

# CROFTING COMMISSION

## MINUTE OF THE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD VIA SKYPE ON 5 MAY 2020

Present:	Rod Mackenzie	Convener
	Andy Holt	Commissioner
	Mairi Mackenzie	Commissioner
	Malcolm Mathieson	Commissioner
	Iain Maciver	Commissioner
	James Scott	Commissioner
	Billy Neilson	Commissioner
	Bill Barron	Chief Executive
	David Findlay	Commission Solicitor
	Mary Ross	Head of Operations & Workforce
	Jane Thomas	Head of Compliance & Minute-taker

### 1 APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining the reason for calling it today, in these extraordinary times.

### 2 REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Convener explained that the current version of Standing Orders for Commission meetings fails to make provision for them to take place other than face-to-face. As this is not possible at present, due to the Coronavirus restrictions, Commissioners have been asked to approve an amendment to allow Board meetings to take place also by electronic means or tele-conference, if necessary.

The Convener explained that flexibility was needed at the moment, but this did not mean the Commission would be switching to electronic meetings for good. The question was raised about access to meetings by the public and it was confirmed that a platform to allow the public digital access to Board meetings was being arranged and would be in place for the meeting on 14 May, so that would not be a Closed meeting. Although it would not be possible for the public to interact with Commissioners at a Board meeting, the viewing platform might increase the numbers accessing the meeting.

Everyone accepted that connectivity issues could create real challenges to clear communication and that gaps in audio clarity can cause confusion. The Convener gave an assurance that this method for holding Board meetings would be temporary, that Standing Orders overall would be reviewed in August and that it was his role to ensure there was clarity whenever a Decision was being taken at a Board meeting.

It was agreed that much more concentration is needed when participating in a Skype meeting and therefore it is important to keep meetings as short as possible or to take breaks and have meetings in two halves.

On this basis, the Commission approved the revision to Standing Orders, Clause 2.6. The document will be updated and placed on the Commission website.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>The Commission approved the amendment to clause 2.6 of Standing Orders to allow Commission meetings to take place by video-link, tele-conference or other digital means, to be reviewed in August 2020.</b>
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The Convener thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2:20pm.

### **3 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Commission will take place by Skype on 14 May 2020 at 9:30am.