

**MINUTES OF THE NRS STAFF COUNCIL MEETING – 3 OCTOBER 2006**  
**10.30 Conference Room**

Present: Chris Quine (Chair)  
Steve Osborne  
Glenn Brearley  
Martin Abrahams  
Madge Holmes (Minutes)

Agenda

1. Minutes of meeting of 16 March 2006 were accepted as a true record with one amendment. Item 5, last paragraph. The word discuss be removed from the last sentence.

2. Matters arising:

a. Status of NRS Staff Council;

Glenn Brearley discussed with Ed Sheppard and now confirmed the status of the NRS Staff Council as a local site council. Field Stations with concerns should channel these through management or TUS and not wait for representation through the joint FR Staff Council.

*Action: Discharged*

b. FR vehicles policy;

The present method of mixed fleet of Ford Fusions and Ford Focus Estates appears to be working well.

A staff comment in favour of a large transit van to transport large equipment was discussed. This type of vehicle would have low usage. Alternatives are to use our pick-up vehicle, tractor and trailer, or hire a van.

Further decision on replacements will be discussed 2007/08 when remaining Ford Focus Estates are due for renewal.

*Action: Deferred*

c. Transport Infrastructure – Bush Estate;

Roadside parking. There has been a marked improvement since the new car park at the Dick Vet is in use, but the road edge is still being used. Planning permission is being sought to demolish an outbuilding that will allow the car park to be extended to accommodate some 100 vehicles instead of the current 75 vehicles.

General Bush Estate Transport Infrastructure. Chris Quine to report back to next NRS Staff Council meeting on discussions with ECRR on most appropriate way to take this forward.

*Action: Chris Quine*

d. Road Crossing A703;

Crossing the A703 at Gowkley Moss roundabout was briefly discussed. Individuals should raise their concerns with Midlothian Council regarding a crossing for this busy road.

*Action: Discharged*

e. Smoking area;

According to the drawings of structures on the Scottish Executive's website our smoking area does not comply with their regulations whereby the walls should be less than 50% of the total area. Martin Abrahams to arrange for appropriate modification to the structure.

*Action: Martin Abrahams*

f. Toilets;

The rear shower cubicle in the corridor behind the Workshop has been condemned and is causing increased use of the shower cubicle in the main gents' toilets. Users have requested some improvements. Martin Abrahams to discuss with Dave Brooks whether the extractor fan in the shower cubicle is sufficiently powerful to cope with demand and to arrange for cleaning of the wooden board mat and shower cubicle to be added to our Cleaning contract.

*Action: Martin Abrahams*

g. Does NRS need its own dedicated Welfare Officer?

A seminar by People Support making staff more aware of the services provided was well received by staff, and a repeat visit will be arranged in due course.

*Action: Discharged*

h. Naming rooms;

Staff views were sought after the last meeting but Chris Quine has yet to action.

3. Educational Outing;

Response of staff to this year's educational outing on 12<sup>th</sup> October to Kielder FD is poor. Staff to be encouraged to attend. Future outings should be arranged with earlier notification of the date.

*Action: Discharged*

4. Future of FR and Research Stations locations;

A station meeting later in the day to discuss the Forest Research Development Strategy for 2007-2012 will include some discussion on this topic. The Commissioners had approved the Development Plan.

Chris Quine confirmed that a Joint FR Staff Council meeting was likely in the near future.

*Action: Discharged*

5. Any other Business;

None.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 1030 hrs in the Meeting Room.