

PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Minute of the Meeting of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum held in the Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Thursday 22 May 2014 at 6.00pm.

Present: Nick Cole, Community (Convener)
 Peter Pearson, Community (Vice-Convener)
 Hugh Anderson, Landowner/Manager
 John Andrews, Recreation
 Heather Baker, Recreation
 Mary Conacher, Recreation
 William Lindsay, Landowner/Manager
 Ron Payne, Recreation
 Malcolm Strang Steel, Landowner/Manager

In attendance: Dave Stubbs, Countryside Access Officer and Paula Frazer, Committee Services (both Perth and Kinross Council).

Observer: M Thompson, Landowner/Manager

Apologies: Bob Ellis & Mike Strachan.

Nick Cole in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum of 20 February 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments: (i) add Hugh Anderson to the sederunt; (ii) amend date of last meeting to 20 February 2014; and (iii) Item 3(ii) should be headed 'Strathtay' not 'Stanley'.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Kinclaven Churchyard (item 3(i) refers)

Will Lindsay advised the Forum that no further information was available at this time.

Action:

This item to be carried forward to next meeting for update.

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(ii) Membership Updates

Nick Cole welcomed Mark Thompson, Landowner/Manager to the meeting as an observer pending confirmation of his appointment by the meeting of the Environment Committee on Wednesday 3 September 2014. The Forum noted that another community representative was still required.

(iii) Little Glenshee – 000898 (item 5(v) refers)

The Access Officer reported that he would be having further discussions with the landowner to try and resolve the outstanding issues.

(iv) Core Paths Implementation Update (item 6 refers)

An update to include yearly figures for core paths implementation would be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum on 21 August 2014.

4. EXEMPTIONS AND OBSTRUCTIONS REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report (G/14/144) outlining Exemptions and Obstructions for May 2014.

(i) Ryder Cup Exemption Order

The Access Officer confirmed that the consultation on the Ryder Cup Exemption Order had now been completed and approved by the relevant Committee prior to submission to the Scottish Government. The Forum noted that only two objections and one letter of representation had been received.

(ii) Glenlyon - 01518

The Access Officer reported that discussions had taken place with representatives of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Council in respect of the situation at Glenlyon. The following points were noted: (i) more information was required from SNH on culling numbers; (ii) legal action would be expensive and may not have the desired effect; and (iii) the landowner has suggested an alternative route for access takers.

Action:

- (i) Access Officer to write again to the landowner proposing possible solutions to outstanding issues.
- (ii) Access Officer to include this issue in PKOAF's report to Environment Committee on 3 September 2014.

(iii) Bridge over the Pow at Madderty - ESTN/59

J Andrew's asked if the repairs to the bridge could be dealt with by the Council. The Access Officer responded the costs might be prohibitive; however, he would make further enquiries and report back to the sub-group.

Action:

Access Officer to investigate cost of bridge repairs and report back to Exemptions and Obstructions sub-group.

(iv) Boat Brae DUNK/21 ROW - 01601

The Access Officer reported that he is still pursuing this issue in order to see if the path can be re-opened.

(v) Hatton, Luncarty - 01569

The Access Officer reported that he was still to obtain advice from the Council's Legal department on the options available in order to resolve this issue.

(vi) Blackford - 00111

The Access Officer confirmed that the diversion route was open; however, a new stile was still required. Access Officer to discuss outstanding issue with the developer.

(vii) Willowgate and Stockgreen, Perth - 01235

The Access Officer reported that he was not aware of any on-going work in this area; he would contact the Heritage Trust for more information.

(viii) Dunning - 00859

The Access Officer had written to the landowner regarding outstanding issues and he has agreed for the Council to clear the obstruction.

Resolved:

The Forum agreed the issues to be removed from the list from May 2014 as outlined in Report G/14/144.

6. CORE PATHS UPDATE

The Access Officer reported that an update was not available at this time; however a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum on 21 August 2014.

In response to a question from J Andrews, the Access Officer advised that road signs were legally required to record distances in miles. However, off-road signs could use kilometres.

Action:

The Forum recommended that those signs not subject to road traffic legislation be designated consistently in both miles and kilometres.

7. WATER ISSUES

M Conacher reported:

- She would now be representing the SCA on the National Access Forum.
- The Tay Descent would take place on 25 October 2014.
- No progress had been made in resolving the outstanding access problems at Linn Road, Stanley.

8. 2014 AGM, ELECTIONS AND NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

The election of Mark Thompson and Donald Broad to the Forum was noted. The Chair advised that it would be helpful for new members to read the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and other relevant statutory guidance.

9. COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS WITH PERTH AND KINROSS OUTSIDE ACCESS FORUM

The Access Officer asked the forum if the process by which the Council consulted with the Forum needed to be formalised. Consultations might include: (i) road schemes including the A9 re-development; (ii) large developments in the Local Development Plan; and (iii) core paths or right-of-way issues.

Following a discussion the Forum agreed that it was not necessary to formalise consultative arrangements at the present time; however it was agreed:

- (a) Access Officer to alert PKOAF's Chair, Community Councils and Local Members when issues arise.
- (b) A sub-group to be set-up as required to discuss specific issues.
- (c) Details of consultations with the Forum to be included in PKOAF's Annual Report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Park Village, Crieff

The Forum noted that the Ombudsman had found in favour of the Council in its dispute over the right-of-way at Park Village, Crieff.

Resolved:

The Forum agreed that it remained available for mediation should it be required.

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum

In response to a question from John Andrews, the Chair explained that the Forum's name had been chosen so as not be confused with the Perth and Kinross Access Forum, which had a different remit.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 21 August 2014 at 6:00pm in the Committee Room, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth.

