

## Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum

### 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

#### Minutes

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010, 4pm Elgin Library

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Access Manager

Fiona McNally, Paths for All Partnership

Members Present: W Metcalfe, R Macpherson, J Trythall, R Marks, J Oliver, S Jacyna, D Barron, J Gate, P Graham

Minute Secretary: C Shanks

Non Attendees: G Matheson, Vacancy – Disabled Representative, M Young

The meeting was chaired by Peter Graham

Item		Action
1.0	<p><b>Apologies</b> R Boardman, R Knight, A Laing, F Murdoch, S Reid, I Green, M Stelmach, G Bain</p> <p><b>Welcome New Members</b> Mary Stelmach (Balloch Riders Access Group), Wilson Metcalfe (Forres Footpaths Trust), Rita Marks (Glenlivet/Inveravon Community Association), Gilbert Main (Farmer – Elgin), Gary Matheson (HIE)</p>	
2.0	<p><b>Accuracy of Previous Minutes</b> The previous minutes were agreed as being true and accurate. Proposed by J Oliver, seconded by J Trythall</p>	
3.0	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Giant's Chair Dufftown</b> – J Oliver updated that three local chaps have worked on the path, on a voluntary basis, and performed miracles. Coach loads of people have consequently come from all over. JO also rang Gordonstoun School to request their help and a work party came and helped for 4 days. It was agreed that JO would get names and addresses of the volunteers and a contact name at Gordonstoun so that ID could send them each a letter of thanks. JO also reported that a local sculptor who is the Treasurer for 'Mortlach Story Walks' had applied for LEADER funding which is looking hopeful. JO will be applying for funding for the Giant's Chair and Cabrach paths developments on behalf of the Speyside Paths Network Group.</p> <p><b>Moray Access Panel</b> – It was noted that the Moray Access Panel no longer wish to have a place on the Moray LOAF. PG and ID felt that there should be a member with disabilities and asked if anybody on the committee knew of anyone who may be eligible for the position. A few suggestions were made around the table – MVSO, Carers Forum/Association, Moray Resource Centre were mentioned. It was agreed that ID would contact with Norman Thomson regarding the three gentlemen in attendance at the Glenlivet opening.</p>	<p>JO/ID</p> <p>ID</p>

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4.0	<p><b>New Members</b></p> <p>New members were welcomed to the Moray LOAF:</p> <p>Mary Stelmach, Cairnie – community/access user, (apologies not in attendance)</p> <p>Wilson Metcalfe, Forres – community</p> <p>Rita Marks, Ballindalloch – community</p> <p>Gilbert Main, Elgin – land manager (apologies not in attendance)</p> <p>Gary Matheson – HIE, public agency (not in attendance)</p>	
5.0	<p><b>Core Paths Plan Inquiry</b></p> <p>ID reported that the Council Inquiry statements had taken himself and a Council lawyer five months to prepare and a case officer along with two reporters had been appointed by the Scottish Government. Once any further written submissions from ‘objectors’ have been received the Scottish government’s reporters will write a decision report. Special hearings may be required at the discretion of the reporters. Forum input to the Core Paths Plan process is now complete. The Forum noted that their thanks to ID for his work in the preparation of this should be minuted.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>Scottish Government Survey of Access Forums</b></p> <p>PG noted that all members should have had a copy of the survey form as he had received his and responded accordingly. JO reported that she hadn’t received one and ID said that the form was only available on-line. RM said that she wasn’t currently on-line and had no intention to do so like a few other members. JO noted that this was unacceptable as members were volunteers. PG asked that ID pass back to the organisers that they are missing out on a lot of valuable information from people do not have access to the internet.</p>	ID
7.0	<p><b>Future Forum Business</b></p> <p>PG said that he thought that this was fantastic with some great ideas but there ought to be a sub group formed to draft a business plan. It was agreed by the Forum that this would be effective and PG asked for comments on the paper and its accuracy. SJ was nominated to Chair the sub-committee and requested to ask RK to join as a member. WM and JO would also join the sub-committee with PG as host and ID and FM in attendance.</p>	SJ
8.0	<p><b>National Access Forum Papers</b></p> <p>PG raised two concerns that he had with the papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of private groups who were creating footpaths – where were they? (FM updated the Forum on the Scottish Coastal Footpath SNH document.)</li> <li>• Electric fences – more deer control was required and the price increase in the fencing. It has been trialled successfully in other areas and PG felt that habitat control, management etc are important issues which need to be considered along with practicalities.</li> <li>• Overall, PG was pleased with the paper but felt that NAF concentrated too much on mountains and hills. He asked that these concerns be fed back to NAF and reported that he had previously approached NAF on behalf of Moray LOAF.</li> </ul>	

Item		Action
	<p>FM informed the Forum that her Line Manager has NAF input and she would take the message back regarding the concerns about concentration on the hills but also the positive feelings about the briefing note.</p>	FM
9.0	<p><b>Access Issues</b></p> <p>The Hythe, Lossiemouth</p> <p>ID reported that he had prepared an August 2010 Council Committee Report recommending enforcement for Moray Council Legal Team. As a consequence to this the MC Legal Team had decided not to support this and have put this recommendation forward much to ID's disappointment. JO asked if Scotways could get involved? ID responded that they could but that they would not have the legal resources. MC Legal Team had disagreed with ID's recommendation to enforce as they would have to 'buy in' legal expertise which would cost £50k - £100k. They had decided that it would be too parochial, there was insufficient justification to enforce and they probably wouldn't win. ID confirmed that the recommendation to enforce agreed at a previous Forum meeting was contained in the Committee Report.</p>	ID
10.0	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>FM reported that there was up to £1k funding which would be becoming available shortly for Other Local Path Groups. It was noted that FM would forward the application forms to ID when they are available.</p> <p>NAF/LAF Joint Meeting – it was noted that this would be taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Lesser Town Hall, Falkirk. No one indicated they would attend but if anyone wished to they should contact the organiser.</p>	FM
11.0	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting would be on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 4pm in the Town Hall Lounge Room, Elgin.</p>	