

ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

NOTE OF 19th MEETING: Monday 19 November 2007 BARN & BUSHEL, THAINSTONE CENTRE, INVERURIE

Present

John Brownlee	Gordon McKilligan
Neil Buchanan	Robin Maitland
Peter Dawes	Brian Martin
Bill Dow	Alison Mitchell
Cameron Ewen	Ken Thomson
Alan Harper	Owen Vaughan
Tom Johnston	

Council officers present

Linda Mathieson
Colin Miller

1 – Apologies, Introductions, Deputisings

Apologies: Molly Atkinson, David Finlay, Kelley Miller, Cllr D Storr, Iain Taylor, Cllr M Watt.

Deputising: G McKilligan for Iain Taylor; Alison Mitchell for Molly Atkinson.

2 – Minutes of Meeting 19

Approved.

3 – Matters arising

None.

4 – ALOAF Internal Review

- R1: Agreed to draft a rolling programme of presentations by user groups to ALOAF – Action: JB, KT, CM.
- R2: The 5 procedural agenda items to be considered once a year, e.g. in January.
- R3: Agreed that when 3-year term of office is coming to an end, Forum members may continue for a further term unless there is an objection supported by 75% of those present at the meeting in question. At 14/1/08 meeting, ALOAF to look at a revised set of Operating Principles.
- R4: agreed, on a vote, 1 general Reserve per sector, plus the appointed NFUS and SRPBA Reserves.
- R5: Headed paper, and website profile -- agreed.
- R6: Monitoring of ALOAF advice given -- agreed.
- R7: Meeting papers to have explanatory note and “information/debating/update” tag as appropriate -- agreed.
- R8: Relationship with NAF: Action: KT to raise at 28/11/08 meeting.

5 – Membership Rotation

CM to request all “end of term” Reps and Reserves to advise whether they wish to continue for a further term.

Then vacancies can be advertised (action: CM).

At a later stage, CM to contact Reserves advising the agreed reduction from 2 to 1 per sector.

6 – Aberdeenshire Council Update

- **Core Paths Plan:** The Forum considered a paper from Linda Mathieson. After discussion (consultation process and schedule; “sufficiency” issues; funding) the Forum (1) confirmed its support for the Aberdeenshire Council Aims and Objectives for establishing the draft Core Paths Plan; (2) Approved the proposed timetable and stages of reporting to the Forum (Nov, Jan and March meetings); (3) Approved the proposal to use the ALOAF Annual Gathering as the main public consultation event and that it be held in April.
- **Upholding Access Rights:** The Forum accepted the latest summary of Council access cases prepared by Linda Mathieson.
- **Council Access Funding:** Discussion deferred to 14/1/08 meeting.
- **Other:** The Forum noted that the SRDP proposals in preparation include access; also noted the current SNH SOAC consultation.

7 – Access Consultations, Issues etc

(1) Menie Estate: ALOAF has made its contribution so far and will no doubt will be involved in commenting further in due course.

(2) AWPR: Peter Dawes attended public display; noted that there is expected to be less traffic on existing Milltimber/Maryculter bridge if AWPR is implemented.

(3) Haddo Country Park: Consultants, Council and Access Panel seeking input from ALOAF to Joint Plan. Ken Thomson, Bill Dow and Brian Martin to be sub-group for responding and monitoring. Linda Mathieson to suggest links to settlements (copy to ALOAF). Relevant aspects: core paths; all-ability access.

8 – Events, Training, Information

- **6/10/07 Access User Rep Training:** KT attended.
- **31/10/07: NAF/LAF Joint Meeting:** An improvement on previous years.
- **28/11/07: N Regional LAF Networking event:** Peter Dawes, Ken Thomson & Owen Vaughan to attend.

9 – AOB & Items for next meeting’s agenda

AOB – Slains Castle: Council clarified that the coastal path was not obstructed. Owners are within their rights to prevent access to building.

Next meeting: CPP; funding; operating procedures; programme for briefing-talks; Rep elections. Agreed to defer the proposed WIAT briefing by John Risby.

10 – Date of next Meeting: 14/1/08.

