

Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum

21st Meeting

Minutes

3rd March 2011, 4pm The Gallery, Elgin Library

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Access Manager

Members Present:

W Metcalfe, R Macpherson, J Oliver, S Reid, F Murdoch, G Bain, R Marks and Dr J Trythall.

Minute Secretary: C Shanks

Non Attendees:

M Young, S Jacyna, J Gate, G Matheson, M Stelmach, I Green and M Young.

The meeting was Chaired by Roger Knight.

Item		Action
1.0	Apologies D Barron and R Boardman.	
2.0	Accuracy of Previous Minutes It was noted that I Douglas erroneously appeared under 'Members Present' as well as 'Present'. The Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record pending this amendment.	CS
3.0	Matters Arising Scottish Government Survey – Speak Up For Rural Scotland – JO informed the Committee that she had copied this to her local MSP and wondered if Moray LOAF should follow it up as she felt that all Forums should have been included. RK said that it would probably be too late for Moray LOAF to follow this up. Roger Knight started as member in May 2009 and tenure on Forum therefore ends 2012. New Members – It was noted that a number of applications had been received to join the Forum. Copies of these had been circulated and it was agreed that a sub-group would be formed to take these forward. NAF Papers – It was noted that these were on-going.	

	<p>Vice Chairmanship – RK asked FM to consider being Vice Chairman of the Moray LOAF which she accepted. RK also noted that there were 2 or 3 Members of the Forum whom he had not yet met in the 2 years of his membership. He asked that he could e-mail these Members and ask them if they would be attending any future meetings and therefore continuing their membership. JO noted that there had been quite a few applications for new members and FM said that the Forum should try and re-engage the absent members as they perhaps were not aware of the main function of the Forum.</p>	<p>FM RK</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>It was noted that AL had resigned from Moray LOAF following a 5 year membership. RK has written him a letter of thanks and it was agreed that his position should be on-going and he would be replaced on the Forum. It was also agreed that a sub-group would be set up to go through the various candidates with a score sheet which would be supplied by ID. FM said that she would like the Moray Access Panel to have a member on the Forum or another disabled member. It was agreed therefore that there would be 1 ‘Community’ member, 1 ‘User’ member, 2 ‘Land Managers’ and 1 ‘Disabled’ member. It was agreed that the sub-group would consist of JO, FM and RK.</p>	<p>ID Appointments Sub-group- JO/FM/RK</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Forum Business Plan</p> <p>It was noted that the Business Plan sub-group had met on several occasions and a plan had been produced. This had been sub-divided into short, medium and long term projects and there had been an agreement for the sub group to take the actions forward. All agreed to the finalised business plan being taken forward.</p> <p>(a) Funding and Resources - RK had approached NAF regarding funding and wished to set up a sub-group to approach this and report back to the Moray LOAF at the June 2011 meeting. FM, RM and SR (via e-mail due to lack of time to attend meetings) volunteered to be on the sub-group to take this forward. SR informed the Committee that LEADER funding could also perhaps be accessed.</p> <p>(b) Moray Development Plan - The Committee heard that there would be no progress on the Plan until the Summer and Planner, M Cross has agreed to attend the last meeting of Moray LOAF in 2011 (provisionally 10th November 2011) to discuss Forum input to the consultation process. JO informed the Committee of her concern that three windfarms can be set up over core paths without any formal permission. It was her opinion that Moray LOAF should be making a complaint and JT said that there was still time for issues to be raised. ID agreed to prepare an email to Mark Cross which he would then pass to RK.</p>	<p>Funding Sub Group – FM/RM/SR ID</p>

	<p>(c)Publicity – RM agreed to head up a sub group. GB would also be on the sub-group and it was felt that MY should also be invited to join the sub-group given his ‘forestry’ background.</p> <p>An item at every meeting from now on will consider ‘Business Plan Progress’</p>	<p>Publicity Sub Group – RM/GB/MY</p> <p>All</p>
6.0	<p>Core Paths Enquiry – Update</p> <p>ID informed the Committee that he is still awaiting the Report from the Scottish Government on the Local Inquiry. He believed that the Report was completed and awaiting the Minister’s approval. ID agreed to e-mail or post a copy of the Report to each member of Moray LOAF when he has received it.</p>	ID
7.0	<p>SNH Paper on Scotland’s Great Trails</p> <p>ID and a Moray Way Association member had attended a meeting which had concluded that SGTs are needed as a device to promote paths nationally. The three routes in Moray are Speyside Way, Dava Way and Moray Coast Trail. ID to report back as necessary.</p>	ID
8.0	<p>National Access Forum Papers</p> <p>RK said that he had no particular comments to make on the NAF papers. WM queried level crossing issues and it was noted that this was not really an issue in Moray.</p>	
9.0	<p>Dorenell Wind Farm</p> <p>RK declared an interest and the Forum noted that the wind farm had been rejected by the Moray Council. ID believed that a decision would be available around July 2010 from the Scottish Government. It was agreed that the Forum would decide what involvement it would have at the next meeting. This would be re-considered in August 2011.</p>	All
10.0	<p>Access Issues</p> <p>Locked Gates – Gordon Castle, Fochabers – It was noted that three gates installed were Code compliant with the locked main access gates not being compliant. The Estate had agreed to provide an alternative path here once the bypass is constructed and that Local Moray Councillors and the Community Council were in agreement to this approach. No further action required other than monitoring.</p>	
11.0	<p>Debbie Barron – ID told the Committee that DB would be running Volunteer Health Walks Leader Training and asked if any members would be interested in becoming ‘walk leaders’. This would be set up as part of the ‘Walk For Health Initiative’. No Forum members volunteered.</p> <p>Paths for All – A note had been circulated to the Forum prior to the meeting with reference to a ‘Magical Mystery Tour’ which would take place on 7th April 2011 in and around Falkirk. ID informed the Committee that transport would be provided</p>	

	<p>for any members who wished to attend as the event was seen as a networking opportunity for LAF members across the country.</p> <p>Andrew Thin – JO informed the Committee that she had attended a meeting hosted by Andrew Thin (Chair, SNH) in Huntly which she had seen advertised in the local press. This had been the first time he'd been invited back to Grampian since he left the area. The meeting had been very interesting and JO thought that the issues surrounding Lossiemouth could be used to make a special case. SR said that SNH is already on the Moray Task Force which covers this and gives the issue its full support.</p>	
12.0	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum will take place on Tuesday 14th June 2011 in the Gallery, Elgin Library.</p>	