

# CROFTING COMMISSION

## MINUTE OF THE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2024 AT 9:00AM IN GREAT GLEN HOUSE

|          |                         |                                                   |
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| Present: | Malcolm Mathieson       | Convener (via Teams)                              |
|          | Andrew Thin             | Commissioner (acting Chair)                       |
|          | Mairi Renwick Mackenzie | Commissioner                                      |
|          | Duncan Gray             | Commissioner                                      |
|          | Iain Maciver            | Commissioner                                      |
|          | Colin Kennedy           | Commissioner                                      |
|          | Donald Macdonald        | Commissioner                                      |
|          | Rod Mackenzie           | Commissioner                                      |
|          | Duncan Macauley         | Commissioner                                      |
|          | Gary Campbell           | Chief Executive                                   |
|          | David Findlay           | Commission Solicitor                              |
|          | Aaron Ramsay            | Director of Operations                            |
|          | Heather Mack            | Head of Policy, Grazings and Development          |
|          | Lynne Hendry            | Development team                                  |
|          | Observers               | Members of staff, Assessors, and public via Teams |

### 1. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Acting Chair Thin opened the meeting and welcomed participants, noting that he was chairing the meeting as the Convener was unable to attend in person. There were apologies from Jane Thomas.

Acting Chair Thin passed on thanks from the Board to all staff for the progress on the Regulatory stats, noting the excellent performance.

Acting Chair Thin passed on thanks from the Board to CEO and all staff who are helping to build a positive image for the Commission through visits and enhanced comms approach.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests declared.

### 3. DRAFT MINUTES FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

Minutes approved as presented.

### 4. REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (8<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024)

From the action points of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 all actions are now cleared except action 5 which should be kept live.

From the action points of 23<sup>rd</sup> January actions 5 & 6 taken as discharged. Action point 9 to be discharged as work underway.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arising.

## 6. PROPOSED CHANGES TO TIER 3 (T3) PROCEDURES

Introduction from CEO, who then opened for comments.

There was a discussion over the merits of the proposal, as well as points raised about the need to ensure that the T2 stage does not become overburdened, and that correct governance is maintained at T2. It was also noted that the workload of the single Commission solicitor needed to be considered. CEO noted that mitigations against this were noted to include further delegation to T1 and the streamlined objections process. If approved, new process would be reviewed periodically to evaluate success.

Board approved the paper with the above points noted, as well as an observation that the scheme of delegation would need reviewed at a future date.

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| <b>Action Point 1</b> | <b>Paper to be brought back to the Board meeting on 27 November to review the scheme of delegation.</b> |
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## 7. REVIEW OF CROFTING COMMISSION GOVERNANCE

Introduction from CEO, who then opened for comments.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion which centred around the importance of including the Scottish Government Sponsor in this work and bringing them with the Commission. It was agreed that the work should be led by the Convener of the Commission, and a future update to the Board should be delivered by the Convener at an appropriate time.

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| <b>Action Point 2</b> | <b>Convener to come back to the Board with an update, no later than the October 2024 board meeting, or earlier as appropriate.</b> |
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## 8. RESUMPTION APPLICATIONS

Introduction from CEO, with further background detail added by the Commission solicitor.

A question was asked around common grazings, and if the same threshold would be applied, which the Commission Solicitor noted that was the intention. There was further discussion across the Board to gauge opinion as to whether common grazings and in-bye crofts should have the same threshold, including a request for information around figures and statistics.

The paper was approved as written. Commission officials were asked to consider if any further recommendations should be made around common grazings. If further recommendations are considered appropriate, a further paper is to be brought to the Board at a future meeting supported by statistics, or otherwise a confirmation that there are none should be communicated.

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| <b>Action Point 3</b> | <b>Officials to consider if further changes recommended for common grazings, and either come back with proposals at a future Board meeting or confirm no further changes are recommended.</b> |
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**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Noted.

Commissioner Kennedy asked for it to be noted that the Board recognises the achievements of the CEO and staff in 2024. All board members agreed.

**10. ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

Acting Chair Thin presented one issue. It was noted that Mairi and Malcolm have been representing the Board on the Agritourism Forum, and Board members asked if they were content with this. All Board members confirmed they were content.

Acting Chair Thin thank all for their attendance and contributions and closed the public session.

**PUBLIC SESSION ENDED**

**11. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**