

**Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee**

**Date: 8 March 2011**

**Report By: Corporate Director Education & Communities**

**Report No: SCS/55/11/AH/MM**

**Contact Officer: Martin McNab**

**Contact No: 01475 714246**

**Subject: Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority– Minute of Meeting of 3 December 2010**

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit for Members information the Minute of the Meeting of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority, as per Appendix 1, held on 3 December 2010.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Council is represented on the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority by Councillors Wilson and Nelson.
- 2.2 It has been agreed that the Minutes be presented to the Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee as they become available.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report.

**Albert Henderson**

**Corporate Director Education & Communities**



**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2010**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Arthur (Renfrewshire Council), Dickson (North Ayrshire Council) and Nelson (Inverclyde Council).

Councillor Arthur, Chairperson, presided.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors McGurk and Nicolson (both Renfrewshire Council); Highgate (North Ayrshire Council) and Wilson (Inverclyde Council).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

C Woodward, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park; J Imlach, D Bell, S Mcmillan and B McCormick (all Renfrewshire Council) and M McNab (Inverclyde Council).

**ALSO ATTENDING**

N Willis and S Simpson (both Save Your Regional Park Campaign).

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**ADDITIONAL ITEM**

The Chairperson intimated that there was an additional item in relation to a remit from Renfrewshire Council's Scrutiny & Petitions Board regarding a petition from the Save Your Regional Park Campaign which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Chairperson, being of the opinion that the item which was dealt with at item 8 below was urgent in view of the need to consider the matter timeously, authorised its consideration.

**1. MINUTES**

- (a) There was submitted the Minute of meeting of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee held on 3 September, 2010.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

- (b) There was submitted the Minute of meeting of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Consultative Forum held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be noted.

## **2. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted a Joint Revenue Budget Monitoring Report by the Treasurer and the Regional Park Manager relative to the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority as at 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

## **3. CLYDE MUIRSHIEL AUTHORITY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009-10**

There was submitted a report by the Park Treasurer relative to the annual accounts for 2009-2010 for the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority. It was noted that the Audit Certificate issued by Audit Scotland submitted a clean audit opinion that the abstract of accounts presented fairly the financial position of the Joint Committee as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010, in accordance with the accounting policies detailed in the accounts.

A report on the 2009/2010 audit by Audit Scotland was also submitted for member's information and it was noted that there were no matters arising from the audit which required to be reported to members.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the audited accounts for the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee for the financial year 2009/2010 be approved; and
- (b) That the report by Audit Scotland be noted.

## **4. LUNDERSTON BAY UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to recent developments in relation to the site at Lunderston Bay. The report commented on the service which was being provided at Lunderston Bay by the Park Authority and indicated that while Inverclyde Council continued to consider options for improved visitor services that no progress on the capital works or the lease had been reported. It was noted that the Council continued to work with Scottish Water and Business Stream to establish whether an opportunity existed to make a connection to the rising main which passed the site and that the requirements for a data logger had been established which would be fitted for a period to monitor the pressure and collect technical data required for the design of effluent pumping. It was also noted that once the connection process to the rising main was completed, that a planning application for the new building to be put on site would be submitted. M McNab then gave a brief report on the current situation in relation to the provision of visitor and welfare facilities at the site.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the Park Manager provide an update report to a future meeting.

## **5. PARK WORKPLAN 2011/2012**

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the Park Workplan 2011/2012. It was noted that a timetable for the preparation of the Workplan had been approved at the meeting of the Joint Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2010 and that the actions outlined in the timetable had taken place at the appropriate time. The report also provided details of the consultations which had been undertaken relative to the Workplan, a copy of which was circulated to members.

**DECIDED:** That the Workplan as presented be adopted.

## 6. RANGER SERVICE OUTPUT MEASURES 2009/2010

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager requesting that the Joint Committee consider the output measures of the Park Authority's Ranger Service for the operational year April 2009 to March 2010.

The report indicated that the Ranger Service output measures report was a new initiative from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and that while previously Ranger Services reported to SNH as a requirement of grant funding, this direct funding had now ceased. It was noted that in 2008 SNH produced its new policy statement on Rangers in Scotland, which provided a national framework for the future development of all Ranger Services in Scotland. One of the key actions flowing from this statement was for SNH to develop a framework to allow the better reporting and promotion of the benefits of Ranger Services and their achievements and that each year Ranger Services would be asked to report on the selection of standard aspects of their work referred to as 'national output measures'. The report indicated that the new reporting framework was consistent with the Park Authority's move to a more outputs and outcomes based style of reporting and that the output measures report provided a communication mechanism on the work of the Ranger Service within the Park Authority.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That the Ranger Service output measures 2009/2010 be approved;
- (b) That it be noted that the Ranger Service output measures 2009/2010 would be a component of the Park Authority Annual Report and that it had been compiled as part of a national reporting framework collated by Scottish Natural Heritage; and
- (c) That the Park Manager be authorised to place the information in the public domain and to circulate it to partner agencies, members of the Consultative Forum, interested bodies and appropriate individuals.

## 7. REVISED FRAMEWORK GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON WINDFARMS

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to a revised Framework Guidance Document on Windfarms. A copy of the draft revised Framework Guidance Document for consideration by the Joint Committee was tabled at the meeting.

