

**MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Ian Douglas, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager

**Members Present:** S Tyson (Convener), T Anderson, G Bain, John Smith, F Murdoch, C Roberts, R.R. MacPherson, J Oliver, I Cowe, J Evans-Freke, M. Gillibrand, D Stewart, R Russell, J Trythall.

**Non-Attendees:** I. Green, F Nicholson, D. MacPherson

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b><u>Welcome New Members</u></b>  A warm welcome was extended by Convener, S Tyson, to new members Michelle Gillibrand, Jamie Evans-Freke, Rebecca Russell and Janet Trythall.	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>  Apologies were received from M Stelmach, S. Reid and W Metcalfe. Minute Clerk, L Stelmach also sent his apologies.	
<b>3</b>	<b><u>Accuracy of previous minutes</u></b>  The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by F Murdoch and seconded by C Roberts.	
<b>4</b>	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>  <i>Item 4 Isla Way.</i> ID confirmed that he has met with Torquhill Gordon-Duff where it was agreed that Drummuir 21 would spearhead the project. ID and Drummuir 21 to set up an informal Community Association and to thereafter commission a design and cost report with subsequent applications being made for external funding. Seed funding for the £150k project could be sourced from the Drummuir Windfarm Community Fund.  <i>Item 4 Cabrach Paths Network.</i> Jean Oliver confirmed the Cabrach Development Group have now agreed to the routes as formulated. ID to pass these onto the Doronell windfarm developer for them to commission a feasibility study.  <i>Item 4 Army Engineers.</i> Response still awaited from Kinloss Army Engineers. ID to pursue. Territorial Army interested in doing Core Paths works at Sanquhar Loch for 2 weeks in September.  <i>Item 5</i> – S Tyson confirmed that new members had taken part in a photoshoot for the local press which will appear along with a short editorial in the local press.  <i>Item 10</i> – The table showing members attendance over the last 2 years was discussed. All agreed that statutory members with guaranteed places	<b>ID/ Drummuir 21</b>  <b>ID</b>  <b>ID</b>       <b>All Statutory Members</b>

should allocate designated substitutes to attend in their absence. These members to submit names at the next forum meeting. I Green to continue as a member meantime to attend as required. S Tyson to pursue whether NFUS replacement can be found who would be able to attend more regularly. ST

## 5 **NAF Consultation – Draft Guidance on Intensive and Commercial Access**

Forum members were invited to make individual responses to the consultation. It was agreed that the Forum should submit a response. ID to submit on the Forum's behalf. Response to be as follows:

*“Communication is the key to resolving issues before they escalate. In Moray, intensive and commercial access only takes place at localised points e.g. River Findhorn (rafting/canoeing), Ballindalloch (River Spey rafting/canoeing), Wood of Stynie (horses). In such cases local solutions are required/have been introduced to manage access at these sites. Intensive Commercial Users are effectively having their business subsidised by provision of free outdoor access facilities. Local management mechanisms which are set up, e.g. River Spey User Group, should include consideration of a voluntary scheme into which commercial users can pay into to help manage and enhance access facilities along affected routes.”*

## 6 **Business Plan Actions Update**

*Item 2 – C.O.A.T. Moray Way Project.* C.O.A.T. have now secured the funding shortfall from the Commonwealth Legacy Fund. This will now allow the whole £120k project to go ahead now due to commence on site in Sept 2013 to fit in with the timescale of the Legacy Fund.

*Item 4 – Publicity and Promotion (see Section 7 of this Minute).*

*Item 6 – Community Planning.* J Ferguson or substitute to be invited to Nov 2013 Forum meeting to talk on how the Forum can better interface with Community Planning. M Gillibrand agreed to thereafter assist with bringing this interface about at a practical level. This will be an integral part of the emerging Communications Strategy. ID MG

*Item 12 – Policy Documentation (see Section 8 of this Minute).*

*Item 13 – Access Strategy.* I Douglas asked that the deadline to produce a document for public consultation be extended due to other pressing workload commitments. All agreed deadline now to be end of 2013. ID

## 7 **Publicity and Promotion**

Publicity sub-group to be as follows: M Gillibrand, J Evans-Freke, J Oliver, S Tyson. Sub-group to carry out actions as per Item 4 of the Business Plan in relation to producing and implementing a Communications Strategy. Publicity sub-group

I Douglas and S Tyson to organise sub-group meeting and date before the next Forum Meeting.

