

ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING 24, Monday 15 September 2008 BARN & BUSHEL, THAINSTONE CENTRE, INVERURIE

Present: Ken Thomson(Chair), Neil Buchanan, Owen Vaughan, Paul Timms, Molly Atkinson, Brian Martin, Robin Maitland, Geordie Burnett-Stuart (deputising for Alison Espie), Gordon McKilligan, Cllr Debra Storr, Peter Dawes, Bill Dow

Observing: Alison Mitchell.

Council Officers Present: Colin Miller, Linda Mathieson, Eileen Oliver (Minutes)

Members of the public: 1

1. **Apologies:** Alison Espie, Bill Ashcroft, Linda Miller, Tom Johnston, David Fyffe
2. **Minutes of meeting 23**
Read and approved
3. **Matters arising**
None
4. **ALOAF update**
 - Contacts list updated with Linda Miller's details amended
 - Ken Thomson noted letter from SNH regarding their attendance at future meetings. Paul Timms confirmed that their support would continue but they may not always be able to attend every meeting.
 - Finalised Operating Principles were signed by KT and GMcK as Chair and Vice-Chair..
 - Peter Dawes requested that the matter of raising travelling expenses be considered and reported back to next meeting. CM reminded others to be prompt in claiming expenses.
 - GMcK advised that the site visit to Strathorn Farm had been most interesting and beneficial. BD advised that the paths did not currently provide suitable access for wheelchairs. AM proposed that there should be more promotion of the paths as they are not easily found by those not familiar with the area. General discussion followed re future maps/notice boards. It was generally agreed that the visit had been most useful and a letter of thanks should be forwarded to Strathorn.
5. **Aberdeenshire Council Update**
 - CM explained the latest issue of the Scottish Government Access Monitoring Return
 - CM asked if it was appropriate for the number of ALOAF meetings be reduced from 6 to 5 but it was generally thought that there might be a danger of losing important information if there were fewer meetings. Formal decision to be taken annually -- possibly at November meeting so that calendars can be organised for 2009.
6. **Access Finance**
 - Infrastructure Services Committee – Cllr DS reported that now is the time to write to the Committee – agreed by everyone.

7A.Core Paths Plan

- It was noted that the end of the current consultation period for the current First Informal Draft CPPP was to be 27th September. LM explained how consultation responses are being acknowledged. The next version will be the final draft, to be sent to Council for approval. Forum may be asked for advice as a working group – to be advised at next meeting.

7B. Equestrian Access

- CM advised that working group have met and identified certain issues but need to regroup and will report at a later date. SK to be sent a copy of the working group's report in due course..

8. Plans, Strategies etc.

- Nothing to report as yet.

9. Access Consultations, Issues etc

- (1) Menie – Still nothing to report as yet.
- (2) AWPR – Acknowledgement letter received from Department for Planning and Environmental Appeals.
- (3) Haddo – Keith Newton had written requesting the Forum's support for a HLF funding bid for the Haddo Regeneration Project. It was agreed that the Chair would write to this effect, and recommending mention of Core Paths information and the Forum's assistance last winter.
- (4) Other – a member of the public attended meeting and voiced concerns of activity at Beechhill Croft, Kintore where gates have appeared at either end of the track denying access where previously unrestricted. This is causing great concern for local residents. To be left with Council and KT/CM/LM agreed to act when/where necessary to gain information and report back at next meeting.

10. Events, Training, Information

- NAF/LAF Joint Meeting
- CM advised of "Common Ground" seminar on 7th October. Bill Dow would like to attend but would have to rely on transport being available.. Brian Martin expressed interest. CM to liaise with Aberdeen City and report back.

11. AOB

- Website – KT to check, update and report back. Operating Principles will now go onto website.
- ALOAF annual report – Discussion on what to include. Draft to be ready for next meeting once contents/ideas have been agreed.

12. Items for next meeting's agenda

- Equestrian access
- Beechhill Croft, Kintore
- Core path issues

13. Date of next meeting

17/11/08

Meeting closed at 8.05pm