



Draft minutes of meeting held on 12 December 2022

Agenda Item 3

National Park Authority Board Meeting 30 January 2023

Paper for information

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Present
James Stuart (Convener)
Sid Perrie (SP)
Claire Chapman (CC)
Sarah Drummond (SD)
David Fettes (DF)
Ronnie Erskine (RE)
Iain Shonny Paterson (ISP)
Zain Sehgal (ZS)
David McKie (DM)
Maurice Corry (MC)
Heather Reid (HR)
William Sinclair (WS)
Martin Earl (ME)
Gerry McGarvey (GM)
Rhona Broch (RB)
David Fettes (DF)

Apologies

Richard Johnson
Hazel Sorrell
Christopher Spray

In Attendance - National Park Authority Staff
Gordon Watson (GW), Chief Executive Officer
Pete Wightman (PW), Director of Corporate Services
Stuart Mearns (SM), Director of Place
Simon Jones (SJ), Director of Environment and Visitor Services
Anna MacLean (AMac), Director of Engagement & Innovation
Dougie Smith (DS), Board & Committee Manager & Proper Officer
Ayeasha Temple (AT), Minute Clerk
Aidan Cronin (AC), Youth Committee
Sam Stubbs (SS), Corporate Performance Manager
Michelle Guthrie (MG), Accountant
Kenny Auld (KA), Head of Visitor Services
Dominic Hall (DH), Future Nature Manager

Items and Actions
<p>Item 1: Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Convener opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. He advised that this meeting, as well as being physically accessible to members of the public today, is available to view via a livestream on our website.</p> <p>JS reminded all Members to speak clearly into the microphones provided and not to speak over each other so that those following online are able to follow proceedings with clarity.</p> <p>The Convenor welcomed all members of the public observing today’s meeting.</p> <p>JS welcomed Aidan Cronin of the Youth Committee who is taking part in a year-long work placement with the National Park.</p> <p>JS asked the Members and National Park representatives participating in this meeting to introduce themselves.</p>
<p>Item 2: Declarations of Interest</p> <p>JS declared a Registerable Interest relating to the Loch Lomond Byelaws discussion in part of the CEO Report (Item 10) through his involvement with the Royal Yacht Association of Scotland, who are consultation respondents. As the substance of the matter is not to be considered at this meeting, it was appropriate for JS to participate in the discussion of Item 10. It was noted that</p>

Items and Actions

JS will not participate in the upcoming Special Meeting on the Loch Lomond Byelaws as a result of this Registrable Interest.

CC declared a Registerable Interest relating to the Loch Lomond Byelaws discussion in part of the CEO Report (Item 10) through her involvement with the Scottish Canoe Association, who are consultation respondents. As the substance of the matter is not to be considered at this meeting, it was appropriate for CC to participate in the discussion of Item 10. It was noted that CC will not participate in the upcoming Special Meeting on the Loch Lomond Byelaws as a result of this Registrable Interest.

HR declared a Registerable Interest relating to the Future for National Parks in Scotland Consultation (Item 9) through her role on the Board of NatureScot, who are coordinating the process. HR will not participate in the discussion of Item 9 and will leave the meeting for the duration of this item.

Item 3: Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 26 September 2022

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

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

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

Item 4: Matters Arising

PW introduced the matters arising.

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

Item 5: Convener and Chair Nominations and Committee Membership

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

An amendment to Recommendation 3 (Committee and Group Membership) was proposed by MC and agreed by all present: Remove MC from membership of the Planning and Access Committee and Local Review Body; *and* Add MC to membership of the Audit and Risk Committee.

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An amendment to Recommendation 5 (Depute Chair of Futures Group) was proposed by GM and agreed by all present: To **approve** Gerry McGarvey as Depute Chair of Futures Group, following his proposal by Sarah Drummond and seconding by Martin Earl, and as the only valid nomination received for the position.

