

PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTE OF THE 62nd MEETING HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM AT DEWARS CENTRE 6PM ON THE 17th NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT

Nick Cole (Chair), Councillor Michael Barnacle, Ron Payne (For Sue James), Heather Baker, Peter Pearson, Mary Conacher, Jennifer Herd, Mark Thomson, Councillor Bob Ellis, Mike Strachan. Hugh Anderson, John Andrews.

IN ATTENDANCE

Dave Stubbs, PKC (Minutes).

APOLOGIES

Donny Broad, Sandy Simpson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

1. CONVENER AND VICE CONVENER ELECTIONS AND CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (i) DS Advised that members elected at the AGM had been confirmed by the Environment Committee at its meeting on 7th September.
- (ii) Hugh Anderson proposed Nick Cole and Peter Pearson should continue in their roles as Convener and Vice Convener respectively. This was seconded by Mary Conacher and agreed unanimously.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM OF 18TH AUG 2016

- (i) The Minutes of 18/08/16 were agreed. As that meeting was inquorate the Minutes of 19/05/16 were also duly ratified.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) **Action:** BE and MB to approach Committee Services again re minute support at Forum meetings. Nick Cole to write thereafter.
- (ii) 4(i) DS Waymarking over trunk roads deferred for a future meeting.
- (iii) 4(iv) NC Networking with other Access Still to be completed.
- (iv) 5(ii)(d) **Action:** DS and MT Tillyrie/Athron Hill. Meeting still to be arranged with the two owners.
- (v) 7(ii) NC to write to owners re blockage on the Isla. Not done, because blockage had already been cleared by the landowners. The Forum record their thanks.

4. EXEMPTIONS AND OBSTRUCTIONS REPORT

- (i) Exemptions. No new application.
- (ii) Obstructions with particular reference to cases to be passed to Environment Service Senior Management Team as per report.
 - (a) **Action:** JA and DS to discuss possible changes to 2014 Process Map - Obstructions to Access, then circulate.
 - (b) **Action:** DS to amend report preamble for February meeting. High priority obstructions to specifically include rights of way as per approved PKC procedure.
 - (c) Issue 10 Pitcastle Dangerous Wild Animals Enclosure (CAMS 00887). PKC had asked Forum for advice re signs. DS had circulated proposed wording (email 19/09/16) which members did not agree. **Resolved:** The Forum does not accept the proposed signage in its current form. **Action:** DS to request estate to erect signs.
 - (d) Issue 39 Wallace Park (CAMS 01345). **Action:** DS to approach new Friends of Wallace Park through Community Council to resolve outstanding issue re gate.
 - (e) Issue 37 Pow Bridge, Madderty (ESTN/11) **Resolved:** Forum agreed to close issue as an “obstruction”. PKC, Forum and others to continue to seek opportunities to reinstate this important bridge.
 - (f) Issue 56 Walnut Grove (CAMS 01141) DS reported that Legal Services had very recently provided advice. It is to not to pursue the matter with Network Rail. **Action:** NC to write to the Head of Legal Services to request a justification for this and a meeting with a representative from Legal Services and the Obstructions Sub Group. Thereafter, if differences remain, NC to write to the Council outlining the Forum’s position on the matter.
 - (g) Issue 13 Alyth Den (CAMS 01581) PKC proposes to close issue as no further complaints have been received. **Action:** NC to write outlining why Forum disagrees.
 - (h) Issue 23 Pitmiddle (CAMS 01663). PKC proposes to close issue. **Action:** NC to write outlining why Forum disagrees.
 - (i) Issues to be removed from list from Nov 2016 – as recommended by the sub group. **Resolved:** These issues to be removed from the Forum’s working list.

5. CORE PATHS UPDATE

- (i) Core Paths Implementation Report.
 - (a) Report noted together with clarifications provided re. % of core paths waymarked now including core paths along minor roads and footways.

- (b) MB reported that he had asked TRACKS to install additional advisory signage re cyclists on new path Vane Farm to Benarty Hill.
 - (c) DS updated the Forum on additional path improvements now under way at Auchterarder by PKCT in partnership with the Auchterarder Community Sports Association.
 - (d) **Resolved:** The Forum welcomed this work and record their thanks to PKCT and the other agencies.
- (iii) Core Path Diversions.
- (a) A paper, Proposed Procedure Amendment of the Core Paths Plan by Diversion or Removal of Particular Core Paths, was circulated in advance and welcomed by the Forum at the meeting.
 - (b) **Action:** JA to look at the report in detail, make comments and circulate them, then forward to Jane Pritchard for further discussion.
 - (c) **Action:** JP thereafter to invite Forum members to a separate meeting to review suggested procedure and consider specific cases.

(iv) Publicising closed or hazardous paths.

Concern had been expressed at previous meetings on this issue. DS provided a verbal update. Where we are aware of problems, missing bridges etc. the Council is erecting signs. Information has also been made available online. **Action:** DS to circulate links which are as follows:

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/corepaths> Landing page for core path maps as PDFs. Individual maps now updated with notes re closures.

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/5266/Core-Paths-Plan-interactive-map> the core paths interactive map. Zoom right in to detailed map and click or hover over path to see details.

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/paths> Walks and paths to explore page. Closures etc. are listed by area.

8. WATER ISSUES REPORT

- (i) MC reported access problems connected with the replacement of the Bleaton Hallet Bridge, near Alyth. The bridge is being reopened 18/11/16. **Action:** BE will attend opening and report position on the ground to MC and DS. Limited parking for paddlers and fishermen has been provided but there may be an opportunity to do more when the contractors come off site.

9. BREADALBANE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- (i) NC attended a meeting 24/10/16 with the Mountaineering Council for Scotland and Victor Clements who wrote the Plan. Contentious text has been removed and the changes agreed between the parties.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Trinity Gask Long Term Forest Plan. RTS Woodland Management consulted the Forum on the Plan. This had been circulated and members can comment if they wish.

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (i) MB reported a recent Fife incident involving an access taker, dogs and cattle. Malcolm Strang Steel is to write about it in the Portmoak Newsletter. **Action:** MB to send to DS and DS to circulate.
- (ii) HB reported on a new BHS publication on equestrian access in Scotland. **Action:** DS to circulate.
- (iii) BE reported on the work of the Strathmore cycling group where good progress is being made on a number of routes.
- (iv) BE reported that a modest budget had been identified by Community Greenspace to support Paths Groups. **Action:** DS to report on 2016-17 spending and changes for 2017-8 at February meeting.
- (v) JH reported on positive feedback from path users following improvements to the Coronation Road.
- (vi) MT reported on another incident where fireworks set off near Kinnesswood had caused cattle to stampede.
- (vii) HA asked about press releases which the Forum used to put out quite regularly. DS reported that PKC makes much more use of social media now and will endeavour to refer to the Forum where relevant. **Action:** HA to speak to SS to see if the Royal Highland Educational Trust could assist in promoting responsible access.
- (viii) JA asked about advisory signage on electric fences. Guidance has been published by the Forestry Commission

12. DATES, VENUE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- (i) Thursday 9th February (venue tbc)
Thursday 18th May (2 High Street)
Thursday 10th August (2 High Street)
Thursday 18th November (2 High Street).