

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

46th MEETING

Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 4:00p.m.

Ash Room Elgin Community Centre

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Gillibrand(Chair), Gilbert Bain, Jean Oliver, Wilson Metcalfe, Charles Petrie, Ian Cowe, Alistair Sutherland, Pat Carroll, Simon Jacyna, Clive Roberts.

Present: Ian Douglas (Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager), Bridget Freeman (Aberdeenshire Access Officer), Alison Espie (Chair Aberdeenshire LOAF)

Non attendees: William Hawes, Iain Green,

Vacancy: NHS Grampian, Moray Councillor

Item		Action
1	Welcome: All present were welcomed by Michelle Gillibrand (Convener) particularly new and returning former members and our guests from Aberdeenshire.	
2	Apologies: Terry Ballard, Shirley Reid, Ed Dunbar, Thomas (Andy) Anderson, Janet Trythall, Angus Dixon	
3	Accuracy of The Previous Minutes	
	Proposed Clive Roberts, Seconded Pat Carroll. It was noted that JO did not agree with Item 9 as she contends that the Dorenell AMS is not fit for purpose. All other members agreed that the AMS had already been approved to the satisfaction of the Forum as minuted at a previous meeting and that Item 9 was therefore acceptable as minuted. MG invited JO to formally write to her stating any grievances she has regards the way the Forum and/or specific members have dealt with the AMS. This can then be discussed at the next Forum meeting. All agreed to review constitution at next meeting re internal members complaints procedure.	All
4	Aberdeenshire LOAF Members Welcome	
	Welcoming AE and BF, MG summarised the joint working that has already taken place with ALOAF. All agreed this should continue. Priorities for ALOAF include earlier intervention to resolve access disputes and greater consideration of access in the planning process. Priorities for MLOAF include CCP review, Active Travel, early intervention in access disputes and raising public awareness of how the Forum can help.	
5	Matters Arising	
	See accompanying matters arising schedule	
6	Membership	
	MG to pursue with NHS Grampian re replacement member on the Forum. All agreed SNH member can continue as a vacancy. Agency members were asked to leave the room whilst a vote was taken on whether agencies should have full voting rights. Unanimously agreed that this should continue. Replacement Councillor member will attend once appointed. Attendance review: Table of attendance was discussed and all agreed no action necessary.	MG
7	Core Paths Plan Review	
	ID explained Council timetable for review. Formal public consultation to take place for 12 weeks Feb to April 2018. Part of preliminary review process is to have a Forum workshop to	

	<p>discuss maps showing Candidate Core Paths and Amended Core Paths.</p> <p>Workshop to take place in the Activities Room, Elgin Library, Wed 16th August 2016 between 4:00-6:00pm. All members invited to attend.</p>	All
8	Communications Plan	
	<p>MG to send latest draft of the new members' induction pack to all for comment. Pack to be finalised at next meeting.</p> <p>Press release to be issued featuring new members.</p> <p>Events: Gordon Castle Highland Games 20th & 21st May. Thanks to all who helped out. Worth doing to raise profile of Forum but Sat. was poorly attended due to bad weather.</p> <p>Pitgavney Farm Open Day 28th May. Worth doing but numbers down on previous years and poor location of site meant a relatively quiet day.</p>	MG/All MG
9	Business Plan	
	<p>Item 1 – Core Paths leaflet. MG to send out by E mail latest revision for comment.</p> <p>Item 7 - OSS. Members fed individually into consultation.</p>	MG
10	Moray Active Travel Strategy	
	Sub group follow up meeting took place on 8 th May with Pat Douglass where the task was completed to collate information on maps of potential Active Travel Routes.	
11	Dorenell Access Management Strategy	
	<p>Sub group met with Darren Cummings of EDF on 3rd May. EDF agreed to setting up and leading steering group to take the actions identified in the strategy forward including feasibility, design and costing report for the paths network outlined in the Strategy.</p> <p>All agreed Forum to have representation on the steering Group.</p> <p>JO will represent SPNG on steering group. Forum member(not JO) to be appointed to steering group once invite is received from EDF.</p>	All
12	Roths to Craigellachie Cycle Route	
	Keith Kingham of Roths Community Council still to make contact with the relevant landowners to obtain in principle agreement to develop a cycle route. Also contact to be made with other relevant community groups in the area. MG to contact Keith Kingham to pursue progress.	MG
13	Hopeman to Lossiemouth Cycle Route	
	MG to attend next meeting with cycle route group on 20 June. She will pass on preferred route info obtained by ED from landowner. MG to report on next steps of cycle route group.	MG
14	Special Round Table Meeting 25th April – Scottish Parliament	
	<p>ID attended this special meeting convened by Moray MSP Richard Lochhead to discuss whether the access legislation should be reviewed. The meeting was prompted by recent high profile access issues in Moray. All were referred to summary notes from the meeting issued by various user groups in attendance.</p> <p>Main conclusion was that access legislation is generally working well and what was needed was better ways to implement legislation rather than changing legislation itself. Legislation currently not very effective in resolving access disputes through enforcement. Way forward could be for new Scottish land Commission to investigate setting up a new 'arbitration unit' to intervene in difficult to resolve access disputes.</p>	

15	Access Issues	
	<p>a) Roseisle blocked Core Path LM01 – Report being submitted to Council Economic Development & Infrastructure Services Committee on 20th June on taking action under s19(b) of the access legislation to remove the fence obstruction following inability to achieve a negotiated solution following protracted negotiations. The Roses and FES are promoting the bridle route as a suitable diversion for the blocked Core Path. This was discussed and forum members unanimously agreed the bridle route was not an appropriate diversion route and the Council should proceed with enforcement. IMD indicated the Forum view would be passed on to the ED and I Committee.</p> <p>b) Locked gate on Fishwives path – Farmer originally locked the gate due to problems of motor bike use. MG and SJ to meet with the farmer, Mr Alexander, with a view to seeking an arrangement that would allow him to unlock the gate perhaps initially for a trial period.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>MG/SJ</p>
16	AOCB	
	<p>1. Bam Nuttal Elgin community benefit - Opportunity for excess materials from railway upgrade in Elgin to be used for local path projects. Request must come from community group; not Council. Forum agreed to operate as the local group making the request for the use of the materials on local paths improvements at the Wards and Oakwood. MG to E mail Scotrail contact is Stacey.Macdonald@networkrail.co.uk</p> <p>2. Dog familiarisation with Sheep event – Raised by IC. Ran out of time for this at meeting. To be discussed at next meeting.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>All</p>
16	Date of Next Meetings	
	<p>September 5th 2017. 4.00 to 6.00pm– Elgin Town Hall Lounge</p> <p>November 28th 2017. 4.00 to 6.00pm – Elgin Town Hall Lounge</p>	