Minutes of the CMPP Annual Members Meeting

2nd December 2025

Online Meeting

Chair: Anthony Gallagher (AGa)

Present: Voting Members

Kevin Braidwood (KB), South Ayrshire Council
Jan Brooke (JBr), Peel Ports
Calum Duncan (CD), ScotLINK
Kieron Green (KG), Argyll and Bute Council
Lucy Kay (LK), COAST
Willie Kennedy (WK), SSACN
Catherine Lambert (CL), GCR Place
Chris Leakey (CL), NatureScot
Thom Ledingham (TL), North Ayrshire Council
Mark Lodge (ML), Argyll and Bute Council
Alex McIntosh (AM), ClydePort Operations Ltd.
Ruth Rice (RR), CMAL
Graham Russell (GR), Royal Yachting Association Scotland
Elaine Whyte (EW), Individual
Elke Scheibler (ES), Field Studies Council

Present: Non-Voting Members

Jill Bunyan (JBu), CMPP Staff
Chris Cutts (CC), CMPP Staff

Apologies:

Paul Bancks (PB), Crown Estate Scotland
Zoe Clelland (ZC), RSPB
Lorraine Holdstock (LH), Argyll and Bute Council

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed all attendees and read out the apologies as noted above.

2. **Chair's Report**

The Chair noted the Chair's report provided within the meeting papers, which reflects the activities of the Partnership over the last year.

3. **Election of Chair**

In accordance with article 64 of the constitution, the Chair has a three-year term of office, which the current Chair, Anthony Gallagher, has now reached. The outgoing chair is eligible for re-election. Anthony has nominated himself to stand as Chair again and this has been supported by the required three existing members, for which thanks were given. In accordance with article 62, 'the chair shall be elected from among the members by simple majority who must consider the individual to be qualified and able to discharge the role'.

There was a majority vote to re-elect AG as Chair for another three years.

4. **Permanent Board Members**

In accordance with article 46, individuals nominated to the partnership board by members with a permanent board position can remain on the partnership board for successive years. Permanent Board Members are as follows:

Kevin Braidwood, South Ayrshire Council

Councillor Kieron Green, Argyll and Bute Council

Allan Finlayson, North Ayrshire Council

Catherine Lambert, Glasgow City Region Place

Kerry Wallace, NatureScot

The only CMPP Board Change is Alex McIntosh, replacing Gary Doyle for ClydePort Operations Ltd.

5. **Appointment of Non-Permanent Board Members**

The current Non-Permanent Board members are Elaine Whyte and Alex Watson Crook. Mark Griffin stepped down as a Board Member. EW and AWC are seeking re-election

and were supported by two letters of support each. Alistair Hamilton, who replaced Mark Griffin as Chair of Southwest Regional Inshore Fisheries Group, has nominated himself to the Board and one letter of support was received by the time of the meeting. A verbal letter of support was received during the meeting and AH was appointed to the Board with thanks.

6. AOB

There was no AOB.

7. Close

The AMM concluded at 10.30am.

Minutes of the CMPP Members Meeting
2nd December 2025
Online Meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies

As per the AMM

2. Chair's Report

As per the AMM.

3. Review of action points from the last meeting

Reference	Summary	Status
02/03/06/2025	CMPP staff to set up specific meeting with MD to discuss fisheries with a subset of CMPP members.	Done; see Item
01/02/09/2025	CMPP staff to contact MD and receive updates on funding, draft Plan feedback and consultation timings. CMPP staff to communicate any updates to Members.	Done; see Item
04/03/06/2025	Members to submit any comments on the draft consultation documents to CMPP staff by Friday 12th September.	Done.

The minutes from the last meeting (2nd September 2025) were approved.

4. Update on the Regional Marine Plan

Noted that draft plan corrections are underway and the corrected plan will be submitted to MD in the next couple of weeks. Noted that a fisheries policy meeting was held with CMPP staff, MD, CD and LK. EW noted her disappointment in not being invited to the meeting. Noted that MD had sent the fisheries policies of the Orkney and Shetland plans to CMPP staff with the *proviso* that they not be circulated since they are still in draft form. However, CMPP staff had permission to screen share with the members.

Noted that any policy should have clarity and intention, it is well known that the sector is run down but there should be safeguarding of the Clyde fishery too and all sectors are treated with an even hand.

Noted that the intention is for integration with the plan and (ideally spatial) management of sectors including fishing and that policies should be supported that protect fishery grounds from other activities; members would like that policy to proceed in a constructive, inclusive way.

CD's suggested wording is 'To encourage an ecosystem-based approach to the management of fishing in the Firth of Clyde, when applying for licensing and consenting,

proposals should be informed by and reflect the general and sectoral objectives of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan.'

Noted that the policy intent is simply to have the Clyde plan and IFG plans complement each other to ensure the improvement of the health of the Clyde and the health of the fishery. It is about putting fisheries on a level playing field with other sectors, which do require policies in the plan.

