

# CRAGG

## CAIRNGORM, ROTHIEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

Meeting on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008, 6pm at Glenmore Lodge

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### PRESENT:

Bob Kinnaird	CairnGorm Mountain	Acting Chair
Christine Briddon	CairnGorm Mountain	Minute Secretary
Angela Kilvington	RGCA	
David Jardine	FCS	
Yvonne Birnie	RGCA	
Murray Ferguson	CNPA	
Bill Wilson	RGCA	
Philippa Grant	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce	
John Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate	
Allan Bantick	SWT	
Tim Walker	Glenmore Lodge	
Sally Dowden	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce	
Willie McKenna	RGCA	
Keith Duncan	SNH	
Tessa Jones	BSCG	

#### 1. Welcome

The chair welcomed all to the meeting and individuals introduced themselves.

#### 2. Apologies

Jeremy Roberts – RSPB, Sally Thomson – Scottish Government

#### 3. Minutes of meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008

The minutes were agreed as accurate.

Action points carried forward from the previous minutes

AP1 Closed

AP2 Landowners to submit proposals for ongoing consent for certain recreation events – ongoing – **carry forward**

AP3 Closed

AP4 DMO to provide public calendar of fixed events – **carry forward**

AP5 DMO ... - **carry forward**

AP6 David Jardine to send a copy of events calendar to be appended to minutes – apologies from DJ for not having done this. However, agenda point 5 covers this.

Actions points from minute of 12<sup>th</sup> May

AP1 Capercaillie issues – Murray Ferguson reported that a meeting had taken place and that he would circulate a minute of the meeting

AP2 CNPA to copy approved events strategy to CRAGG members once agreed – **carry forward**

AP3 RCGA/FCS/Rothiemurchus Est to meet to discuss name for new cycle route – CNPA had initiated correspondence. Suggestions for name had been gathered. Decision had not yet been made. See note of further discussions under Agenda point 4.

#### 4. Aviemore and Glenmore off-road route (CNPA)

Suggestions for names had been gathered and had been voted on by those attending the RGCG AGM. There was much discussion on the issue. Philippa Grant was keen that any name should include the term “off road”, though others found this term somewhat misleading. David Jardine did not agree that this

term should be used. Murray Ferguson made clear that whatever the name all signs would have the destination and distance on them (eg "Aviemore" or "Glenmore"). Willie McKenna suggested that perhaps the name should be linked to local history in some way as this might open opportunities for future interpretation. David Jardine agreed that there might be an argument for making the name distinctive in some way. The majority of those present agreed that the route should have a name. Murray reminded everyone that this needed to be decided within the next 3 to 4 weeks. After further discussion there were no strong feelings against the suggestion that the route be named "The Old Logging Way". It was agreed that the decision should now be left with Willie McKenna and Dave Fallows going back to the Community Assoc.

Murray F and David Jardine gave an update on completion of the route covering construction, signage and other safety works on the on the path and on the road. There was a wide ranging discussion about the route with minor concerns expressed re quarry dust, stones on the route, dangerous corners etc – taken on board by Murray Ferguson. David Jardine reminded that the contract was not yet closed therefore these issues could be taken on board. Tim, Bob and Bill all commented on the positive comments they had from staff and public about the route. Bill said that some people had asked why the big trees had been cut down. John Grant advised that these trees had been identified for cutting as part of a wider forest management plan and this was not linked to the development of the route. Tessa asked about the timescale for the waymarking and was advised by Murray the timescale was 2 – 3 months and that he will circulate CRAGG with plans.

The proposed date for the official opening is 10<sup>th</sup> October . This clashes with a CNPA Advisory Forum meeting and a Badger Forum meeting the same day. Bob Kinnaird suggested that the date would have to be decided on availability of VIPs and it may be possible to move the venue of the advisory group meeting to fit in as part of the day. Murray Ferguson suggested that the opening may simply take the form of a picture story - rather than getting a large number of people together.

## **5. Events and calendar review (Tim Walker)**

Meeting date 16<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2pm, Forestry Visitor Centre, Chair – Jim Gillies

3 Event organisers coming to discuss events in this area – Wild at Heart, a local disability group, Shuresh

Murray Ferguson reported that the CNP event guidelines are being put in place. It is planned that event organisers will have an opportunity to meet twice a year. Draft events guidelines were circulated to 130 potential respondents, including all members of CRAGG and 13 replied. The draft guidelines go to the Park Board on 31 October for approval. Philippa Grant suggested that too stringent guidance about use of environmental impact assessment would be likely to put off small local organisations. She also suggested that events should put something sustainable back into the area. Willie McKenna suggested that there are too many events in September and should be spread out. John Grant said both social and environmental impact should be considered.

## **6. Oral History Project (FCS)**

David Jardine referred to information previously circulated and spoke of work at Beglan Village, interpreting woodlands in Scotland and with the Society of Wildlife Artists. The Oral History Project has basic funding in place but further partners would be very welcome. Jim Hunter, who has worked with FC before, will be involved. Scoping meeting planned for Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> Sep to discuss who might become involved in the project. Philippa alluded to work which been carried out in St. Andrews and suggested getting in touch with them. CNPA are supportive of this development and interested in ensuring that the stories are presented in the context of the National Park and that links are made with other areas in the Park where similar work is taking place. A paper will shortly be presented to the Park Board regarding Cultural Heritage and the possible development of a post to work on this.

## **7. Information Sharing**

- A Grand Walk – Bob Kinnaird circulated information and encouraged folks to get involved and to spread the word. Walk from Cairngorm to Aviemore to raise funds for the Community Domestic Abuse project.

- David Jardine reported that FC harvesting operation was going very well and should be finished in 4 – 6 weeks time. Sewerage developments – construction starts end October, following mid-term holidays. Campsite development – thanks to those who attended the open afternoon.
- David Menzies from Legacy Group visiting Glenmore re 2012 Olympics and possible use as a training area for road cycling, mountain biking and triathlon.
- John Grant advised that a meeting re Cambusmore will take place in the Cairngorm Hotel from 3pm on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### **8. AOB**

Bob proposed a vote of thanks to Tim Walker as this was his last CRAGG meeting. Tim has been a very active member of the group for the past 8 years. All wished him well and enjoyed cake and wine in celebration.

**Date of next meeting and Chair** David Jardine will chair next meeting which will be held in Glenmore Lodge on 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm