

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY
JOINT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2015**

PRESENT

Caldwell, Bibby, Caldwell, and Gilmour (Renfrewshire Council) and Councillor Dickson (North Ayrshire Council).

Councillor Gilmour, Chairman

IN ATTENDANCE

D Gatherer, Interim Regional Park Manager; M McNab, Service Manager (Inverclyde Council); Fraser Carlin, Head of Planning & Economic Development; D Forbes, Finance Manager; and E Coventry, Democratic Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council).

APOLOGIES

Councillors Doig (Renfrewshire Council).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk intimated this was a standard item on the Agenda and asked members to indicate if there were any declarations of interest.

No declarations of interest were expressed.

1. MINUTE

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee held on 28th November, 2014.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a joint revenue budget monitoring report by the Treasurer relative to the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority as at 2nd January, 2015

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2015/16

There was submitted a report by the Treasurer relative to the revenue estimates for the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority for the financial year 2015/16 for the purposes of establishing the 2015/16 requisition to be built into the revenue estimates process of the constituent authorities. The report indicated that this budget had been constructed on the basis of the

current level of service provided by the Park Authority. The report indicated that for budget planning purposes a 1.5% pay increase on employee costs was estimated for 2015/16 and 2% in 2016/17. Zero inflation had been assumed on all other expenditure lines in line with the practice adopted in previous years. Income from Sales Fees and Charges had been inflated by 11.5% as detailed in the Review of Charges report agreed at the Joint Committee on 28th November, 2014. However, it had been assumed that other income generated would increase at a level of 2.8%.

A review of the current staffing establishment had identified a number of vacancies which had arisen during 2014/15 and the report indicated that it was proposed to suspend the filling of any vacant posts pending the outcome of review of the Park's management and Governance Structure.

The report indicated that the projected requisition levels from Member Authorities had been reduced by 5.8% for 2015/16 and 14.3% for 2016/17. The Treasurer and the Regional Park Manager commented in detail on the information contained in the revenue estimates and on the proposals for requisitions.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the revenue estimates of the Joint Committee for the financial year 2015/16, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report and the requisition payable by each member council detailed at Appendix 1 be approved;
- (b) That it be noted that any decision on requisitions was subject to ratification by Member Councils and that the Regional Park Manager would report back on the implications for Park services should any member Council agree any alteration to the level of requisition recommended by the Park Authority;
- (c) That the revenue budget planning assumptions for 2015/16 and 2016/17 and the indicative levels of local authority contributions for financial year 2016/17 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be noted; and
- (d) That the suspension of the filling of vacant posts pending the outcome of the Park's Management and Governance Structure be approved.

4. QUARTERLY HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Interim Regional Park Manager providing information on the quarterly health and safety monitoring for the period July to December 2014 which detailed accident statistics, management action and training. The report advised that there had been no accidents involving members of Regional Park staff and 12 accidents involving members of the public which could be attributed to the increased popularity of cycling in the Regional Park.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the health and safety monitoring report for the period July to December 2014 be noted;
- (b) That the impact of the reduction in capacity of the Senior Management Team on Health & Safety Processes within the Park be noted ; and
- (c) That it be noted the water ingress at Muirshiel Visitor Centre was still ongoing.

5. SEMPLE WATER ACCESS iNitiative (SWAN2)

There was submitted a report by the Interim Regional Park Manager relative to the Semple Water Access iNitiative (SWAN2) project which aimed to build a new pontoon with hoist at Castle Semple to create capacity to allow the increasing number of activity participants to access the water safely and efficiently.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the SWAN2 project be supported; and
- (b) That activity development continue to be supported at Castle Semple.

6. REVIEW OF CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

The Head of Planning & Economic Development, Renfrewshire Council provided an update on the Review of Clyde Muirshiel Park which had focussed on governance and operations.

DECIDED:

- (a) That Renfrewshire Council be authorised to convene a Working Group of representatives from constituent authorities to develop a 'State of the Park' Report as a means of considering the assets and resources within the Park;
- (b) That a consultation and engagement exercise be progressed with Park Users; and
- (c) That regular updates be submitted to future meetings of the Park Authority Joint Committee to allow appropriate budget and resource decisions to be made to secure future activities within the Park.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

DECIDED: That the next meeting be held on Friday 5th June, 2015.