

Minute of Meeting Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Consultative Forum

Date	Time	Venue
Friday, 22 June 2018	10:00	Corporate Meeting Room 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

Present

Councillor Andy Steel (Renfrewshire Council); Councillor Innes Nelson and Councillor Graeme Brooks (substitute for Councillor Wilson) (both Inverclyde Council); Ross Anderson (Scottish Rural Property & Business Association); Tabby Lamont (RSPB Scotland); Donald Cochrane (Scottish National Farmers Union); Kerry MacKendrick (Lochwinnoch Community Council); Douglas Blair (Largs Community Council); Sybil Simpson and Nigel Willis (both Save Your Regional Park); Roger Hissett (Scottish Wildlife Trust – Ayrshire Branch) and Ian Dippie (Save the Gretas).

Chair

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Steel, Vice-chair, presided.

In Attendance

E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer and P Shiach, Committee Services Officer (both Renfrewshire Council).

Apologies

Councillor David Wilson (Inverclyde Council); Councillor Todd Ferguson (North Ayrshire Council); Gordon Smith (VisitScotland); Patricia Perman (Largs Community Council) and Andrew McLeman (Gryffe Valley Rotary Club).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1 Minutes

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 16 February 2018 and the Note of Inquorate meeting held on 18 May 2018.

In relation to the Minute of the meeting held on 16 February 2018 - item 2(c) – Park Signage – it was noted that the last paragraph should read “invite the Chair of the Friends of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park” and not “invite the Chair of the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust” as stated.

DECIDED: That, subject to the above amendment, the Minute of the meeting held on 16 February 2018 be approved and that the Note of the Inquorate meeting be noted.

2 Matters Arising

DECIDED: That it be noted that there were no matters arising.

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Councillor Nelson, Tabby Lamont and Douglas Blair entered the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

Chair

Councillor Steel vacated the Chair during consideration of the following item of business and Councillor Nelson took the Chair.

3 Management Changes

Members of the Consultative Forum were provided with a copy of a report by the Head of Planning and Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council relative to management changes at the Park which would be considered at the meeting of the Joint Committee following this meeting of the Consultative Forum.

Discussion took place concerning the Forum’s view that the new Regional Park Manager take on the lead role and represent the Regional Park at Public Inquiries and to respond to all planning applications which adversely affected the Regional Park; the position of the new Regional Park Manager should be advertised externally to attract the best qualified person to the role; that the uplands area of the Regional Park was being neglected; and the lack of a develop plan to monitor the strategic aims of the Regional Park.

The Chair advised members that the report would be considered by the Joint Committee and any decisions in relation to management changes would be taken by the Joint Committee.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the report by the Head of Planning and Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council would be considered by the Joint Committee.

4 Minute of Agreement

Under reference to item 2(b) of the Minute of the meeting of this Consultative Forum held on 16 February 2018 it was proposed that as this matter had been ongoing for some time, the Head of Planning and Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council be requested to submit a report relative to the current position of the review of the Minute of Agreement to the next meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on 7 September 2018.

DECIDED: That as this matter had been ongoing for some time, the Head of Planning and Housing Services, Renfrewshire Council be requested to submit a report relative to the current position of the review of the Minute of Agreement to the next meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on 7 September 2018.

5 Representing Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park at Public Inquiries

Under reference to item 2(a) of the Minute of the meeting of this Consultative Forum held on 16 February 2018 it was noted that no responses had been received from planning officers in the three member councils and that a report was still awaited.

The Chair advised that he had raised this matter with planning officers from Inverclyde Council, however the officer was now on annual leave and he would contact him on his return.

The Chair and members of the Consultative Forum expressed their concern at the lack of progress with this item of business. The Chair proposed that all correspondence on this matter, from all officers in the three member councils, be provided to members of the Consultative Forum to enable them to be informed of progress. The Senior Committee Services Officer advised that clarification would be sought from the Clerk of the Joint Committee as to whether this could be done and undertook to advise Consultative Forum members accordingly.

DECIDED: That clarification be sought from the Clerk to the Joint Committee as to whether all correspondence on this matter, from all officers in the three member councils, could be provided to members of the Consultative Forum and that members of the Consultative Forum be advised accordingly.

6 Friends of Clyde Muirshiel

Under reference to item 2(c) of the Minute of the meeting of this Consultative Forum held on 16 February 2018 and the presentation given by the Chair of the Friends of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park at the inquorate meeting of the Consultative Forum held on 18 May 2018, Councillor Steel advised that he had had initial discussions with interested parties regarding the establishment of a Friends of Clyde Muirshiel Group.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the establishment of a Friends of Clyde Muirshiel Group was being taken forward.

7 Forestry Application in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Wild Land Area - Halkshill and Blairpark

Under reference to item 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Consultative Forum held on 16 February 2018 Douglas Blair, Largs Community Council, advised the Forum of the up-to-date position in relation to the forestry application for Halkshill and Blairpark.

He intimated that no further information or correspondence had been received from Forestry Commission Scotland in relation to this matter as they were currently reviewing all suggestions and objections in relation to the amended application. He advised that if the application was approved by Forestry Commission Scotland, this would then be an issue for the Regional Park.

Discussion took place concerning the fact that the Regional Park was not represented at the Public Inquiry and as to whether the Regional Park had submitted a response to the consultation. Ian Dippie, Save The Gretas, advised that the Regional Park had submitted a response to the consultation and that he would circulate this to members of the Consultative Forum for information.

DECIDED:

(a) That the up-to-date position be noted; and

(b) That Ian Dippie, Save The Gretas, circulate the Regional Park's response to the consultation to members of the Consultative Forum for information.

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Councillor Steel left the meeting prior to consideration to the following item of business.

8(a) Any Other Competent Business - Cycling Without Age

Kerry McKendrick tabled a newspaper clipping relative to the Cycling Without Age project, an innovative bike scheme geared up to help the elderly stay active.

DECIDED: That the matter be noted.

8(b) Any Other Competent Business - Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)

Kerry McKendrick tabled a newspaper clipping relative to Historic Environment Scotland's flagship Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS), a £10 million fund available to communities across Scotland for regeneration purposes.

DECIDED: That the matter be noted.

9 Date of Next Meeting

DECIDED: That it be noted that the next meeting of the Consultative Forum would be held at 10.00 am on 7 September 2018 within Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Clyde Square, Greenock.