

CRAGG

CAIRNGORM, ROTHLEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY 30TH MARCH 2006

1) Present

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| William Gilfillan | Area Manager, Highland Council (in the Chair) |
| Sally Dowden | Cairngorm Chamber of Commerce |
| Allan Bantick | Scottish Wildlife Trust |
| Johnnie Grant | Rothiemurchus Estate |
| Andrew Harper | Cairngorms National Park Authority |
| Stuart Benn | RSPB |
| David Jardine | Forestry Commission Scotland |
| Willie McKenna | Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Association |
| Monica MacMillan | Badenoch & Strathspey Local History Group |
| Bob Kinnaird | Cairngorm Mountain |
| Anne Angus | I.N.B.S.E. |
| Keith Duncan | SNH |
| Tim Walker | Glenmore Lodge |
| Audrey Mackenzie | Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council |
| Tessa Jones | |
| Hamish Trench | Cairngorms National Park Authority |
| Philippa Grant | Rothiemurchus Estate |

Apologies

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| Iain Fraser | I.N.B.S.E. |
| Dave Morris | |
| Gregor Rimell | Highland Council |
| Neil Sutherland | |
| Dick Balharry | Chairman – John Muir Trust |
| Mary Ferguson | Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Association |
| Richard Green | Rothiemurchus & Glenmore Community Association |

William introduced the meeting and confirmed that all present had received:-

- a copy of the minutes of the last meeting
- the agenda for this meeting
- a copy of his presentation on Community Planning
- notification of the link to the Cairngorms National Park Authority Draft Park Plan.

2) Minutes of the meeting of 19th January 2006

1. Ref: 3.3 Reference to Forest Enterprise to be replaced with Forestry Commission Scotland.
2. Ref: 7
 - 7.4 The F.C. Forest plan is now developing.
 - 7.5 B & S Local History Group is collaborating with the Forestry Commission Scotland and Highland Council in developing plans for the year of Highland Culture in 2007.
 - 7.8 In order to contribute to the Nature Conservation Act, SNH is required to review all SSSI paperwork in Scotland within 5 years.

There were no other amendments to the draft minutes.

3) Matters Arising

As all matters arising would be covered by the agenda, it was agreed to proceed directly to the agenda.

3.1 The History Project

In Richard Green's absence, there was nothing to add to the report of the last meeting.

Action: Richard Green to update the next meeting.

3.3. Sale of HIE Estate.

Although there is nothing further to add, this is to remain a standing item on the agenda.

Action: David Jardine to keep the meeting updated

6.4 Development of CRAGG website.

After some discussion it was agreed that it is not appropriate for the Cairngorms National Park web site to be the gateway for CRAGG. The National Park Authority has funding to set up a CRAGG website but not to keep it up-dated.

Allan Bantick offered space on the Scottish Wildlife Trust website, but this was also not deemed appropriate for CRAGG.

A vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed that, in principle, the Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association website would be the best home for the CRAGG website, as long as there was no cost to the Association.

It was suggested that if the money was in place, someone could be hired to build the website and to keep it up-dated. A draft minute of each CRAGG meeting would be sent to the webmaster.

Action: Willie McKenna to put the proposal to the Community Association and report back to the next meeting.

Sally Dowden offered to approach the Cairngorm Chamber of Commerce for funding.

Action: Sally Dowden to report back at the next meeting.

7. Information Sharing

Tim Walker suggested that historic CRAGG material could possibly be used on the website. Laurie Wedderburn has left paper archives in good order, filed and boxed and securely stored at Glenmore Lodge, but it is not known how much of the material is backed up on disc.

4) CRAGG – Next Steps

4.1 National Park Plan and Linkage with CRAGG Area Strategy.

Copies of the Draft National Park Plan were circulated. The Park Authority has worked through 2005 with relevant interest groups to develop the Draft which was approved by the Park Board on 2nd December as the basis for a formal public consultation.

