

ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

NOTE OF 21st MEETING: Monday 17 March 2008 BARN & BUSHEL, THAINSTONE CENTRE, INVERURIE

Present

Bill Ashcroft; Molly Atkinson; Neil Buchanan; Peter Dawes; Bill Dow; Alison Espie; Tom Johnston; Gordon McKilligan; Brian Martin; Kelley Miller; Cllr Debra Storr (left meeting at 7pm); Ken Thomson; Owen Vaughan.

Council officers present

Colin Miller; Alistair Watson.

1 – Apologies, Introductions, Deputisings

Apologies: David Finlay; Alan Harper; John Risby.

Introductions: Alison Espie.

2 – Minutes of Meeting 20

Approved, subject to correcting omission of 2 names.

3 – Matters arising

Discussion on the proposed revised funding arrangements in which Council's access money will all be included in Council's block grant from SG. Cllr Storr commented that the access amount is unlikely to be sidetracked significantly because it is already relatively small.

4 – Membership

Vice Chair vacancy – no nominations received so far. None volunteered in response to call from Chair. Chair to pursue. To be resolved at next meeting.

Reserves – with change to 1 general reserve per sector, Neil McLean willing to stand down in favour of Alison Mitchell. This was accepted subject to Alison's agreement.

Agreed that Geordie Burnett-Stuart be invited to become land management Reserve as he was next in line in the vote for L/M Representative. SNH and NHS Reserve situations uncertain.

5 – ALOAF Internal Review

Operating Principles – have been revised by KT incorporating main recommendations of the Review subgroup. Changes approved subject to formal approval by Council.

Internal Review Phase 2 (agencies) – not progressed yet. OV to take forward.

6 – Aberdeenshire Council Update

- **Core Paths Plan:** Timescale revised as per paper in mailing for this meeting (indicating new launch and A/G date 9th June). CM reported about 40 responses from land managers so far re candidate core paths list. Not confident that there is a role for ALOAF to assist in this particular phase of the work. CPP maps to be available for ALOAF at 19th May meeting. Draft papers for 9th June A/G to be distributed prior to 19th May meeting. Agreed that it could usefully include a presentation from the Hub. Discussion took place on various issues raised by NAF LLTP paper and on cartographic issues. Chair to write to NAF re the various points raised.
- **SRDP** – KM updated the meeting on the programme. Information still emerging onto SG website. KM to do a briefing note for 19th May meeting.

7 – ALOAF and the planning process

Chair to prepare proposals for consideration by ALOAF on how/whether to deal with strategies, strategic planning documents, planning applications etc.

8 – Access funding

No reply from ISC Chair on ALOAF's letter, but the letter will have been noted.

9 – Access Consultations, Issues etc

(1) Menie Estate:

KT will draft letter conveying ALOAF views..

(2) AWPR:

Nothing new yet.

(3) Stock Mounth:

The meeting considered KT's paper. DF had asked CM to mention that the signs relating to livestock were in fact reasonable. Duly noted by KT. He will report to the enquirer.

(4) Haddo Country Park:

KT's paper had been distributed. KT and BD keen on wheelchair access potential.

(5) Cushnie:

Appears to be more a complaint about the Council's handling of the case. Chair unwilling for ALOAF to take on ombudsman role. AW briefed members on Council's approach to the case and actions taken so far. Agreed that this was currently a matter for the Council rather than ALOAF. KT to reply to complainant. If Council process starts to fail, ALOAF could form subgroup.

(6) Other:

Beechhill

In response to a complaint received for ALOAF by OV, AW briefed the meeting. OV happy to take this information back to complainant. AW to report back to ALOAF if/when there are further developments.

10 – AOB

- **Heritage Paths Project**

CM reported on this Scotways initiative, for the interest of individual members or for ALOAF as a group. Council can't spend time on this at present. KT willing to coordinate information.

- **Deeside Way logo**

KT has not seen it yet but gave a verbal description from information received.

11 -- Events, Training, Information

SCAN Conference 9th May

Details given. Council will support attendance by ALOAF. No takers at meeting.

12 – Items for next meeting's agenda

Annual Gathering; WIAT briefing; SRDP; Vice Chair (s)election; CPP maps preview; Internal Review (Phase 2 – Agencies).

13 – Date of next [routine] Meetings: 19/5/08 & 21/7/08.