

Meeting on Thursday, 11 June 2009, 6pm at Glenmore Lodge

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### PRESENT:

Sally Dowden	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce - Chair
Bob Kinnaird	Glenmore Lodge
Philippa Grant	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Willie McKenna	RGCA
Murray Ferguson	CNPA
John Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Jeremy Roberts	RSPB
Walter Dempster	B&S Local History Group
Bill Wilson	RGCA
Keith Duncan	SNH
Alan Rankin	ACDMO
Ian Whitaker	CairnGorm Mountain
Jim Gillies	FCS (substitute David Jardine)

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### Apologies

Sally Thomas	Scottish Government
Dave Fallows	Highland Council
Allan Bantick	SWT
Tessa Jones	BSCG
David Jardine	FCS
John Rosenfield	RGCA

#### 2. Minutes of meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009

The minutes will be amended to show that Tessa Jones was at the meeting. Otherwise the minutes were agreed as accurate.

#### 3. Matters Arising;

Progress on the action points from the previous minutes was as follows:

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

**AP7** – CNPA have deferred the inaugural event organiser's liaison meeting as per the OOAE, until October 2009. An agenda item carried forward to that meeting will be a discussion on extending the 'shoulder months' within which the majority of events in the Cragg area take place. **Deferred.**

**AP8 & 9** Overspill Camping Facilities – ACDMO working on solution. See Agenda item 6.

**API0** SOAC website to be updated with local information – SNH. KD reported that he wasn't sure if SOAC national site could be updated for local issues. Recreational surveys are being done on a national level. It was suggested that CNPA site might be used, at a National Park level. An enquiry will be made to Scottish Government. **KD**

**API1** Capercaillie Conference Summary paper to be circulated – JR – **Done**  
Papers circulated prior to meeting. The next meeting is in August. A copy of the minute note and a summary of the presentation will be circulated by Murray Ferguson. **MF**

**API2** Edition 2 of Glenmore Times to be circulated electronically – **JG**

**API3** CCC to write to HC/Scotrail re litter – SD – **Done**. Copy of letter requested by CNPA- **JB**

**API4** 2004 CNP Visitor Survey to be circulated to CRAGG members – **MF - Done**  
Copies of the Visitor summary handed out at meeting.

**API5** Request to be made to SNH to repeat 1998 Visitor Survey - **DJ**

#### **4. Discussion on Dog Control Issues in CRAGG area – Jeremy Roberts**

Other experiences were requested from attendees. It was agreed that the issue was not unique to the CRAGG area but all the NP area. PG provided a note of a previous meeting, including examples of signage. Main points concluded that most dog owners act responsibly, but there is a need to act collectively and consistently to make change happen. To be circulated to members. **API6 – PG**

The conclusion of Glenmore and the Forestry Commission meeting was to:

- Promote dog walking areas. Provide composting bins for dog waste.
- Zone areas for capercaillie, and other wildlife

The 'Walkies' leaflet was distributed to attendees at the meeting. The VisitAviemore website could be updated with the dog leaflet, using words from the RSPB.

CNPA will prepare a document for circulation at the next CRAGG meeting and take the matter up with LOAF. **API7 MF**

#### **5. Responsible promotion of recreation opportunities in CNP – Murray Ferguson**

It has become apparent that there are areas of concern with the draft document circulated previously by CNPA. MF advised the group that by 24 July 2009 comments should be fed back to the CNPA. It will be followed by a consultation through LOAF and is then due to be presented to the CNPA Board to be adopted as the formal policy, probably in September.

In discussions the following points were made:

- People should be encouraged to send in ideas about how the existence of the policy (once it is agreed) should be promoted to others
- DMO Outdoor Activity Providers Groups should be consulted

- Cumulative effects of recreation should be considered
- The title of the policy may not be quite right and language used could maybe be more engaging
- Need to be clear who the audiences are – and use of the word “responsible may be off- putting for some, although there are advantages in wider connections to SOAC, all of which is about the responsibilities that go along with the access rights
- We should be feeding back to SNH that this is an important issue that should be strengthened in SOAC when it is reviewed
- We should let National Access Forum know about this work and how it concludes so that others can learn from our approach in the Cairngorms

### **6. Camping in CRAGG Area – Murray Ferguson**

A meeting was held 1 June at Glenmore, notes of which had been circulated previously.

