

**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL GAMES PARTNERSHIP held in the CASTLE HOUSE,
DUNOON
on TUESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2014**

Present: Councillor Bruce Marshall (Chair)

Councillor Gordon Blair
Councillor Dick Walsh
Councillor Jimmy McQueen
Councillor McNaughton
Donald MacVicar, Head of Community and Culture
Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager
Callum Robertson, Roads Performance Manager
Allan MacDonald, Streetscene Area Manager
Pat McCann, Area Librarian and IT Systems Manager
Paul Farrell, Engineer/Technical Officer
Malcolm Barclay, Cowal Highland Gathering
Ronnie Cairns, Cowal Highland Gathering
Alan Lothian, Cowal Highland Gathering
Fraser McGowan, Cowal Highland Gathering
Gary Stitt, Police Scotland
Paul Robertson, Police Scotland

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Dick Walsh.

2. MINUTES

The Minute of the previous Cowal Games Partnership meeting held on the 4 October 2013 was approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. MANAGERS REPORT

A managers report was submitted and Ronnie Cairns outlined the main areas covered by the report, namely to highlight the importance of the existing Service Level Agreement between Argyll and Bute Council and Cowal Highland Gathering and the economic and social importance of the Cowal Highland Gathering to the Argyll and Bute Council area.

He also advised that the RSPBA took the decision to remove the 'major' status from the Cowal Pipe Band Championships and moved it to a new competition in Ireland but agreed to protect the date and that the competition would continue to be called the Cowal Pipe Band Championship.

He informed the Group that Cowal Highland Gathering continues to be one of the biggest events to take place in Argyll and Bute and provides a crucial economic and social boost to the local area and through the wider Argyll area.

Ronnie advised that the Gathering has now met with the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch (GWOS) of the RSPBA to begin planning the 2014 Cowal Pipe Band Championship. He spoke on how the meeting was extremely positive and the GWOS are as enthusiastic about making the Cowal Championship the largest non-major championship as the Gathering is

Decision

1. The Group asked the Head of Community and Culture to submit a report to Council as soon as possible outlining the positive steps that have been taken to ensure the Gathering remains a significant event in the Pipe Band circuit and a significant economic driver for Cowal and the wider Argyll and Bute area, and seek Council approval for maintenance of the existing Service Level Agreement of financial and in kind support for the event despite the loss of the major Pipe Band Championship status.

5. AOCB

There was no other business intimated.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Area Governance Manager would liaise with Malcolm Barclay and Ronnie Cairns once matters have progressed, to arrange the date of the next meeting.