The report indicated that the document provided a general background for the consideration of all windfarm developments within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park area and updated the previous document which was approved in February 2005. An appendix, based on established practice, informed an objective assessment of the potential impacts of windfarm developments and described the methodology used to construct a set of criterion based maps which illustrated an aspect of the Park Authority's aims and objectives or an attribute to the Regional Park. It was noted that where appropriate, the maps were based on a quantitative assessment of characteristics of each criterion, presented in scoring tables. It was noted that while no specific potential windfarm sites or proposals were described within the guidance document, it did determine that all parts of the Regional Park were sensitive to major developments and that windfarm developments would have significant adverse impacts on the values that made the Regional Park distinct and had led to the Regional Park's international, national and regional designations. The report also commented on the significant changes to the context of the framework document in the years since its original adoption and submitted for approval the draft revised framework guidance document.

A full discussion then followed during which a number of suggested amendments to the legends for the maps were agreed.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That the draft Framework Guidance Document, as amended, be approved;

- (b) That the Regional Park Manager be requested to keep the matter under review and bring back a further report to a future meeting; and
- (c) That the report be otherwise noted.

#### 8. **PETITION: SAVE YOUR REGIONAL PARK CAMPAIGN**

There was submitted a report by the Clerk relative to a remit from Renfrewshire Council's Scrutiny & Petitions Board in relation to a petition received from both the Save Your Regional Park Campaign and the Scottish Campaign for National Parks. The petition recommended that Renfrewshire Council as the managing partner of the three councils responsible for Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park should undertake to co-ordinate the policies of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire and Inverclyde Councils regarding the development of wind farms and other inappropriate industrial development in the Park. The petition also sought Renfrewshire Council to seek the agreement of their partner Councils that the Park Authority should have strong legal representation equivalent to the appellant, for Public Local Inquiries concerning the refusals of any inappropriate industrial development by any of the three Councils or applications made direct to the Scottish Government and that Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park's extra legal costs should be shared between the three Councils and not taken from the Park Authority's budget.

A copy of a report by Renfrewshire Council's Director of Planning & Transport and a note by the Regional Park Manager regarding the issues raised in the petition were also appended to the report. It was noted that the Scrutiny Board had agreed that the petition and report by the Director of Planning & Transport be referred to this meeting with the recommendation that the views expressed in the petition and the need for consideration of fitness for purpose of current land use policies concerning the Regional Park should be referred to the forthcoming meeting to be held between the Convener of the Park Authority and the leaders of the three constituent authorities.

A full discussion then followed in relation to the report and the points which were raised in the petition.

**DECIDED:** That the views expressed in the petition and the need for consideration of fitness for purpose of current land use policies concerning the Regional Park be referred to the forthcoming meeting between the Convener of the Park Authority and the leaders of the three constituent authorities.

#### 9. **WATERHEAD MOOR WINDFARM PROPOSALS**

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the proposed windfarm development at Waterhead Moor, North Ayrshire and providing details of the objection which the Park Authority had made to the proposed development.

A full discussion then followed relative to this matter and a copy of the objection letter submitted by Inverclyde Council was also circulated for information. During the discussion reference was made to radar patches which could be applied to aviation radar systems to exclude windfarm developments from appearing on radar screens and it was agreed to request that the Regional Park Manager prepare a briefing paper relative to this matter and issue it to all members of the Joint Committee for their information,.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the proposed windfarm development at Waterhead Moor be noted; and
- (b) That the recently submitted objection to the proposal be noted ; and
- (c) That the Regional Park Manager be requested to prepare a briefing paper relative to radar patches which could be applied to aviation radar systems to exclude windfarm developments from appearing on radar screens.

#### 10. REVIEW OF CHARGES FOR SERVICES - 2011

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the proposed review of charges for services for 2011. The report commented on the review and the principles which had been applied to the review in order to maximise on income. It was noted that it was proposed to continue to offer concessionary rates for under 16's, OAPs, students and the unemployed. A copy of the revised list of charges formed the appendix to the report.

##### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That in order for publications to be produced in time for the 2011 calendar year, the revised charges as detailed in the appendix to the report be approved;
- (b) That the proposal to offer concessionary rates to the under 16's, OAP's, students and the unemployed be approved;
- (c) That the Regional Park Manager be authorised to vary the charges during the year for marketing and promotional purposes;
- (d) That the Regional Park Manager be authorised to set charges for new products and services during the year;
- (e) That the introduction of a "pitch for a family tent" charge to maintain competitiveness within the market place be approved;
- (f) That the introduction of a "solo" hire charge for the facility block to reflect the increased requests for this type of usage be approved;
- (g) That the increase in camping charges to reflect anticipated facilities upgrades and the increased utility costs borne by the Regional Park be approved and it be noted that costs to concessionary users would remain unchanged; and
- (h) That an increase in Food Charges to reflect the increased cost of provisions & the utilities used in their preparation be approved.

#### 11. PARK AUTHORITY MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2011

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the schedule of meetings for the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee for 2011.

**DECIDED:** That the meetings schedule for 2011 as detailed in the report be approved.

#### 12. PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF CASTLE SEMPLE SAILING CLUB CLUBHOUSE

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager outlining proposals for the replacement of the existing Castle Semple Sailing Club clubhouse.

A full discussion then followed relative to this matter.

##### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be agreed that the Joint Committee support the proposed, based on the details outlined within the report; and
- (b) That the contents of the report be noted.

**13. CASTE SEMPLE LOCH**

Councillor Dickson referred to the recent discharge of sewage into Castle Semple Loch and sought clarification as to the effect that this had for the Park Authority. The Regional Park Manager briefly commented on the situation and indicated that a meeting had been proposed between the Park Authority, stakeholders and Scottish Water to discuss this incident.

**DECIDED:** That the matter be noted.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**DECIDED:** That the next meeting of the Joint Committee be held on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 at 10.30 a.m.