

Meeting on Thursday 24 June 2010, 6pm at Glenmore Lodge

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT:

Philippa Grant	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Willie McKenna	RGCA
John Grierson (JG)	AVCC
Murray Ferguson	CNPA
John Grant (JPG)	Rothiemurchus Estate
Jeremy Roberts	RSPB
Keith Duncan	SNH (acting Chair)
Ian Whitaker	CairnGorm Mountain
Jack Mackay	FCS
Ray Sefton	AVCC
Pete Moore (observer & minutes)	SNH
Pete Crane (observer)	CNPA

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies

Gus Jones	BSCG
Martin Johnson	HIE
David Jardine	FCS – substituted by Jack Mackay
Allan Bantick	SWT

2 Minutes of meeting held 25 March 2010

There are now two JG initials in the membership – John Grant will be coded JPG and John Grierson JG – resolved.

3 Matters Arising and Action Points from the Minutes

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

AP 18 Survey regarding camping requirements still being considered by Rothiemurchus Estate – **JPG**.

- issue of people being turned away still not resolved but considered to be Discharged.

AP 19 Language Translation on camping survey will be facilitated by FCS when survey is developed - **Ongoing – FCS**.

AP 21 Rothiemurchus Estate has made contact with trail map providers with a view to improving pre-publication consultation. No contact made by RSPB. RSPB – **Ongoing**.

AP 22 Ward forum pre meeting took place - **Discharged**.

A request for an update on developments with signage and information for Capercaillie was tabled. It was commented that there had been no update since CNPA organised a meeting in Boat of Garten. The request for further information involved confirmation that information provided was scientifically based, authoritative and valid and fit for purpose in advising third parties. One way of achieving this was to publish the work in a peer-reviewed publication.

AP recirculate info (including any genetic advice from Kenny Kortland) – Jeremy Roberts.

A further issue regarding the management of overspill camping/camper vans was raised. CNPA advised that the DMO had set up contact between campsites but it was felt that the initiative was not valued. The difference in

CRAGG

CAIRNGORM, ROTHIE MURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

costs of staying at Glenmore and Dalraddy was contrasted. Members were informed that as this was not an identified gap in the CRAGG management strategy it was not going to be further considered.

4 Consideration of the future of CRAGG, including membership, Chair and the events sub group

Most attendees considered that CRAGG should continue, though fundamental queries were raised regarding the appropriateness of non elected individuals representing public views at such a forum. There were suggestions that it is simply a talking shop or discussion group.

The lack of Public Inquiries since CRAGG's inception was registered as a direct beneficial consequence of the forum, along with collaborative developments such as the Old Logging Way and the collaboration provided by the Events sub-group. It was felt that a forum of interest parties is useful and that meeting 3-4 times a year was a useful and constructive opportunity for information sharing; It was pointed out that land owners and managers aren't necessarily included in other forums such as LOAF. It was also suggested that issues should be reviewed at the Ward Forum but this was countered by the fact that CRAGG does not undermine the Forum.

A 21st century shake up approach was suggested to make CRAGG fit for purpose and SMART. It should consider who attends, why they attend and to review procedures – the attendance by members of the public was discussed. It was suggested that CRAGG has helped the community and agencies to come together and provide a one stop shop and that the Management strategy was a key document which provided terms of reference for everything in the area. CNPA suggested a delay in reviewing the Management Strategy pending the National Park Plan so that both could be aligned.

Secretariat was discussed; Rotating 'chairs' – makes for a number of inefficiencies and it was suggested that a consistent chair and minute-taker would be best. It was also suggested that Neil Sutherland should be approached to chair meetings in the future. There was also a need identified for a website manager and the regular update of the page with minutes and papers would be useful.

It was agreed for the next meeting that a short note (2 sides of A4) should be prepared to compile views and perceptions of CRAGG. **AP** - PG agreed to lead on this with JR in support – all to contribute.

KD agreed to chair next meeting.

5 Information sharing

- PC Work towards Interpretation of old logging way continues. RE, FCS, and RGCC (Willie) are the core attendees, Walter Dempster also to be involved and possibly Bill Wilson. It was suggested SNH should be part of this.
- IW THC will convene a September meeting to discuss further planning for road clearing and salting etc.
- JM Jim Gillies is taking early retirement. Brian Duff is replacing Jim. No loss of staff at Glenmore as a result. Thinning harvest on Meall a Bhuachaille later in the year around October. DCJ receiving John Kennedy Award for Glenmore, RSPB Abernethy was runners up. Oral history booklet will be formally launched late July/early August. It was suggested that the Chair (KD) to write to Jim thanking him for his support particularly with the Events Group. PG wished to record thanks to Jack for the oral project.
- JPG COAT has lottery money for it paths proposals. The recent Intelligent sport event was 'brilliant'. Capercaillie lek counts very good. An Camas Mor received planning permission in principle. It has been confirmed that no road will be built at the back of the Coylumbridge development. The developers will proceed with opening up the sub-station route to ACM
- JG Feasibility study for Spey Park. A contractor will be appointed next week, funding from Leader and lottery.

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CAIRNGORM, ROTHLEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

Date of next meeting 4 October 2010 at Glenmore Lodge (venue to be confirmed)

ACTION POINTS

Thanks to Philippa for contribution

- API** JR to recirculate capercaillie information including Kenny Kortland info;
- AP2** MF encourages all to contribute to Murray to input to sustainable Tourist Forum;
- AP3** All to monitor/log overspill campers and vans. **Ongoing**
- AP4** All to consider who else should be on CRAGG and come back with suggestions. Also to consider options for charring, minute taking and managing web updates;
- AP5** Contact Alan Rankin re: providing secretariat – **KD**
- AP6** Contact Patricia Methven re: funding? – **KD**
- AP7** PG prepare A4 document summary? New purpose of CRAGG – all to feed info to Philippa;
- AP8** Small paper about Events Group;
- AP9** Create an email group circulation? Speak to Alan Rankin – **KD/PM**
- API0** Add web address to paperwork – to remind all where it is;
- API1** Chair to write to Jim Gillies expressing thanks for his work in CRAGG event sub group;
- API2** KD to confirm venue of next meeting.