## 8 Policy Documents

3 draft revised 2013 versions of policy documents were made available for discussion with the following decisions resulting:

Draft Procedures for conduct of meetings – agreed as policy

Draft Aims and objectives – agreed as policy

Draft Dispute resolution – agreed as policy subject to addition under Section 7.2:

“This will also apply when discussion is taking place with individual access disputes”.

ID

## 9 Draft Scottish Planning Consultation

I Douglas is to submit comments on behalf of the Forum as follows:

ID

*“The document should refer to opportunities being taken with new developments to enhance outdoor access infrastructure and add value by providing additional path linkages and accessibility improvements to the Core Paths network. In this context consideration should also be given to provision of Aspirational Core Paths where these have been recorded by Local Authorities”.*

## 10 Access Issues

*Pauls Hill – Gate across wind farm access track.* Members agreed to the proposals submitted in the email of 19<sup>th</sup> March from Dougie McLeish of Natural Power. I Douglas to contact Mr McLeish on behalf of the Forum outlining general agreement subject to ongoing monitoring of useage at the gate to establish if measures are working. The arrangements may have to be reconsidered if high levels of horse useage are experienced.

ID

*Gedloch Farm – Blocked track.* I Douglas outlined the track is still blocked and that the Council has given Mr Watson 6 months to remove the obstruction after which a report will be submitted to the Council on enacting S14 enforcement proceedings. Meanwhile 4 objections have been received to Mr Watsons application for renewal of planning consent for a dwelling house at the site. Moray planners are currently assessing whether the objections are material given that the obstruction lies outwith the planning site. I Douglas confirmed that a recommendation will be required from the Forum on S14 enforcement at the next meeting in Sept. A sub-group was set up to formulate this recommendation involving D Stewart, G Bain, J Oliver and I Cowe. Due to need for sensitivity each sub-group member to visit the site informally to assess the position. I Douglas to issue each sub-group member with site map and recent photographs of the 2 temporary fence obstructions. Once site visited the sub-group to meet to formulate their recommendations to the next Forum meeting. I Douglas not to attend this meeting to ensure impartiality.

**Access  
Issues  
sub-group**

ID

**Access  
Issues  
Sub-group**

11

**AOCB**

*Training.* Members were asked to consider future training requirements and submit these at future meetings. **All**

*Elgin Flood Aleviation Scheme.* I Douglas outlined that the flood scheme presents opportunities to enhance the paths network focussing particularly on linking the vehicle access tracks that are being installed for maintenance of the flood defences. It was agreed to organise a site visit to the Elgin Flood Scheme immediately before the next Forum meeting in Sept. I Douglas to arrange. **ID**

I Douglas to also supply the following to all members:

- Map of related Core Paths/Aspirational Core Paths.
  - Map(s) of overall flood scheme
- ID**

S Tyson, I Douglas and M Gillibrand to attend a pre-meeting with the Elgin Flood Team to discuss a way forward. I Douglas to organise. **ID/ST/MG**

F Murdoch to meet Elgin BID team to discuss how to integrate with their proposals for the area. **FM**

Core Paths Plan Review. I Douglas outlined that the target date for completion of a Core Paths Plan review is end 2016 so we need to start thinking about this now. A sub-group was set up involving J Oliver, R Russell and J Trythall. Discussion as the next Forum meeting will focus on how the sub-group along with I Douglas will take the review forward. **ID/Core Paths Sub-group**

12

**Date of Next Meeting**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 at 4.00pm in Elgin Library Gallery. The site visit to the Elgin Flood Scheme will commence from the Library at 2.00pm attended by Flood Scheme Officials and the Sustainable Transport Officer, Andrew Stewart. ID to organise. **ID**