

**ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING 25 -- Monday 17 November 2008**

BARN & BUSHEL, THAINSTONE CENTRE, INVERURIE

Present: Ken Thomson(Chair), Gordon McKilligan, Paul Timms, David Finlay, Tom Johnston, Neil Buchanan, Peter Dawes, Bill Dow, Cllr Debra Storr, Brian Martin, Alison Espie, Dan Cadle, Owen Vaughan, Bill Ashcroft, Alison Mitchell (from 9(4)).

Paths For All observer: Rona Gibb

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

1. **Apologies:** Molly Atkinson (Alison Mitchell deputising, but delayed by another meeting)

Introductions: Rona Gibb (PFAP)

2. **Minutes of meeting 24**

Approved

3. **Matters arising**

Funding letter: Chair to revise draft and send letter to ISC Chair. Linda Mathieson/Colin Miller to brief ALOAF Chair on Council's relevant strategic objectives, and on the current growth bid; also, to report back to ALOAF on results of growth bid. PFAP website has relevant nationally agreed outcomes. All ALOAF members to receive details of relevant Council strategic objectives.

4. **ALOAF update**

- Peter Dawes had asked in July 2008, because of high fuel prices, whether there was any prospect of an increase in the mileage rate payable to volunteers. Colin Miller reported that he had made enquiries, but the Council was not willing to increase the mileage rate.
- Colin Miller is to draft formal Report for 29/1/09 ISC, to which the ALOAF 2005-2008 Report is to be attached as an appendix. KT/CM to work on ALOAF draft. The latter will also be suitable for the website.
- The Membership list on the website is to be updated
- It was agreed that 5 meetings per year, plus annual event, will be adequate.
- It was agreed that a new edition of the ALOAF leaflet be prepared..

5. **Aberdeenshire Council Update**

Nothing to report other than as under Item 3 above and 6 below.

6. **Core Paths Plan**

The Council is to consider arranging for a feedback session from the Walking and Cycling Strategy at January 2009 meeting if sufficient time on the agenda.

Linda Mathieson read summary of responses to the informal consultation. If the Council requires advice on specific Core Paths Plan issues, 2 options will be available: Either an informal approach to an appropriate ALOAF member or a formal approach to Chair for ALOAF advice whereby the Chair would appoint a subgroup as appropriate. ALOAF is a statutory consultee.

7. Equestrian Access

Progress report approved. Colin Miller to draft leaflet based on advice received from working group, who will advise further as necessary.

8. Plans, Strategies etc.

Discussion on Ken Thomson's draft spreadsheet (October 2008). Linda to find out if there will be an opportunity for ALOAF input to ALDP Main Issues Report. LM will advise at next meeting.

9. Access Consultations, Issues etc

- (1) Menie – General discussion. Ken Thomson to contact Council's DM Planner and ask to be included as consultee when the developer's Access Plan is submitted.
- (2) AWPR – Enquiry ongoing – no update as yet.
- (3) Haddo – Nothing to report.
- (4) Beechhill Croft: Ken Thomson & Owen Vaughan to make further enquiries on behalf of the Forum and report back.
- (5) Alison Espie reported an issue which she had encountered at Park Bridge. LM advised that the Council has this in hand.

10. Events, Training, Information

- A DVD record of the 27/9/08 CLOAF Annual Event is available from Colin Miller, who will also check whether he has Ken Thomson's note on the event.
- Brian Martin had attended the 7/10/08 common Ground all-ability access seminar (notes included in papers for Meeting 25).
- Colin Miller reported that the informal ALOAF ballot reflected the NAF's election of Richard Cooke as Convenor on 27/10/08.
- 21/11/08: SCAN Outdoor Access Fair.

11. AOB:

SRDP: Alison Espie asked for SNH's impression of the access-related take-up in SRDP. Paul Timms reported that he processes these. They have been relatively few but some have been very significant. Regarding the unpopular £500 ceiling, Rona Gibb reported that this was under investigation.

Paths For All Partnership: Rona Gibb reported that the new PFAP signage guidance is to be published in 1-2/09. Also, the national access demonstration site at Oatridge College, Midlothian is to open March 2009.

NAF papers: ALOAF agreed the proposal that members receive paper copies of Agendas and unconfirmed notes of meetings from Colin Miller in the normal way. Any other information can be obtained from the NAF microsite on www.outdooraccess-scotland.com. This would hopefully reduce paper costs and time spent on distribution.

12. Items for next meeting's agenda:

- Annual Event
- Walking & Cycling Feedback

13. Dates of meetings for 2009:

19 January, 16 March, 18 May, 27 July, 2 November.
Colin Miller to confirm availability of venue.
Date of annual event to be decided.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm