

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

28TH MEETING

TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2012

MINUTES

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager

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

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

Vacancies: One Land Manager Position and One Community

Item		Action
1	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from S Reid and F Nicholson	
2	Accuracy of previous minutes	
	Item 7 page 2 fifth line down should read Mr Robertson Not Mr Maxwell	
3	Vacancies	
	<p>There are currently two vacancies, one Land Manager and one Community. Roger Knight is standing down after this meeting and thereafter his land manager position will also be vacant. All agreed to have a targeted campaign to fill the three vacancies and not to advertise in the local press as this can be expensive. The campaign will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Approach Toby Metcalfe of Smiths Gore to source a Land Manager candidate (b) Contact Secretary of Scottish Land and Estates seeking candidates from their Moray members. (c) Contact all Community Councils/Associations and Village Hall Committee seeking candidates for the community position. (d) Contact previous unsuccessful applicants to see if they are still interested (e) Post positions on all relevant websites e.g SNH, Council, Paths for All etc. (f) Forum members to seek candidates through their social networks <p>Deadline for candidate submissions will be 15th February 2013. Vacancies sub group to convene to review submissions and recommend appointments to the next Forum meeting. Sub group to meet at Spey Fishery Board offices at Knockando on 22nd February at 11.00am. Sub</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID</p> <p>All Forum members</p> <p>Vacancies sub group</p>

	<p>Group comprises S Tyson, R Knight, W Metcalfe, D Stewart, I Douglas to attend.</p> <p>The position of minute taker has been filled by Leon Stelmach who will attend meetings from 2013 onwards. Moray Council will cover transport costs and an hourly rate. J Oliver suggested that in the future the Forum would consider an annual recruitment event.</p>	
4	Appointment of New Convener	
	<p>F Murdoch on behalf of the forum thanked Roger Knight for all his hard work and diligence as Convener. R Knight confirmed that S Tyson had declared an interest in the Convener position. He invited members present to declare interest in the position. None did so therefore S Tyson was duly confirmed as the new Forum Convener proposed by W Metcalfe and seconded by J Oliver.</p>	
5.	Matters Arising	
	<p>Item 3 Ardnilly – Roger Knight has approached Sir Robert Clerk to seek clarification on who will be his successor and the likelihood of Ardnilly Estate to accept the principle of the cycle route being developed. Response awaited.</p> <p>Item 3 Paul’s Hill Track – Roger Knight will pursue T Atkinson re locked gated.</p> <p>Item 3 – Isla Way – Ian Douglas to explore developing the off road section with Drummuir Estates and determine current community interest and likely funding sources. Challenge will be obtaining necessary ‘seed funding’.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>ID</p>
6	Business Plan	
	<p>An updated business plan was circulated previously to all members and discussed at the meeting. The following was discussed and actions will be updated in the plan as required:</p> <p><i>Item 2 COAT</i> – Roger Knight to issue letter to LEADER in support of the COAT Core Paths Improvement Project. I Douglas commented that the project targets are on track and that a decision on the £50k LEADER funding will shortly be announced. The £40k shortfall will have to be found by March 2013 but COAT are optimistic that this can be found.</p> <p><i>Item 3 – Moray development Plan.</i> Main issues report is now out for public consultation with a response deadline of 15th February 2013. Copies of the consultation letter and document were issued to Forum members. Ian Douglas response to include a statement on behalf of the Forum.</p> <p>Comments from Forum members required by 10th January 2013 to be included but are also encouraged to respond as individuals. Initial discussion suggested that the document needs have a community facilities, leisure and recreation section. At present it is particularly</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>ID</p> <p>All Forum Members</p>