In discussion the following points were made

- The Planning Consent for holiday chalets at Glenmore prompted thoughts that overspill could be a problem.
- CCC and ACDMO took an action point from that meeting to put together a system for tackling overspills.
- ACDMO have put a draft system together to provide solutions to the overspill problems. It includes providing a list of other sites available when sites are full. The information is being put on the DMO website with links to 13 sites local sites. A daily update is being requested from each site to keep DMO information current.
- Camping is becoming increasingly popular, particularly within the activity sector. It could be an opportunity for this area.
- Capacity issues indicate there is a need for more campsites to keep up with the growing trend in camping. Planning laws make it difficult to build new campsites.
- There has been an increase in the number of abandoned tents. This may be down to the cheap cost of equipment, whereby it's easier to abandon than pack and take it home.
- Cairngorm Mountain already monitors 'wild campers' and motor homes. It seems people don't want to be next to others.
- It was decided that data should be to be collected on those being turned away from sites and those who are 'wild camping'.

Rothiemurchus Estate suggested they could consider and see if they could conduct a survey. FCS could be involved too. It could be translated it into French and German. FCS volunteered to do the translating.

**AP 18 – JG to consider survey**

**AP 19 – All to feed thoughts on questionnaire to Rothiemurchus Estate**

### **7. Report from Events Sub Committee – Jim Gillies**

Various papers circulated.

Jim apologised for not keeping CRAGG up to date and went on to explain their remit, which is to facilitate events, including identifying and liaising with those who own the ground. He made the following points

# CRAGG

## CAIRNGORM, ROTHMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

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- The Sub Committee is made up from representatives from SNH, FCS, RSPB, Rothiemurchus Estate, and the CNPA.
- Any CRAGG member is welcome to attend.
- Any event enquiries should be made first to the landowner. Each landowner can agree or veto whether an event can take place.
- If the event organiser doesn't know who the landowner is, they contact the Chair of the CRAGG events sub-committee.
- The sub-committee doesn't make decisions but operates a forum for event organisers to meet the sub-committee in one place.
- Once they've applied they get sent the CNPA Event Guidance booklet

A general discussion followed and the following points were made.

- The events seem to be getting larger in the number of attendees and happen in a short period of time, mainly September and October, as some landowners have decided that events cannot take place between April and August.
- 33 major organisers are looking to hold events this year. In September one event will have 750 participants, and in October another will have over 1,000.
- Existing visitors and customers are becoming fed up with the number of events, as it can restrict access.
- Activity providers can lose out if there are a large number of people coming to the event, although accommodation providers seem to benefit.
- Discussion needs to occur, with a wider group than CRAGG land managers, as issues need to be addressed.
- Information going in and coming out of the group needs to be circulated and made available.
- Feedback to why an event was turned down would be useful.
- Dates of meetings should be circulated.
- There should be one central events listing.
- There is an on-line system with CCC but it was withdrawn on instructions from CRAGG.
- Expectations and explanations need to be made clear to more people.
- It could be a CNPA initiative and cover a wider network and area. For example, by cross-selling to other areas of the Park, although it was noted that Braemar don't want events in September due to their own busy agenda.

On 28 October there is a CNPA open forum meeting to which event organisers and land managers and others will be invited. The idea is to hold 2 meetings a year: October to review the season past and one at the start of the year to discuss the season coming.

**AP 20** To provide CNPA with details on the process and terms of reference - **JG**.

### **8. Information Sharing**

No items to report.

### **9. AOCB**

No items to report.

**Date of next meeting and Chair:** Glenmore Lodge on 16 September 2009 at 6pm  
Chair: Sally Dowden