

PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Minute of meeting of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum held in the Board Room, Dewars Centre, Ground Floor, Glover Street, Perth on Thursday 18 February 2016 at 6.00pm.

Present: Nick Cole, Community (Convener)
 Hugh Anderson, Landowner/Manager
 John Andrews, Recreation
 Donald Broad, Landowner/Manager
 Mary Conacher, Recreation
 Jennifer Herd, Community
 Sue James, Recreation
 Peter Pearson, Community (Vice-Convener)
 Sandy Simpson, Community

In Attendance: Dave Stubbs, Greenspace Coordinator (Communities), and Heledd Rheinallt, Committee Services (both Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies: Heather Baker, Recreation; Councillor Bob Ellis, Agency; Mike Strachan, Agency; Mark Thomson, Landowner/Manager.

Nick Cole in the Chair.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were submitted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D Broad declared an interest in Item 5(iii).

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum of 19 November 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Waymarking over trunk roads (Item 5(i) refers)

Action:

This item be deferred until further information be provided by D Stubbs on options explored for warning or hazard signs before a core path crosses a trunk road.

(ii) Next steps for longstanding unresolved obstructions (Item 5(ii) refers)

The Forum noted that core paths and access rights are being discussed on the Scottish Outdoor Access Network Board.

(iii) Water Issues (Item 10 refers)

The Forum noted that Stewart Milne owns the land where access would be needed to the Tay at Luncarty, and that D Stubbs had provided M Conacher an address to contact regarding this issue.

5. EXEMPTION AND OBSTRUCTIONS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2016

There was submitted and noted a report (G/16/30) outlining Exemptions and Obstructions for February 2016.

(i) Walnut Grove Level Crossing CAMS code 01141

The Forum noted that D Stubbs had received a letter from Network Rail setting out their position regarding the Walnut Grove level crossing, which he had passed on to the Council's Legal Services.

Action:

N Cole to write to the Council, the Law Commission and the relevant Scottish Minister regarding the Walnut Grove Level Crossing.

(ii) Willowgate and Stockgreen CAMS code 01235

J Andrews expressed concern that the Willowgate and Stockgreen path had been subject to erosion, and that the alternative route is very steep. D Stubbs advised members that the construction of steps on the alternative route would be costly and complicated.

Action:

D Stubbs to ask Andy Clegg, Community Greenspace Team Leader if the Council would support a volunteer group to carry out minor works or repairs.

(iii) Pitcastle CAMS code 00887

Action:

D Stubbs to send D Broad information regarding the process of making an application for a s11 exemption under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

(iv) Park Village, Crieff CAMS code 00019

The Forum noted that although the issue had previously been resolved, the gate had been shut again. The owner of the land had been written

to and advised that the obstruction would be removed.

Action:

D Stubbs to circulate information to members regarding the style of gate to be used at Ruchilside.

Resolved:

- (i) Gratitude be expressed on behalf of the Forum for the work done by the Council in attempting to resolve the access issue at Park Village, Crieff.
- (ii) It be noted that the Forum would like the access issue at Park Village, Crieff pursued until a satisfactory conclusion is reached.
- (iii) All issues were closed that need to be closed.

6. CORE PATHS UPDATE – CORE PATHS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

There was submitted and noted a report by D Stubbs (G/16/31), summarising Core Paths Implementation progress to February 2016.

7. REQUEST TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PKC REPRESENTATIVE ON ACCESS FORUM

Members discussed issues the Environment Committee's request (Art. 15/545 refers) that the Forum consider the addition of another Perth and Kinross Council member to the Forum, raising the following issues: (i) an additional agency member would create an imbalance in the composition of the Forum; (ii) Councillors are welcome to attend any meeting of the Forum and raise issues thereat; (iii) the Forum is not a political organisation.

Resolved:

This item be deferred until a formal request from the Environment Committee to appoint another agency member be received.

8. OTHER FORA. NAF, NAF/LAF AND LAF/LAF

Actions:

This item be deferred to the next meeting for consideration of regional local access forum meetings.

9. WATER ISSUES

M Conacher reported:

- D Stubbs had informed her who owns the land where an access point is needed for disabled people to access the Tay at Luncarty
- The Tay Descent would be held on 22 October 2016, outwith the fishing season

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(i) Annual General Meeting 2016

In discussion the Forum agreed the following in respect of the Open Meeting and AGM:

- 26 May 2016 was proposed as a suitable date
- There was a preference for the meeting to be held in Pitlochry

Actions:

(i) D Stubbs to investigate options for a venue in Pitlochry on 26 May 2016.

(ii) D Stubbs to invite an employee from Mouchel Consulting to speak at the meeting; if no-one is available from Mouchel Consulting, someone from Scottish Hydro.

(ii) Cottown

The Forum noted that J Herd had visited the chicane at Cottown and it presented a danger of injury to horse riders.

Action:

J Herd to take a picture with her horse at the chicane and send the picture to D Stubbs.

(iii) Bird scaring bangers

The Forum noted that bird scaring bangers were exploding in fields close to paths.

Action:

H Anderson to email details to D Stubbs, who will raise the issue with the Council's Environmental Health staff.

11. DATE AND VENUE OF FORTHCOMING MEETING 2016

The next meeting would be held on 19 May 2016 in the Board Room, Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth.