



Draft Minutes of Special Board Meeting held at 14:00 on 31 October at Three Villages Hall, Arrochar

Agenda Item: 3

National Park Authority Board

12 December 2022

Paper for approval

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Attendees

Members

James Stuart (JS) - Convener

David Mackie (DM)

Ronnie Erskine (RE)

Claire Chapman (CC)
Christopher Spray (CS)
Martin Earl (ME)
Sid Perrie (SP)
William Sinclair (WS)
Heather Reid (HR)
Sarah Drummond (SD)
Richard Johnson (RJ)

In Attendance – National Park Authority staff

Stuart Mearns, Director of Place (SM)
Bob Cook, Planning Development Manager (BC)
Alison Williamson, Development Management Planner (AW)
Fiona Stewart, Land Use Programme Manager (FS)
Pete Wightman, Director of Corporate Services (PW)
Douglas Smith, Board and Committee Manager (DS) - Proper Officer

Also In Attendance

Alastair McKie, Anderson Strathern LLP (AM) - Legal Clerk
Douglas Harman, Landscape Planning Consultant

Apologies

Hazel Sorrell (HS)
Maurice Corry (MC)
Rhona Brock (RB)
Shonny Paterson (SP)
David Fettes (DF)
Gerry McGarvey (GMc)

Items and Actions

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Convener (JS) welcomed attendees to this Special Meeting of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and explained that the meeting was taking place following the decision of the Chair of Planning and Access Committee, in consultation with the Director of Place, under Planning and Access Standing Order 7(d), that it was appropriate for the Board to hear the major planning application 2021/0357/DET relating to the installation of a marine fish farm at Loch Long, considering the level of public interest and the intended new technology in the application and proposal.

The Convener explained that Standing Order 78 of the National Park Authority Board makes clear that in such circumstances, the Special Meeting shall be governed by the Standing Orders of the Planning and Access Committee.

The Convener welcomed the members of the public in attendance and for their interest in the application. The Convener reminded the members of the public in attendance that only those who had submitted a successful application to speak prior to the meeting would be able to contribute to proceedings, when invited to do so.

The Convener invited all Members and Staff participating in the meeting to introduce themselves. JS confirmed that Members must have been present at the site visit in order to participate in the decision of Item 4, and that all those in attendance had been present at the morning's site visit.

JS advised that HS, SP, MC, RB, GMc and DF had submitted apologies for this meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

CC – Confirmed she was not making a declaration of interest but was referring to a declared registerable interest in which she is an employee of Scottish Water (who made a response related to Item 4) although she confirmed that she had had no input or advance knowledge of the organisation's response.

HR – Confirmed she was not making a declaration of interest but was referring to a declared registerable interest in which she is a Board Member of NatureScot (who made a response related to Item 4) although she confirmed that she had had no input or advance knowledge of their response.

JS confirmed that he did not consider these conflicts which would require CC or HR to remove themselves from the decision making on Item 4.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Board Meeting held on 26 September 2022

There were no comments on, or amendments to, the minutes.

The minutes were Proposed by CS and seconded by RE. The minutes were approved by all Members present.

DECISION: The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 26th September 2022 were approved.

AM confirmed the decision.

4. 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

Consideration of Item

SM clarified that the assessment of impacts on the Three Lochs Way was on the basis of 1500 users per annum, as included in the report. This followed a discussion around the number of users of the path which arose at the site visit.

AW made an oral summary of the late responses made in relation to this application.

SM and AW presented the report alongside a PowerPoint presentation to Members.

A detailed discussion of the report took place. BC, FS and DH, alongside SM and AW, answered questions from Members relating to the report.

Stewart Hawthorn and Mark Shotter spoke on behalf of Loch Long Salmon [the applicants] in support of the application. A detailed question session followed where Members asked questions of the applicants and their team in attendance, including landscape advisor. There was an exchange between the legal advisors of the applicant and the National Park Authority. AM confirmed that his legal advice was that the Board, if it decided to adopt the Officers' Report, would be acting lawfully.

Question from Members followed.

Ronald Ross spoke on behalf of Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Community Council in support of the application. Questions from Members followed

George Freeman spoke in support of the application. Questions from Members followed.

Cllr Gordon Blair spoke in support of the application. Question from Members followed.

Roger Brook spoke on behalf of Argyll and District Fishery Board in objection to the application. Questions from Members followed.

John Piper spoke in objection to the application. Questions from Members followed.

Alastair Moodie spoke in objection to the application.

Charlotte McLean spoke in objection to the application.

JS sought final comments and questions from Members and sought any proposed amendments to the motion.

WS indicated a desire to propose an amendment. No seconder was identified and therefore no valid amendment could be proposed.

A member of the public asked a point of order question about quoracy of the Board. JS confirmed that quoracy of the Board is 9 Members and that with 11 in attendance, the meeting was quorate.

MOTION: RE, seconded by CS, proposed to approve the recommendation: That Members refuse the application for the reasons set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

For clarity, the Convener then took a roll call of the decision and confirmed his position. Members voted by a majority of ten votes to one to approve the recommendation to refuse the application for the reasons set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

DECISION: The motion to approve the recommendation that Members refuse the application for the reasons set out in Appendix 1 of the report became the decision of the Board.

AM confirmed the decision.

4. Any Other Business

None.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date of next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 12 December 2022.

Signed