	<p>focussed on economic development. Also the document should have a direct reference to the Moray Core Paths Plan.</p> <p><i>Item 4 – Communications Strategy</i> – This has been produced in draft form but requires an Action Plan to be formulated to take the Strategy forward. J Oliver asked that an annual communications and recruitment event be considered. Sub group to formulate draft Action Plan for next Forum meeting. Sub group comprises R Marks, J Oliver and Clive Roberts.</p> <p><i>Item 5 - Letter to community groups to be issued on behalf of new Forum Convener advising them of progress on the COAT project.</i></p> <p><i>Item 6 – Community Planning.</i> J Ferguson on long term sick leave. Community Planning presentation to be postponed to one of the 2013 Forum meetings.</p> <p><i>Item 7 – Adopt a Path Scheme.</i> Discussion centred around scheme in East Lothian Council described in paper by N Morgan. All agreed any scheme would need a dedicated co-ordination. ID stated that Council do not have staff resources to provide co-ordinator role. Possibility of obtaining position through the voluntary sector. No specific deadline set for scheme set up. Further discussion required.</p> <p><i>Item 8 – Open Space Strategy.</i> Council Planners advise that no separate OSS document will be produced presently. Policies will be contained in the emerging Local Development Plan stating percentage min open space requirements supported by a series of ‘quality’ criteria.</p> <p><i>Item 12 – Policy Review.</i> The following Forum policy documents exist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft procedures for conduct of meetings - Draft operating principles - Aims and objectives 2006-2009 - Dispute resolution procedures 2006 - Draft communications plan (now superseded by new draft communications strategy) <p>All agreed these documents need reviewed and updated. Vacancies Sub group to operate also as Policy Sub Group.</p> <p>Sub group to review these papers at their meeting on 22nd February. ID to issue papers to sub group members no later than two weeks before the meeting. Sub Group to report back with recommendations to next Forum meeting.</p> <p><i>Item 13 Access Strategy.</i> All agreed Draft as presented. ID to refine document and then initiate Public Consultation in summer of 2013. Consultation to be targeted at people and organisations with a known</p>	<p>Communications sub group</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID/Policy Group</p> <p>Sub</p>
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	interest. Key partners to be invited to be signatories to the Strategy.	ID
7	Dorenell	
	Forum agreed routes in principle as presented by ID and JO. JO to consult with Cabrach Group after which routes to be submitted to the windfarm developers for them to commission detailed feasibility and costing.	JO
8	Scottish Land and Estates	
	The letter was presented for information on new Outdoor Access Learning resources for Land Managers running events and public visits.	ID
9	Moray Walking Festival	
	ID confirmed this would take place four days over midsummer 2013. Members were asked to agree to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Distribute festival publicity information when it becomes available (b) Consider organising a walking event and/or asking people they know (c) Consider joining the Moray Way Association to help with the festival co-ordination 	All Forum Members
10	NAF/LAF Conference Edinburgh 2nd October	
	ID and JO attended. JO confirmed the day was useful and some good ideas were discussed regarding how to keep Local Access Forums motivated and involved. What is clear is Forums across the country vary tremendously and they set different priorities depending on what the main local issues are.	
11	Access in Forestry Consultation Document	
	The document was agreed as satisfactory subject to the recommended changes being implemented as per the NAF 21 st November meeting	
12	Access Issues	
	ID confirmed that ongoing monitoring was still being carried out at Gedloch Farm and the Forum will be informed of any changes	ID
13	A O C B	
	Kinloss Engineer Corps. ID confirmed that he would meet with officers to discuss potential Core Path Improvement Projects. He will report back on progress at the next Forum meeting. Games Legacy 2014 (I Cowe email) to be forwarded to all community groups Ash die back – Ian Cowe confirmed that there is some infection in Moray. Advisory signs are erected where restriction exists to control access. IC to issue information for RK to produce Forum press release. Moorlands Paper. JO to respond on behalf of Moray LOAF on this NAF paper which she considers requires improvement.	ID ID IC/RK JO

14	Meetings for 2013 all 4.00 to 6.00pm	
	Wednesday 6 th March Elgin Library Gallery (note change from original date of 5 th March) Wednesday 5 th June Elgin Library Gallery (note change from original date of 4 th June) Tuesday 3 rd September Elgin Library Gallery Tuesday 26 th November Elgin Library Gallery	