



Draft minutes of meeting held at 9.30am on 26 September 2022

Agenda Item

National Park Authority Board Meeting

12 December 2022

Paper for information

Present	1
Apologies	1
In Attendance - National Park Authority Staff	2
Items and Actions	2
Session 1: 09:30am – 11:00am	2
Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm	5

Present
James Stuart (Convener)
Sid Perrie (SP)
Claire Chapman (CC)
Alistair Berrill (AB)
Diane Docherty (DD)
Christopher Spray (CS)
Iain Shonny Paterson (ISP)
Zain Sehgal (ZS)
David McKie (DM)
Richard Johnson (RJ)
Hazel Sorrell Observing
William Sinclair Observing

Apologies
Sarah Drummond
Heather Reid
Murray Lyle
Danny Gibson
David Fettes

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 (AMac), Director of Engagement & Innovation
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Douglas Smith (DS), Board & Committee Manager & Proper Officer
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Ayeasha Temple (AT), Minute Clerk

Aidan Cronin (AC), Youth Committee

Sandra Dalziel (SD), Legal Manger

Emma Yendell (EY), Estates Manager

Kenny Auld (KA), Head of Visitor Services

Items and Actions

Session 1: 09:30am – 11:00am

Item 1: Welcome and Apologies

<p>The Convener opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees to the meeting - rescheduled from the 12th of September, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.</p>
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<p>As with our previous meetings since the start of the pandemic, this meeting was available for members of the public to view via a livestream on our website.</p>

<p>The Convenor welcomed the members of the public watching online.</p>

<p>The Convener welcomed Aidan Cronin, who has joined the organisation on a year-long work placement from McLaren High School in Callander. Aidan is a member of the National Park's Youth Committee and, amongst other things, will be working on increasing engagement and dialogue between the Board and the Youth Committee.</p>
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<p>The Convener welcomed and congratulated those Members directly elected to the Board in July's election.</p>
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<p>JS recorded thanks to the Local Authority-nominated Members for whom this is the final Board Meeting and welcomed their incoming replacements who will join the Board from the 1st of October 2022.</p>

Items and Actions

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

JS advised he is the Convener and a Ministerial appointment to the Board.

Item 2: Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were noted.

Item 3: Minutes of Meeting held on 13 June 2022

The minutes has been **approved** previously by correspondence.

Item 4: Minutes of Special Meeting held on 18 July 2022

The minutes were proposed by CS and seconded by CC.

DECISION: Members agreed to **approve** the minutes.

Item 5: Matters Arising

PW introduced the matters arising.

DECISION: Members agreed to **note** the report.

Item 6: Committee Membership Update

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

DECISION: Members agreed to

1. **Approve** the update to committee membership as outlined at 4.4.
2. **Note** the timeline and process for the internal Board elections scheduled for December 2022.

Items and Actions

Item 7: 2021/22 Annual Report and Accounts

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

ACTION: Annual Operating Plan 'themes' to be added to 2021/22 Key Activity table.

DECISION: Members agreed to:

- 1. Note** the draft Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/22 (subject to finalisation of external audit procedures and consideration by Audit & Risk Committee);
- 2. Consider and reaffirm** the anticipated Audit & Risk Committee recommendation (at the meeting on 6th September 2022) that the Annual Report and Accounts are signed by the Chief Executive following External Audit clearance and resolution of outstanding matters;

Members will be advised upon completion of the audit and receipt of the external audit report. Any significant changes would be highlighted to Members.

Item 8: Vacant National Park Asset in Luss

The paper was introduced by SM, SD and EY. Discussion and questions from Members followed.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by RE and seconded by SP. The amendment proposed to change the recommendation to:

"1. Approve that officers pause the process to dispose of the vacant asset in Luss until the conclusion of the Strategic Plans work, expected next year."

The amended and original motions were then voted on by members:

The amended motion fell by majority decision of the Board – 3 votes in favour, 7 votes against.

The original motion was approved by majority decision of the Board – 7 votes in favour, 3 votes against.

DECISION: Members agreed to:

Items and Actions

1. Approve that officers proceed with the process to dispose of the vacant asset in Luss (being the former visitor centre and associated land) as included in Title Number DMB76038 (see Appendix 1); and

2. Approve that the decision to dispose on the open market or to another public body is delegated to the Chief Executive as Accountable Officer, provided all required Scottish Government approvals are in place.

Session 2: 11:15am – 12:30pm

Item 9 Advise of Meeting and Site Visit

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

Decision: Members agreed to;

1. Note that, in accordance with Standing Orders 44 © of the Board and 7(d) of the Planning and Access Committee, the major planning application (2021/0357/DET) relating to the installation of a marine fish farm and associated development including shore base, slipway and pontoon and road upgrades at Beinn Reithe, Loch Long will be brought to the full Board for determination considering the level of public interest and the intended use of new technology in the application and proposal.

2. In accordance with Standing Orders 33 and 34 of the Planning and Access Committee, **agree** to holding a Hearing and Site Visit in relation to this major planning application and delegate to the Director of Place in liaison with the Convener to agree the appropriate procedures to be adopted and the date for these.

3. Note that a Special Board Meeting to determine this major planning application will be arranged following a Hearing and Site Visit. The Site Visit, Hearing and Board Meeting will provisionally be held on Monday 31 October 2022. In accordance with Standing Order 35 of the Planning and Access Committee, only Board Members who attend the Site Visit and the Hearing will be entitled to participate in the determination of the planning application.

Items and Actions

Item 10: CEO Report

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

DECISION: Members agreed to **note** the report.

Item 11: Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report

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

DECISION: Members agreed to **approve** the contents of the report.

Item 12: 2022/23 Annual Operational Plan Progress Report

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

DECISION: Members agreed to **note** this report

Item 13: Finance Update

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

DECISION: Members agreed to note this report and the Management Accounts for the quarter ended 30 June 2021.

Item 14: Committee and Group Highlights

CS gave an update on the strategic planning process.

JS gave an update on behalf of HR on the Countryside Trust.

RE gave an update on the activity of the Audit and Risk Committee.

AC gave an update on the Youth Committee.

ACTION: UK National Parks Conference report to be made at 12 December Board Meeting

ACTION: Conic Hill site visit to be added to Induction Plan and all Members invited

Items and Actions
Item 15: Any Other Business No other business items.
Item 16: Date of Next Meeting The date of the next Board meeting will be Monday 31 October 2022, when a Special Meeting will be held to determine major planning application 2021/0357/DET
Item 17: Confidential Session - Draft Minutes of Confidential Session of Meeting held on 13 June 2022 Approval for these minutes is to be sought by correspondence of those in attendance.

Signed

James Stuart, Convener