Noted that every fishing license is issued in line with NMP. As that occurs at a national level, it would be difficult for regional marine planning to have a say in that process.

Noted that speed to get the plan approved for consultation is important and that the fisheries issue can be discussed with a subgroup of the CMPP and MD early in the New Year to draft the fisheries policy based on Orkney, Shetland and CD's text which can be circulated to members for comment. This would be in parallel to MD reviewing the rest of the submitted plan.

Noted the importance of ecosystem aspects, restoring stocks, safeguarding the industry, and aligning process with planning. AM screen shared commercially sensitive AIS tracks with the meeting to show the density of use by fishing and other commercial uses.

Noted that advice on *Nephrops* this year in the Clyde is very healthy, but also whilst we have a change in some fish stocks such as cod that are not as prevalent in the Clyde as it once was, we do have increased biomass of other fish stocks, some significantly so, most not being fished due to quota limitations. In going forward, EW stressed to be included in any similar meetings on fish.

Action: Amend plan and circulate to members

Action: Hold fisheries workshop with interested parties and MD to resolve fishery policy text.

5. **Update on Housing Arrangements**

Following the MD funding review, ministers approved a 30% funding uplift for CMPP to continue covering two FTEs, expenses *etc*. which was welcomed by members. However this is still to be formally confirmed. An assurance letter has been sent to NatureScot and staff contracts have been extended to March 2026. The next step is to resolve the hosting issue.

Noted that currently, no LAs are willing to pursue discussions: N. Ayrshire are still unwilling; GCR Place is not in a position to host the CMPP, and will send a formal e-mail to that effect; there has been no response from Argyll and Bute.

There is to be no multi-year funding from MD for the time being but this will be looked at again once the plan is adopted and we carry out statutory functions; it is worth noting that Orkney and Shetland marine plans will be adopted first and we can see if their funding model changes thereafter.

Noted that NS has received assurance of funding until March 2026, but still has to get formal Director approval for NS hosting until March 2027.

Noted that the initial view is that LAs would be the best hosts, so CMPP staff will consult with MD.

Action: CMPP staff to circulate any updates on Housing.

6. TRACC

The first meeting of the Clyde Core Group of community groups to produce a Transdisciplinary Action Plan (TAP) met on October 23rd. It consists of a group of *ca.* 14 members, but an increase in that amount would be helpful. It is proposed to hold another meeting in December/January.

The meeting was to introduce the project, discuss community issues and how they relate to coastal governance. It is good for the CMPP since we will have a working group on community engagement; currently the work is managed by TRACC but could transition to CMPP in the future.

The group members were interested and showed willingness to contribute; if we can draw together all community councils to work together, there could be real value to them.

A TRACC retreat of project partners was also held in Glasgow in September, followed by the Coast-R conference, where TRACC presented.

Noted that there should be a way to involve interested board members as the project continues.

7. Members Updates

SCOTLink:

Engaged with the Natural Environment Bill, especially regarding impact on Habitat Regulations; concerned with the Berwick Bank windfarm as they do not regard it as ecologically viable; and keen to engage with the MPA/PMF/Inshore fisheries upcoming consultation and promote the precautionary principle.

NatureScot:

The Masters project supervised by NatureScot and Queens University, Belfast on Trends in Marine Licences in the Clyde Marine Region turned out to be very difficult: MDLOT data is not very useful or structured to appraise re: the influence of policies on decision making. With regard to future monitoring and evaluation of marine plans, such data is going to have to be presented in a more useful way. However the Masters' student submitted his thesis in September.

Glasgow City Region Place:

GCR Place are continuing with the scoping for a new Regional Spatial Strategy. Consultants have now been appointed for the development of the Clyde Mission Strategic Masterplan to support heat decarbonisation.

North Ayrshire Council:

The planning service has drafted its Evidence Report (the first stage of the new Local Development Plan Process) which will be considered by elected members of the Council this month. If approved, the Evidence Report will be submitted (probably early next year) to Scottish Ministers who will assess if the evidence is sufficient for the Council to carry on with the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. The Evidence Report does include reference to the Draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan/National Marine Plan and highlights the need for the LDP to align with the marine planning process.

COAST:

Two University of Stirling students have recently carried out projects on water quality around Arran:

Catchment to coast - Evaluating coastal water quality risks on the Isle of Arran: Utilising catchment models and expert elicitation

Water quality at beaches on the Isle of Arran: what do the public think?

8. **AOB**

9. **DONM**

Date of next meeting: 10th March 2026.

Date of next meeting following that: 2nd June 2026 (tbc) but may be brought forward depending on consultation activity.

Actions Summary

Reference	Summary	Status
01/02/12/2025	Amend plan and circulate to members.	
02/02/12/2025	Hold fisheries workshop with interested parties and MD to resolve fishery policy text.	
03/02/12/2025	CMPP staff to circulate any updates on Housing.	