

CRAGG

CAIRNGORM, ROTHIEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

Meeting on Tuesday, 9th December 2008, 6pm at Glenmore Lodge

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT:

David Jardine	FCS Acting Chair
Jack Mackay	FCS Minute Secretary
Paul Corrigan	CairnGorm Mountain
Ian Whitaker	CairnGorm Mountain
Bob Kinnaird	Glenmore Lodge
Philippa Grant	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Willie McKenna	RGCA
Sally Dowden	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Alan Rankin	ACDMO
David Fallows	Highland Council
Murray Ferguson	CNPA
John Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Allan Bantick	SWT
Jeremy Roberts	RSPB
Tessa Jones	BSCG

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Ian Whitaker as the new Chief Executive of Cairngorm Mountain Ltd, and Jack Mackay who had agreed to take minutes. Bob Kinnaird was also congratulated on his appointment as Principal of Glenmore Lodge.

2. Apologies

Sally Thomas – Scottish Government, Keith Duncan SNH

3. Minutes of meeting held 2nd September 2008

Two amendments were agreed. Correct the spelling of Sally Thomas' name in Item 2.

Item 4, paragraph 1, 4th sentence to read ' David Jardine did not agree that this term should be used for technical reasons'. Otherwise the minutes were agreed as accurate.

Out standing action points carried forward from the previous minutes:

New numbering for action points are given in italics at the end of each outstanding action point to ease future referencing.

Date 12 May 2008

AP2 Landowners to submit proposals for ongoing consent for certain recreation events on SSSIs – ongoing – **carry forward** (FCS to provide an example, along with SNH) *API*

AP4 DMO to provide public calendar of fixed events – discussed under item 5

AP5 DMO to establish whether only those listed in What's On are people who want events publicised – discussed under item 5

AP6 The updated FC Calendar had been circulated - **Discharged**

12th May 2008

API The notes from the Capercaillie meeting have been circulated - **Discharged**

AP2 CNPA to copy approved events strategy to CRAGG members once agreed – discussed under item 5

AP3 The name for the new cycle route had been resolved - **Discharged**

Matters Arising;

The 'Grand Walk' had taken place at Cairngorm mountain which had been deemed successful and financially worthwhile. Likely to become an annual event with a date in 2009 tbc.

4. Aviemore and Glenmore off-road route

The 'Old Logging Way' is now fully open, well used and getting good comments from users. The road crossings are now completed, and the meeting asked for thanks to be passed to THC's Rod MacKintosh. (AP2 DF).

The next stage will be to sign the route. A contract had been let to do this by CNPA and work is expected to be complete early in 2009.

A maintenance contract is subject to ongoing discussions between CNPA and Rothiemurchus Estate, with input from FCS. CNPA will discuss interpretation options with landowners in due course, but providing directional signs will be the short-term priority.

The meeting agreed that the existing road crossing at Inverdrue was perceived to have some issues in relation to cars braking late, and suggested that the 'rumble strip' option might be considered. The chair agreed to write to THC with this suggestion. (AP3 DJ).

5. Events and calendar review

Events Guidance

The final draft 'Guidance for Organised Outdoor Access Events in the CNP' (OOAE) had been previously circulated.

CNPA thanked CRAGG members for their helpful input to the consultation process, which had contributed to getting the OOAE to its current state. The CNPA board have now approved the text, and the document will be published as a downloadable web based document early in 2009. The OOAE had also been presented to the National Access Forum.

In inviting members to comment, a number of enhancements to the detail were offered including; more positive, more invitational and inspiring, more welcoming, raising organisers awareness of the impact of support vehicles, legacy to the locale, flowchart position, insurance level, community liaison, web etc. Other comments had been made beyond the deadline directly by members, which CNPA would be happy to discuss out with this forum, however CNPA reported that they felt that the OOAE steering group had the majority of these 'in hand'. (RSPB and CCC email representations were circulated to members following the meeting).

CNPA stated that any significant changes to the text would require to be passed by the CNPA board, prompting DF to suggest that on behalf of CRAGG he would raise this with CNPA at board level to see if this process could in any way be streamlined. (AP4 DF).

It was suggested that it would appear as if the consultation process hadn't been fully effective, and in future all parties were encourage to feed in comments before the required deadlines so that all feedback can be considered together. Also, we should ensure that any document that is circulated amongst CRAGG members for comment should make clear whether the document is current and/or the most up to date version.

Events Calendar

ACDMO is administering the What's On event programme on a month by month basis and the data collection process is proving robust. It is noted that this is only for the DMO area of interest, and not CNP wide. CNPA were exploring how to develop a calendar of events at the planning stage and would share proposals for this with CRAGG. (AP5 MF)

After discussion it was agreed that the usefulness of the web based CCC calendar of events in the planning stage had been diluted by the DMO one and the developments proposed by CNPA, and as such it was agreed that this would be discontinued. (AP6 SD).

CNPA have organised the inaugural event organisers liaison meeting as per the OOAE, on 28th January 2009. An agenda item carried forward to that meeting will be discussion on appropriate opportunities for extending the 'shoulder months' within which the majority of events in the CRAGG area take place. (AP7 MF).

6. Oral History Project (FCS)

FCS reported that 12 recorded interviews had so far taken place involving 15 people, with current plans to do 5 – 10 more. Interviews were being concluded in the current week, to all intents and purposes.

Themes of interest emerging include; deer, the war, supernatural stories, the myths and legends of the area, across national forest estate and private enterprises.

In 2009 the distillation of all material gathered will take place, with plans to produce a publication and a CD/DVD later in the year. (An open meeting is planned to report on progress, and to let folk hear some of the material gathered. This was erroneously omitted from the FCS report to the meeting).

The material gathered will be stored at THC's new Records Facility being built at the Bught Park in Inverness, and will be made available for other use e.g. as downloadable podcast etc (dependent on permission being given by the interviewee).

7. Information Sharing

Rothiemurchus Estate

- Public meeting took place regarding development plans for An Camas Mor on 6th November, with another planned for 12th December 2009
- Discussion with Unique Events is imminent with regard to the proposal to hold an 'Outsider' event in June 2009
- A barrier will be erected across the entrance to Rothiemurchus camp site, adjacent to the Old Loggers Way as a means of controlling late night vehicular disturbance
- JG offered to attend a RGCA meeting to discuss some of the concerns raised over timber haulage and the An Camas Mor access routes, by residents of Coylumbridge.
- NB: A note of a public meeting regarding the provision of an aerial ropeway facility on RE is appended. This has been added for circulation following the meeting.

Forestry Commission Scotland

- Work on Glenmore village WWTP is ongoing.
- Harvesting work behind the Glenmore VC has been completed, although timber despatch is continuing.
- Glenmore campsite cabin Planning Application has been deferred.
- The last non-DDA compliant bridge across the Allt Mhor is currently being replaced.

- Options for the future management of the national forest estate are being considered as part of a Climate Change bill currently subject to a consultation process. Individuals and organisations are welcome to participate in the consultation. The consultation paper is appended for information.

8. AOB

RSPB informed members of their current pledge campaign 'Stop Killing Birds of Prey'.

The chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their contributions, and wished all a Merry Christmas!

Date of next meeting and Chair David Jardine will chair next meeting which will be held in Glenmore Lodge on 19th March 2009 at 6pm.