

EIGHTY THIRD SNH BOARD MEETING, 18 MARCH 2003, BATTLEBY

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Members Present

John Markland, Chairman
Michael Scott, Deputy Chairman
Peter Chapman
Simon Fraser, Chairman, North Areas Board
Keith Geddes
Alice Lambert
Peter Mackay, Chairman, Audit and Risk Management Committee
Jeremy Rowan Robinson, Chairman, East Areas Board
Janet Sprent, Chairwoman, Scientific Advisory Committee
Sue Walker

In Attendance

Ian Jardine, Chief Executive
Andrew Bachell, Director
Ian Edgeler, Director
John Thomson, Director
Jeff Watson, Director
Colin Galbraith, Director
Jane Clark, Head of National Strategy
Iain Rennick, Head of Secretariat, Press and PR
Sarah Roe, Press and Public Relations Officer
Pam Gaiter, Board Secretary
Jill Matthews (for item 5)
Greg Mudge (for item 6)
Mary Maclean (for item 6)
Andrew Thin (for item 6)
Ron Macdonald (for item 7)
Stewart Pritchard (for item 7)
Reuben Singleton (for item 8)
Daniel Gotts (for item 12)

Apologies

Isabel Glasgow, Chairwoman, West Areas Board

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

ITEM 1: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

1. No interests were declared in relation to the items for discussion in the closed session of the meeting.

ITEM 2: MINUTES

2. The minutes of the closed session of the 82nd SNH Board meeting, held on 11 February 2003, were agreed as a true record.

ITEM 3: CURRENT ISSUES (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

Relocation

3. The Chairman and Chief Executive were to meet Ross Finnie on 19 March to discuss relocation.

Kinloch Castle

4. Endemol Television Productions was planning a TV series on natural heritage assets in need of care and attention. It planned to include Kinloch Castle in the programme. There would be an ultimate winner which would be awarded a substantial amount of money. The series was scheduled for broadcasting in the Autumn.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Investigation

5. SNH had replied to the improvement notices within the stated time limit. A presentation on the submission would be made on 31 March to a range of people, including representatives from the HSE. It was still not clear if a Fatal Accident Inquiry would take place.

Areas Boards Appointments

6. Following Nick Kempe's appointment to the Board, the West Areas Board had now appointed its reserve candidate, Ruth Tittensor, for a period of two years, commencing 1 April 2003.

ITEM 4: THE REVIEW OF NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES

7. The paper asked the Board to decide the future of Loch Maree Islands National Nature Reserve which is currently on the orange list. The Board discussed the following points:

- the main doubt over the NNR had been that of surety of tenure.
There were promising signs that a lease could now be negotiated;
 - the NNR was likely to come under increased pressure for access.
The proposed lease would need to consider new access arrangements .
8. The Board agreed that Loch Maree Islands should remain a National Nature Reserve, subject to the completion of a satisfactory lease.

John Markland
Chairman