DECISION: Members agreed to

1. **Approve** each of the appointments set out, for which each received one nomination only.
2. To **hold an election** consisting of RJ and WS under Standing Orders 16(a-e) for the role of Depute Chair of Planning and Access Committee, with the successful candidate taking the role with immediate effect to December 2024.
3. **Approve** the Committee and Group membership, with immediate effect until December 2024. **Amended as noted above.**
4. **Note** that the membership of the Chairs and Executive Group, as set out in its terms of reference, includes the Convener, Depute Convener, Chairs of each Committee and Group, and the Executive Team. Sarah Drummond and Chris Spray also currently attend the Group in their capacity as co-Chairs of the Strategic Plans Steering Group.
5. **Approve** Gerry McGarvey as Depute Chair of Futures Group, following his proposal by Sarah Drummond and seconding by Martin Earl, and as the only valid nomination received for the position.

Item 6: Internal Board Elections

The paper was introduced by DS. The electoral process was detailed for Members.

An election was held for the position of Depute Convener of Planning and Access Committee. There were two nominees – WS and RJ.

As RJ was not present at the meeting, a vote was held under Standing Order 16(c) to allow him to stand in extenuating circumstances. The vote passed unanimously.

DS read RJ's statement in his absence. WS had up to five minute to address Members before the vote.

Following the conclusion of the election, an equity of votes between candidates was confirmed. In accordance with Standing Order 16(e), the

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result was determined by lot. WS was confirmed as the Depute Chair of the Planning and Access Committee.

DECISION: Members agreed to **Approve** the internal Board elections

Item 7: Future Nature Update Report

The paper was introduced by SJ and DH. Detailed discussion and questions from Members followed.

Decision: Members agreed to **Note** the contents of the report.

Item 8: Mission Zero Update Report

The paper was introduced by SJ. Detailed discussion and questions from Members followed.

Decision: Members agreed to **Note** the contents of the report.

Item 9: The Future for National Parks in Scotland – Scottish Government Consultation Response

HR left the meeting.

The paper was introduced by GW and JS.

JS invited AC to present a summary of the discussion held at the Youth Committee meeting on 8th December 2022 relating to this item.

A detailed discussion of each section took place. Questions and suggestions from Members followed.

Members highlighted where they would like to see adjustments to the response:

- More emphasis on the role National Parks play in learning and engagement and the importance of National Parks being part of the national curriculum. The Youth Committee considered that a new National Park must have a focus on nature and places that need protection.
- Strong support for the opportunity to update some parts of the legislation to better reflect the challenges and opportunities currently facing National Parks.
- It was considered that the third aim should also include a reference to wellbeing as a benefit of enjoyment.

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- It was agreed that there was a need to strengthen the role other public bodies were expected to play in a National Park.
- It was agreed that the fourth aim is important as National Parks need to provide for people to live in the place especially where local employment is needed. It was also considered imperative to consider how to support regenerative forms of social and economic development in keeping with the other aims.

Decision: Members agreed to **Approve** the content of this report as the National Park Authority's response to the Future for National Parks consultation, incorporating the adjustments highlighted by Members above.

Item 10: CEO Report

HR re-joined the meeting.

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

DECISION: Members **Noted** the contents of this report for information.

Item 11: 2022/23 Annual Operational Plan Progress Report

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

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

Item 12: Finance Update

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

DECISION: Members agreed to **note** this report, the Management Accounts for the period ended 30 September 2022 (Appendix 1) and the Q2 Budget Revision for 2022/23 (Appendix 2).

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Item 13: Committee and Group Highlights

Members agreed to provide key bullet point highlights in an email to be circulated to members ahead of the next meeting of the Board.

Action: DS to circulate committee and group highlights

Item 14: Any Other Business

SP raised the fact that Board Members of the National Park Authority do not have their direct contact details listed publicly. A discussion about current and potential methods for the public to contact Board Members took place.

Members were advised to contact DS with their views in relation to the public listing of Members' direct contact details.

Action: DS to collate Members' responses relating to the listing of direct contact details.

A discussion followed regarding correspondence methods with relation to the planning process. SM explained that correspondence relating to specific planning applications, where it comprises a representation, is encouraged through the Planning Portal to ensure equal access to the planning system for all interested parties and that such correspondence with the Planning Authority is accessible to all.

SP raised a question about the status of an historic charter relating to Loch Lomond.

Action: KA to follow up with SP on historic legislation.

Item 15: Date of Next Meeting

Monday 30 January 2023 (Special Meeting – Loch Lomond Byelaws)

Signed

James Stuart, Convener