

Report To:	Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee	Date:	30 August 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Communities	Report No:	SCS/75/11/AH/MM
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	714246
Subject:	Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority – Minute of Meeting of 18 February 2011		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit for Members information a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority, as per Appendix 1, held on 18 February 2011.

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 18th FEBRUARY, 2011**

PRESENT

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

Councillor Arthur, Chairperson, presided.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Nicolson, McGurk and Bibby (all Renfrewshire Council) and Wilson (Inverclyde Council).

IN ATTENDANCE

C Woodward, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park; J Imlach, D Bell, S McMillan, P Maguire and B McCormick (all Renfrewshire Council); M McNab (Inverclyde Council) and C Sharp (North Ayrshire Council).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were intimated.

1. MINUTE

There was submitted the Minute of meeting of the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee held on 3rd December, 2010.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

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 Regional Park Authority as at 7th January, 2011.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2011/2012

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and the Regional Park Manager relative to the Revenue Estimates for the Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority for the financial year 2011/2012 for the purposes of establishing the 2011/2012 requisition to be built into the Revenue Estimates process of the constituent authorities. The report indicated that in the current climate all local authority expenditure would be under extreme pressure to ensure that best value occurred across services with expectations of reductions in expenditure over at least the next three years. The Park Authority would inevitably be exposed to the significant expenditure constraints and should begin to make appropriate plans, on the basis of an expectation of ongoing reductions in requisition levels over the period. It was noted that the Park Authority was estimated to produce a surplus of £10,900 in 2011/2012, with an anticipated reduction in the requisition level of £44,000.

A full discussion then followed in relation to Revenue Estimates and it was noted that North Ayrshire Council had highlighted that it might seek a further reduction in the requisition level for 2011/2012.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Revenue Estimates for the Joint Committee for the financial year 2011/2012 as detailed in Appendix 1 be based on the continuing level of service agreed by the Park Authority for the financial year 2010/2011 and member Councils, be approved;
- (b) That the requisitions payable by member Councils as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (c) That it be noted that any decision on requisitions would be subject to ratification by member Councils and that the Park Manager be instructed to 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;
- (d) That it be agreed that the Park Manager bring back a further report to a future Joint Committee reflecting any change in circumstances which would impact on delivery of service;
- (e) That the Revenue Budget Plan for 2011/2014 as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report be noted, together with the indicative levels of local authority contributions for financial years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 based on current levels of service;
- (f) That it be agreed that the Park Manager in conjunction with the Treasurer present a report to a future meeting of the Joint Committee should its remit and finances be materially affected by any future member Council policy decisions; and
- (g) That clarification be sought from North Ayrshire Council in relation to its intention regarding the 2011/2012 requisition level.

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the Annual Report 2009/2010, a copy of which had been separately circulated to all members of the Joint Committee. The report took on a new format this year and while still retaining textural commentary, the report was shorter and focussed on outputs and where possible, outcomes. The report also incorporated the Ranger Service Output measures prepared for Scottish Natural Heritage as part of their national reporting framework. The report indicated that once the Annual Report was approved by the Joint Committee it was prepared for publication and hard copy and for inclusion in the Park's website. It was noted that the Annual Report was also sent to a limited number of partners and presented for the consideration of the Park's Consultative Forum.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the Annual Report 2009/2010 be approved; and
- (b) That the Park Manager be authorised to place the Annual Report in the public domain and circulate it to partner agencies, members of the Consultative Forum, interested bodies and appropriate individuals.

5. 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 where the Park Authority continued to deliver services.

DECIDED:

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

6. VISITOR SURVEY 2010

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager outlining the results of the Visitor Survey conducted during the autumn of 2010 at the four principal visitor sites within the Regional Park. A copy of the findings of the 2010 Visitor Survey report formed the appendix to the report.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the results of the Survey be noted; and
- (b) That the use of the results as a basis for future operation and improvement in the Regional Park be approved.

