

CRAGG

CAIRNGORM, ROTHIEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

Meeting on Tuesday 13th March 2007
6pm at Glenmore Lodge

MINUTES

1. Present/Apologies

Present

Keith Duncan	Scottish Natural Heritage
Mary Ferguson	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
Johnnie Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Philippa Grant	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Bob Kinnaird	Cairngorm Mountain Ltd
Audrey McKenzie	Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council
Gregor Rimell	Highland Council
Tim Walker (Acting Chair)	Glenmore Lodge
Fiona Chalmers	Cairngorm National Park Authority
Allan Bantick	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Sally Dowden	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
David Jardine	Forestry Commission Scotland
Willie McKenna	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
Clive Bowman	Interreg Northern Periphery Programme Preparatory Project
Richard Green	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
Murray Ferguson	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Keith Duncan	SNH
Jeremy Roberts	RSPB
Anne Dempster	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
Walter Dempster	Local History Group

Apologies

William Gilfinnan	Highland Council
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2. Minutes of meeting on 7th December 2006

Approved.

3. Note of the last meeting on 18th January 2007

Attention was drawn to 3.5c - changes to the current rules of procedure that are used in CRAGG meetings. It was agreed there would be an extension for members to send their thoughts on proposed changes. These are to go to the Chair and will be discussed at the next meeting. Action: all members.

4. CLIM-ATIC – Interreg Northern Periphery Programme Preparatory Project (Clive Bowman)

4.1 CLIM-ATIC is a preparatory project, funded through the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme. It aims to establish a transnational network within the peripheral regions of northern Europe, in order to develop a multi-partner project which will focus on:

- the potential impacts of climate change on small peripheral rural communities
- how these communities could adapt to avoid or reduce the negative impacts of climate change, while taking advantage of opportunities.

The following points were made by Clive:

- a) Highlands and Islands is 1 of 5 project regions in Europe.
 - b) Concentrating on 3 communities in the Highlands and Islands:
 - Westray, Orkney
 - Assynt Foundation, Lochinver
 - Suggesting CRAGG might be the third
 - c) Organisations they are hoping to involve:
 - SNH
 - CNPA
 - Forestry Commission
 - Highlands and Islands Enterprise
 - High Trans
 - d) Northern Periphery will put in 60% of the total £2 million needed. They are looking for the balance of funding from the above organisations. Applications need to be in by June 2007.
 - e) Working towards a sustainable future, by communicating across this country and with the other countries involved.
- 4.2 There followed a discussion and the following points were made:
- a) CRAGG needs to agree what it wants from the project. i.e. housing, transport, tourism etc.
 - b) Bob Kinnaird to coordinate the sub-group (Item for next meeting).
 - c) CRAGG agreed to support the project in principle.

5. History Project (Richard Green)

This project has been ongoing for a year and cannot be progressed at the moment. Following a general discussion these suggestions were made:

- a) Approach the University of Highland and Islands (UHI) so it becomes part of a bigger project.
- b) Forest history BLOG to be circulated (action David Jardine).
- c) Consider creation of a BLOG (action Philippa Grant).
- d) National Lottery Fund is offering Heritage Lottery Funding towards projects from communities. The project is fine as it is and could be put forward (item for next meeting).
- e) Use of the Vital Spark Conference in October (Heritage Interpretation)
- f) Organise group meeting to identify important characters in the community. Arrange recorded interviews (action all).

6. Proposed Events Policy

6.1 During a lengthy and wide ranging discussion the following points were made:

- a) There are at least 63 proposed events for the CRAGG area this year.
- b) The Outdoor Access Strategy for the National Park has now been approved by the CNPA Board and contains a policy on organised events that rely on access rights (circulated with minutes). It is important they remember what is said in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and that particular care must be taken when organising events. They can broadly be separated into 2 types:
 - Small Scale Events – where no equipment/facilities are needed and they have minimum environmental or land management impact. These events require liaison with land managers
- c) Larger Scale Events – These events require permission from land managers
- d) General consensus that events should be managed at a Park-wide scale in line with policy in the Outdoor Access Strategy and that the 2 types need to be more easily identified. Suggested criteria would be helpful for accepting/declining events.
- e) The following points were made on whether events should be repeated:
 - Some felt the bigger events might only come to the area if they can be repeated.
 - Other felt the big events should only come once, due to their impact.
- f) Suggested that acceptance could be dependant on:
 - A percentage of money raised to be reinvested in the area.
 - Appropriate promotion of the National Park and the Rothiemurchus Glenmore area.
 - Repair of any damage caused.
- g) An events calendar needs to be published well in advance to inform communities and visitors alike.

6.2 Forth-coming Events

- a) John Roy Stewart Festival 18th August 2007
- b) Outsider Festival Midsummer Weekend 23rd/24th June 2007
- c) Triathlon (Tim Pott) (date unknown)
- d) Maximillian (date unknown)

7. Information Sharing

- a) Olympic Tribute Monument – donations now being received.
- b) Landscape Partnership Project (Fiona Chalmers)
- c) Scottish Wildlife Trust (Alan Bantick) – to cover wider regions
- d) Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association Newsletter out shortly (Mary Ferguson).
- e) Attention was drawn to the number of signs in the Glenmore Area (Action Murray Ferguson)
- f) Highland Year of Culture – SNH.
- g) Sewage Work Update (FC Wide)
- h) Mountain Scrub Project 2nd – 18th September, Glenmore.

8. CNPA Update

a. National Park Plan: Likely to be signed off by Ministers later this week and there is likely to be some press interest. CNPA will be reviewing structures associated with implementation and is likely to opt for seven Delivery Teams to reflect the seven Priorities for Action, four Advisory Forums and a Panel on “joined-up” government.

b. CNPA is likely to operate the small grants scheme (with contributions from SNH) next year again and it is likely to be renamed the “Community Investment Programme”.

c. CNPA has now launched the Cairngorms Action for Training and Skills Bursary Scheme. Leaflets area available from Kate Christie.

d. CNPA Board has now agreed a way forward on the coordination of ranger services.

e. The Outdoor Access Strategy has been approved by the CNPA Board. Like the Park Plan, it is a Strategy for the area of ground designated as a NP and therefore will require strong partnership effort to deliver – it is not just a Strategy for CNPA.

f. Core Paths Plan: CNPA Board has now approved the approach to be used to develop the Interim Draft Plan. This will be subject to consultation between April and June.

g. Glenmore off-road route: A constructive meeting had been held on 14 February. It is anticipated that planning permission may be obtained by end of summer 2007 and work could commence in autumn, with work complete in early 2008.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 14th June at 6pm at Glenmore Lodge – Chair, Tim Walker

10. Chairs agreed for the following meetings:

- Bob Kinnaird
- Sally Dowden
- David Jardine

- Keith Duncan