



**Moray Firth Partnership
Minute of Annual General Meeting 17th March 2017
Held at Great Glen House, Inverness 1.30pm**

Present

Maureen Macmillan (Chair)	(MM)	Ben Leyshon	(BL)
Gordon Mackie	(GM)	Alex Yelland	(AY)
William Wright	(WW)	James Mackie	(JM)
Carol Barbone (by TC link)	(CB)	Robyn Shilland (MFP Staff)	(RS)

Apologies

Bill Ruck	(BR)	Graham Grant	(GG)
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Apologies had been received from other members.

Welcome and Housekeeping

Maureen Macmillan, Chair, welcomed members and guests, then introduced fellow directors and current staff. It was announced that RS would be leaving the Partnership at the end of April 2017 to further a career in the environmental sector and a new manager, Vicky Junik, will start at the end of March.

Notice and Quorum

Notice of the meeting, copied to members, was taken as read. With more than 10 members being present, or duly represented, the meeting was declared quorate and proceeded to business.

1. Chair's Report

The Chair updated members on the comprehensive work programme activities completed over the last year, with particularly focus on core work objectives. The work plan for 2017/18 was also highlighted. The main element of this will be continuing stakeholder discussions and developing an options paper on how a future regional marine planning partnership might best be structured for the Moray Firth, and what role the MFP might have in that.

The options paper would also consider the preparatory work that could be undertaken by the MFP and wider stakeholders to proactively gather the information required by the future MPP when preparing its assessment of the firth, preparatory to starting work on developing a regional marine plan.

The Partnership will continue to act as the Moray Firth SAC management group secretariat; will continue to engage the public in marine and coastal 'citizen science' activities; will continue to develop the D&R MPA as well as potential collaboration on projects alongside partner organisations.

The Chair also spoke of establishing a 'Friends of the Moray Firth' group to engage people in coastal activities including walks, ID sessions and biological recording, discussions of coastal heritage and history, and other activities that would be of interest to the group. The idea would be developed over the coming months, and the Partnership would welcome discussions with anyone interested in participating.



MFP Member Shona Turnbull offered to assist the Partnership in setting up this group, having been recently involved in setting up a similar group. The Chair thanked and welcomed Shona's involvement.

2. Formal Resolutions

Resolution 1 - Accounts & Reports (RS)

To receive the statement of accounts of the Partnership for the period ended 31 March 2016 and the balance sheet as at that date, with the reports of the Board of Directors and Independent Financial Examiners thereon. RS gave a brief summation of the results for the year to March 2016, including core (unrestricted) and project (restricted) activities. The overall position as presented on the balance sheet shows total reserve funds of £56,537 at March 2016. The accounts, which had been examined by the Independent Financial Adviser Mhairi Callander of Scott-Moncrieff, were accepted unanimously.

Resolution 2 - Election of Directors (BL)

To elect up to three members to the Board. It was brought to light this year that the Partnership had been mistakenly operating with one more Director than is allowed by the Articles of Association, which state that a maximum of 6 is permitted. This had been highlighted to the relevant bodies and was not considered to be an issue. In resolution 3, it is proposed to increase the maximum number to 10.

Each year, one third of the directors must retire by rotation.

Retiring members of the Board:

Maureen Macmillan	(retiring)
Gordon Mackie	(retiring by rotation and not standing for re-election)
Graham Grant	(retiring by rotation and standing for re-election)

Individuals standing for election as members of the Board:

Bill Wright	James Mackie
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Thanks were given to the two retiring members of the Board, Maureen Macmillan and Gordon Mackie. Both have committed many years to the Partnership, and their contribution was recognised as significantly benefitting the organisation. Gifts were presented to Maureen and Gordon with thanks for their service to the MFP.

Graham Grant, Deputy Harbourmaster at the Port of Cromarty Firth, was re-elected to the Board. BL then presented information on both of the new candidates and their reasons for wishing to join the MFP board. He highlighted that candidates are elected as individuals, and not representing any employer body or organisation. Both nominees were unanimously accepted as Board members.

Composition of Board following the election:

William Ruck, Graham Grant, Carol Barbone, Ben Leyshon, Alex Yelland, and new directors Bill Wright and James Mackie.



Appointment of Chair

Members were advised that the Chair is elected annually by the Board at its first meeting following the AGM. Any current director was eligible to stand. Details of this appointment would be circulated to members in due course.

Resolution 3 – Amend Maximum Number of Directors

Resolution 3 authorises the Board to amend the maximum number of Directors, as stated in the Articles of Association, from 7 to 10. This would allow the Partnership to recruit additional Directors with a wide range of experience and expertise to the Board and is considered important for the move towards becoming the Marine Planning Partnership for the Moray Firth. Resolution 3 was agreed unanimously.

Resolution 4 - Appointment of independent financial examiners (GG)

To authorise the Board of Directors to appoint an Independent Financial Examiner to the Partnership and to fix the remuneration. Members were advised that the Board proposed to continue with the services of Mhairi Callander at Scott-Moncrieff as Independent Financial Examiner. Resolution 4 was agreed unanimously.

3. Votes of Thanks

The Partnership gave thanks to the wide range of organisations that provide support both with funds for core and project work, as well as expertise and advice. Particular mention was made of the key core funders per the 2015/16 accounts, who had provided long term support - Marine Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Chevron Upstream Europe, Port of Cromarty Firth and Aberdeenshire Council. It would not have been possible for the Partnership to achieve the work it has done without this core support. Other funders were thanked for their support of project work, including in kind donations, as well as individuals who have volunteered time and skills to enable a range of activities around the Moray Firth.

There being no further questions, the formal business was closed.

END

Note of Programme following the formal AGM business

Following the close of the formal AGM business, Hamish Torrie of Glenmorangie and Dr Bill Sanderson of Heriot-Watt University were welcomed as guest speakers to talk about the 'DEEP' project, protecting and enhancing the Dornoch Firth.

Following the highly enjoyable and very well received DEEP presentation, refreshments were provided and delegates explored the 'Marine Spatial Challenge' board game brought to the AGM by Rhona Fairgrieve of the Scottish Coastal Forum.