

CRAGG

CAIRNGORM, ROTHIEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

Meeting on Monday 12th May 2008

6pm at Glenmore Lodge, Glenmore

DRAFT MINUTES

Present

Keith Duncan	SNH
Jeremy Roberts	(RSPB) acting Chair
Tim Walker	Glenmore Lodge
Mary Ferguson	RGCA
Bob Grant	CNPA
David Jardine	FCS
Paul Corrigan	Cairngorm Mountain
John Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Tessa Jones	BSCG
Willie McKenna	RGCA
Sally Dowden	CCC
Philippa Grant	CCC

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Alan Rankin, Deborah Tait, Sally Thomas, Allan Bantick, Richard Green, Anne & Walter Dempster.

In attendance

Bob Grant for Murray Fergusson

Paul Corrigan for Bob Kinnaird

3. Minutes

AP1 The Chair to request copies of relevant notes for the Information sharing section of future meetings two weeks in advance. Apologies from the Chair that this had not been carried out for this meeting. Ongoing, **carry forward**.

AP2 Landowners to submit proposals for ongoing consent for certain recreation events. Ongoing, **carry forward**.

AP3 CCC to provide read and write access to landowners to events calendar on CRAGG website. **Carry forward**.

AP 4 DMO to provide public calendar of fixed events. **Carry forward**.

AP 5 DMO to whether only those listed in What's on are people who want events publicised. **Carry forward.**

AP6 David Jardine provided an update on the events calendar. **Action point,** David Jardine to send a copy to be appended to the minutes.

- A question was asked if the events were settling after the flurry of last year – the response was that there was no evidence.
- Were events going on elsewhere in the National Park – the response was that there was no evidence
- A statement was made that there was still no clear evidence for problems with capercaillie etc; in wider months (outwith autumn period) and asked if the evidence should be reviewed again? CNPA outlined discussions that need to be held by a group of wide ranging interests to take forward earlier work. The Chair took an **action point** to progress this matter.
- It was noted that these discussions relate to point 13.2 of management strategy.
- CNPA advised that the draft events strategy timescale for approval was September. An **action point** for CNPA to copy the approved strategy to CRAGG members.

AP8 David Jardine to put out spreadsheet on strategy and ask members for comments on a review on progress and actions

An offer of a computer, from Tim was made, it was suggested that it could be offered to VABS.

Update

- Core path plan comments required by 30th June.
- Grey Squirrel update, no further sightings at Coylumbridge and traps failed to confirm presence/absence. Acknowledgement and thanks was noted of voluntary work carried out by Alph Magregor to investigate this issue.

4. Aviemore and Glenmore off-road route

BG noted CNPA's dual role in respect of funding and planning. FCS is managing the project. Scheduled work to have minimal impacts on birds etc, There were some initial issues over supervision by project team and this has been addressed.

FCS provided a summary of progress:

Section 5 largely built

Section 3&4 Largely built, bridge to be installed early June.

Section 2 Partially completed

Section 1 Preliminary work carried out

Construction was expected to be complete around mid June. Thanks were expressed to Mark Hederwick and Rutherfords (contractors) for their efforts. Other comments were received from members: SNH were satisfied with the work to date; SportsScotland are pleased with work and can't wait for completion; CCC commented that the path looks great; BSCG raised concerns about construction widths being up to six metres, borrow pits too big, work too close to ants nests and that their points have been raised in writing.

The Chair sought guidance about CRAGG's role with the construction element of the path and it was concluded that it was not the role of CRAGG to engage in the detail, CRAGG's role is more involved with principles of route. Members expressed disappointment that BSCG went to press and explained that this is not the way CRAGG operates. Some present expressed the view that CRAGG has failed because one member felt the need to go to the press but others disagreed. It was noted that in terms of the development a formal process was working and dialogue is happening.

RGCA asked what the route will be named. An **action point** was made for RGCA/FCS and Rothiemurchus Estate to meet to discuss the topic.

5. Events calendar review

Discussed under AP6 above.

6. Information sharing

CML – Ownership of the company has been taken over by HIE, any further information required contact Bob Kinnaird.

RGCA - Mary Fergusson announced that she is retiring from the post of Chair of RGCA. An extraordinary meeting is to be held on Friday 16th to discuss the future of RGCA. Support and thanks were expressed to Mary for providing the key link between CRAGG and RGCA. Members also thanked RGCA for their involvement with CRAGG and hoped that this would continue. Through the chair an offer was made if anything the group could do to communicate the importance of RGCA to CRAGG.

FCS - The sewerage development is ongoing. Proposed redevelopment at the Glenmore campsite including a reduction in the footprint by loch side are at an advanced stage. The proposals will go to planning in the near future. The removal of spruce above the visitor centre will commence this summer, which is earlier than normal due to a number of reasons. A question was asked about the extraction route and members were advised that the timber would be transported past the shop via Beglan.

Rothiemurchus Estate – A new recreational activity is proposed between the Ministers house and the Church. Discussions were ongoing about use of the old sand quarry at Inverdrue for housing.

7. AOB

8. Date of next meeting and chair

2nd September - Chair Paul Corrigan

David Jardine will chair the Dec 08 and March 09 meetings (dates TBA)