

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

27TH MEETING

TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012

MINUTES

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Access Manager

Members Present: R Knight (Chair), J Smith, D Stewart, F Murdoch, I Cowe, J Oliver, S Tyson, M Stelmach, C Roberts, W Metcalfe

Non Attendees: I Green, T Anderson, G Bain, D MacPherson

Resignation: R Bromby

Item		Action
1	Apologies and Membership	
	<p>Apologies were received from R Marks, R R MacPherson, F Nicholson and S Reid. A warm welcome was offered to new members, C Roberts and I Cowe. RK noted that R Bromby has tendered her resignation from the Forum and all wished her well in her new job in Aberdeen. This now leaves one community and one land manager position vacant. These will be advertised at commencement of 2013.</p> <p>RK reminded the Forum he will cease to be a member from 2013. He approached Tim Atkinson as his replacement but Tim has declined the offer. RK to approach Toby Metcalfe of Smiths Gore to see if Toby will explore suitable options for Roger Knight's replacement. ST has put her name forward for Forum Convener. RK stated that his replacement as Convener will be decided at the next meeting and invited other Forum members to put their names forward</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>RK</p> <p>Interested Forum Members</p>
2	Accuracy of previous minutes	
	<p>Item 7 Should be Sir Robert Clerk not 'Clark' who is factor of Arndilly Estate and not 'owner'. Otherwise agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 7th June 2012</p>	
3.	Matters Arising	
	<p>Item 3 – Brown Muir – RK confirmed he has now issued a letter as the Forum's response to the public consultation exercise on the Wind Farm proposal. This is on the basis of a holding objection subject to a suitable 'Access Management Plan'.</p>	

	<p>Item 7 – Proposed Rothes to Craigellachie Cycle Route – RK has not approached Sir Robert Clerk, factor of Arndilly as he is stepping down from his position. RK will approach his successor when appointed. RK confirmed that he has spoken to owner Mr Maxwell who is willing to have the route developed along the old railway at Dandaleith but is not prepared to make available the edge of his field at the foot of the A941 brae. ID to approach Rothes Council Sub Group to see if assistance is required to take project forward.</p> <p>Item 8 – Paul’s Hill Track – ID to approach T Atkinson (telephone 01807 500205) re locked gate on track to the wind farm.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID</p>
	<p>Item 9 – Drummuir Wind Farm – FM confirmed that Planner Neal MacPherson has clarified that the Section 75 agreement for the wind farm has been too tightly worded to accommodate a developer contribution towards the Isla Way as a substitution. She clarified this was disappointing. ID confirmed that the key to unlocking this project is to energise the community by obtaining seed monies that could be used for match funding bids. Total project is around £150k. FM clarified that the Moray Council is setting up a working party to look at establishing a Moray Trust Fund to receive monies from wind farm developments. This could be used to provide funding for the Isla Way. FM will report back on progress on this. ID to explore any other possible funding sources to establish a ‘seed fund’.</p>	<p>FM</p> <p>ID</p>
4	Outdoor Access Trust	
	<p>ID confirmed that the Moray Council Committee in August had agreed to enter into a Service Level Agreement with COAT and to provide £20k seed money. COAT now to secure match funding for a £120k project to improve the Core Paths Network with a focus on ‘pinch points’ on the Moray Way. If match funding is successfully obtained then project to be delivered by COAT in 2013. ID to assist and support COAT in project delivery. ID will update members of progress at a future meeting. FM said that to secure LEADER funding COAT would have to build in an element of community education and training into the project. ID to pursue with COAT.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>ID</p>
5	Business Plan	
	<p>An updated business plan was circulated previously to all members and discussed at the meeting. The following observations will be integrated into the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COAT Moray Core Paths Project targets • Forum to consider response to the Moray Development Plan Issues Paper consultation • Set up sub group in early 2013 to take forward publicity and promotion strategy • Issue letter to all community/user contact to update on COAT Moray Core Paths Project 	<p>ID</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite J Ferguson, Community Planning and Development Manager, to attend next Forum meeting with a focus on how to get communities more involved in paths • Targets to make Core Paths more self sustaining in terms of community involvement in development and management. Include target to set up an 'adopt a path' scheme • Get update from planners on Open Space Strategy • Core Paths to have modest annual target for new signage in light of limited budget. Devise informal waymarking scheme for longer paths 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID to report to next meeting on Constitution/policies to be reviewed • WM/ID to product Draft Outdoor Access Strategy for discussion at the next meeting 	
6.	Wind Energy Policy Guidance	
	ID had previously issued to all members a copy of his response to the Wind Energy guidance prior to its issue for public consultation. RK to respond to the public consultation exercise by 14 th September stating the Forum's support of ID's comments and adding concerns about the protection given to agricultural land from wind farms but not forestry which nevertheless has a high recreational value. IC to supply RK with appropriate working to be used in the response. RK suggested that Forum members may wish to individually respond to the consultation exercise.	RK IC
7.	Dorenell Access Management Plan	
	JO and ID still to produce map of proposed paths for development and promotion for discussion at the Forum. These will be prepared for the next meeting.	JO/ID
8.	Moray Walking Festival	
	ID confirmed that the second festival would take place over midsummer in 2013. The festival will be delivered by the Moray Way Association to a more modest budget than the first. A publicity campaign is currently being devised. ID to issue publicity and promotion information when available for members to distribute widely through their contacts and social networks.	ID/Forum Members

9.	Access Issues	
	<p>Situation at Gedloch re house development security fencing blocking a track is still being monitored by The Moray Council with a view to any planning infringement arising. ID to report back.</p> <p>JO referred the Forum to an access issue between Aberlour and Archiestown where a track has been blocked by a newly created pheasant rearing pen. The track is little used but access rights still apply. ID to write to land manager advising signage to be erected warning of danger of electric fence and pointing diversion around the fence. The diversion route should be formalised through creating a solid well drained path surface.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>ID</p>
10.	A O C B	
	<p>RK stated that Caroline Shanks is no longer minute secretary and the position was now available to Forum members or others they know would be interested. ID confirmed an hourly pay rate and travelling expenses would be available from The Moray Council. Members to contact ID with suggestions.</p> <p>JO.ID to attend the NAF/LAF meeting on 2nd October in Edinburgh City Chambers and report back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>All Forum Members</p> <p>JO/ID</p>
11.	Date of next meeting	
	The date of the next meeting of the Moray LOAF will be Tuesday 27 th November 2012 at 4.00pm in the Elgin Town Hall.	