposed by RE and seconded by CS.

DECISION: Members agreed to approve the minutes with the exception of DG who was not in attendance for the full meeting.

Item 4: Matters Arising

PW introduced the matters arising. All matters are now closed. Members were invited to note the report.

DECISION: Members agreed to note the report.

Item 5: CEO Report

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

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

Item 6: Core Paths Plan

Items and Actions

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

DECISION: Members agreed to formally adopt the proposed amended Core Paths Plan as presented in Appendix 7.

Item 7: Budget 2021/22 Follow-up

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

DECISION: Members agreed to approve the updated Budget for 2021/22 as set out in this paper and at Appendix 1.

Lunch Break – 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Session 2: Update Papers (1:00pm – 2:45pm)

Item 8: 2020/21 Annual Operational Plan Final 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.

Item 9: 2021/22 Annual Operational 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.

Item 10: 2020/21 Financial Report

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

DECISION: Members agreed to note:

- 1) the contents of the report,
- 2) the Management Accounts to 31st March 2021 (Appendix 1), and
- 3) the Statutory Accounts timetable (Appendix 2)

Item 11: Future Nature

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

Items and Actions

Action: Following the discussion, Members were asked to inform SJ of any further reflections in relation to the 4 questions below.

DECISION: Members agreed to:

- i) support the draft Route Map, and
- ii) discuss the content of the draft Route Map, specifically in relation to the following questions:
 - How should the Route Map link to Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plans, strategies, plans and aspirations for nature to ensure successful delivery?
 - How can we best engage and get buy-in from our local communities?
 - Are the levels of ambition high enough, or too high?
 - Where and what do you see as the main challenges to successful delivery and how can we tackle these?

Item 12: Equalities Mainstreaming Report and Equalities Outcomes 2021-2025

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

Action: Members to contact PW if interested in a future session

DECISION: Members agreed to:

1. Note the contents of the report attached at Appendix 1
2. Notify the Director of Corporate Services if they are interested in a future session to look in more depth at the Equalities Outcomes

Item 13: Any Other Business

CC asked about electric charging points for the public within the National Park and was advised that there are four electric charging points available for public use.

Details of our charging points was sought after the meeting for clarity:

HQ – 4 staff charging points, 2 public
DMMS – 2 staff charging points
Balmaha - 1 staff charging point, 2 public
Inveruglas – 2 public charging points
Lochearnhead office - 1 staff charging point

Item 14: Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Board meeting will be Monday 13th September 2021. JS advised that the current legislation, in terms of meetings, carries through to the end of September. Depending on changes to the legislation, It is possible we may be able to meet in person in September and a decision on this will be made nearer the time.

Closing of Meeting

Items and Actions

Before closing the meeting, JS reminded Members and the public that the next session will be a confidential session.

Declaration of Interest – David McCowan

I have an interest to declare for Agenda Item 16(a), as Chair/Director at Luss & Arden Community Development Trust. This is with regard to Category 7 of the Code of Conduct: Non-Financial Interests. I will therefore not be participating in this agenda item.

Action: YC to send Members some wording on Declarations of Interest.

JS advised the running order for the confidential session will be Agenda Items 15, 16(b) and 16(a) and DMcC will leave the meeting at the end of 16(b).

Session 3: Confidential Items (3:00 – 4:00pm)

Corporate Risk Register Update and Vacant Assets

These agenda items were held in closed session following the resolution agreed by the Board earlier in the meeting.

Signed

James Stuart, Convener