A public consultation on the Draft Plan will be launched on 11th April 2006 and continue until 30th June 2006. The documents will be available from the Park Authority in Grantown and from Highland Council Service Points and libraries.

A series of meetings will be held with communities and interest groups to identify the long-term vision for the National Park and the perceived priorities where action is needed in the next five years. Hamish Trench said that the National Park Authority was open to suggestions about how best to involve those who live both within the Park and on the outskirts, in the consultation.

The long-term vision for the Park has to deliver on three themes:

- Conserving, enhancing and managing the Park
- Communities living and working in the Park
- Understanding and enjoying the Park

Numerous suggested priorities for action have been pared down to seven:

1. Conserving and enhancing the Park's biodiversity and landscapes
2. Developing sustainable deer management
3. Supporting integrated land management
4. Providing high quality opportunities for outdoor access.
5. Making housing affordable and sustainable
6. Making tourism and businesses sustainable
7. Developing awareness and understanding of the Park

It is accepted that these will change and develop following the consultation period. Expectation is that by the end of this year the programme will be finalised and sent to Scottish Executive for approval before final implementation.

Initial thoughts and opinions were sought from the meeting and the question asked – how can CRAGG be involved with the consultation and work with the National Park Authority?

It was agreed that it was not possible to contribute effectively to the Plan when this was the first time it had been seen. Organisations will be asked to respond individually but the draft should be taken away and studied from the CRAGG perspective. It should be borne in mind that the National Park Plan covers the whole Park whereas CRAGG covers a specific and much smaller area.

Actions

- 1. Hamish Trench to tell the next CRAGG meeting what has been left out of the National Park Plan that had been included in the CRAGG Strategy.**

2. *Each individual organisation needs to take cognisance of the Plan from the point of view of their own group objectives.*
3. *As a group, CRAGG to check out timescales, priorities and budgets etc.*

The National Park to engage with each organisation individually in order to determine priorities.

Care must be taken not to assume that all the priorities have reached consensus within CRAGG. CRAGG overview to be debated at the next meeting.

4.2 Update on Community Planning

William discussed the presentation which had been previously circulated. He stressed that the Community Plan is about delivering, and supporting agencies who can't deliver because they have no budget or resources, or because of bureaucracy.

The Key Question was asked: How are the gaps going to be identified and how will those things that don't happen be addressed?

Community Planning will not have all the answers. There are key roles for the National Park (through the Park Plan) and the new Destination Management Organisation. These three strands form the basis of good community planning.

4.3 Update on DMO

Main accommodation providers are part of DMO and issues such as disabled access, luggage ramps etc are being addressed.

Action:

Audrey Mackenzie to ask the Aviemore Community Council if Yvonne from DMO should be invited to address one of their meetings.

Tourist brochures are out of date and needing to be updated.

It was felt that negative feedback forms from visitors were not being directed to the right place/people.

The DMO will address these issues and has made a positive impact in the area in a relatively short period of time.

5) AOCB

- Rothiemurchus Concordat Steering Group have commissioned a study of what public benefits could be bought from Rothiemurchus Estate. A meeting will be set up to discuss these issues.

Action: CNPA to set up a meeting inviting all CRAGG members to attend to discuss the Rothiemurchus Concordat and public benefits.

CRAGG Events

- 1) Outdoor Challenge
- 2) Outdoor Marathon

- 3) The British Heart Foundation has run into difficulties because of a shortage of funds.
- 4) Funding has been earmarked for Outdoor Festival planned for 2007. Although planning is still in its early stages, it is expected to be an annual event from June 2007

6) Date and Chair of Next meetings

Thursday 8th June at Glenmore Lodge, at 6pm.

Keith Duncan SNH to chair the meeting.

Thursday 21st September at Glenmore Lodge, at 6pm.

Keith Duncan SNH to chair the meeting.

Thursday 7th December at Glenmore Lodge, at 6pm.