7. WATER QUALITY AT CASTLE SEMPLE LOCH 2010

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the cold water quality at Castle Semple during 2010. The report provided a summary and an analysis of the water quality for 2010 and concluded that the survey of water quality at Castle Semple Loch was extensive and continued an established recording pattern. Levels of micro-organisms in the middle of the loch were within a desirable range, although the sewage treatment works site had deteriorated to a poor standard for intestinal enterococci. The report indicated that at the sewage treatment works site, after significant improvements in water quality indicators in the years after 1998, the last few years had shown a more variable pattern and additional improvements had not been seen. The report indicated that additional treatment of waters prior to their release from the sewage treatment works could add to the overall improvement of water quality and that the Park Authority proposed to enhance the wetland habitat at Blackditch Bay which would benefit water quality by reducing flows of nutrients into the loch.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the report including the summary of the water quality monitoring at Castle Semple Loch be noted; and
- (b) That the Regional Park Manager be authorised to continue this work in future years within existing resources.

8. TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CASTLE SEMPLE LOCH 2010

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the temporary closure of Castle Semple Loch during October and November 2010. As a result of a pollution event at the Lochwinnoch sewage treatment works which resulted in the closure of access to the loch for eight days, the report summarized the action taken to prohibit access to the Loch in order to protect Loch users and of the discussions which had taken place with SEPA relative to this matter. A full discussion then followed relative to the pollution event and it was agreed that a letter be sent to SEPA requesting details of the Waste Water Hazard Plan for Castle Semple.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the report, including the actions taken by the Park Authority be noted;

- (b) That the Regional Park Manager be authorised to continue to work with relevant bodies to further the improvement of water quality at Castle Semple Loch; and
- (c) That a letter be sent to SEPA regarding the Waste Water Hazard Plan for Castle Semple Loch.

9. CELEBRATION OF 40th BIRTHDAY OF CASTLE SEMPLE

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager outlining proposals for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Castle Semple as part of the regional park. It was noted that the opportunity existed to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Castle Semple site as a public recreation area and that the events leading up to and on the anniversary date would raise the profile of the site, its assets and the wider Regional Park. The report indicated that the events and activities would enable the Park Authority and its partners to work together for community benefit and a summary of the proposed events were outlined within the report.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Castle Semple as part of the Regional Park be approved;
- (b) That the cost of the celebration be met from within existing resources; and
- (c) That the report be otherwise noted.

10. DISCOVER CLYDE MUIRSHIEL WILDLIFE ON SCREEN PROJECT

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager relative to the delivery of the “Discover Clyde Muirshiel Wildlife on Screen” project, which was a successor to the Hen Harrier CCTV project. It was noted that the project using past experience and the current popularity of similar TV programmes such as ‘BBC Springwatch’ was successfully delivered at Clyde Muirshiel in 2010, and that as a result the profile of the Park Authority, the Hen Harriers and project partners had been raised. The report indicated that there was potential to develop the range of species, locations and seasonality of wildlife viewing activities within the Regional Park and that it was proposed to continue to deliver the project for a further period of three years.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the successful delivery of the project entitled “Discover Clyde Muirshiel Wildlife on Screen” be approved; and
- (b) That the continued staff input required to deliver the project activities for the next three years be noted.

11. WEBSITE STATISTICS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

There was submitted a report by the Regional Park Manager outlining the website activity on the Regional Park website and which indicated that the website was well used, informative and educational. The report concluded that there was a growing need to provide information and communications on line and that website statistics were able to inform the allocation of resources. The report also indicated that there was a requirement for ongoing staff input which was required to meet visitor and potential visitor expectations in the area.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the increasing use of online technology and communications be noted; and
- (b) That the on-going staff input required to meet visitor and potential visitor expectations in this area be noted.

12. VALIDICTORY

The Convener advised that Derek Bell, the Lead Officer for Renfrewshire Council, and Jean Wilson, Assistant Committee Services Officer, will shortly be leaving Renfrewshire Council. On behalf of the Council he wished them well for the future and asked that the best wishes of the Joint Committee be conveyed to them.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Joint Committee be held on Friday, 10th June, 2010 at 10.30 a.m. in Cunninghame House, Irvine.