

PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2 HIGH STREET, PERTH AT 6PM 21st February 2019 (71st MEETING).

PRESENT

Nick Cole, Hugh Anderson, Councillor Michael Barnacle, Mary Conacher, Jennifer Herd, Peter Pearson, Sandy Simpson, Karen Inkster, Annie Benson,

IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Thompson, Dave Stubbs (minutes), James Dixon (in part)

1. Apologies

Sue James, Mike Strachan, Bob Bennett

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Membership Issues & Co-option of Andrew Thompson

The Forum is carrying 2 vacancies in the land manager group. Andrew Thompson has put himself forward. Andrew introduced himself and it was agreed he should be co-opted on the Forum now and put himself forward for election at the AGM in May.

4. Minute of meeting 15/11/18

Proposed KI, Seconded JA & agreed.

5. Matters Arising

Issues covered below.

6. Exemptions and Obstructions Report

- i. Application for s.11 Exemption Order in respect of Solheim Cup, Gleneagles 26/08 - 16/09/19. James Dixon outlined details of the event and the reasons for the proposed exemption, largely security. A smaller area will be exempted during construction with a larger area for the event itself. This was agreed but the Forum asked to be consulted on any changes made.
- ii. Access issues at Meikleour. JA would like the Council to reconsider its 2011 position in the light of case law. Actions. It was suggested that members could look at the issue on the ground with a view to the Forum asking the Council to reconsider.

Post meeting Note. Council position is set out in a letter to the land manager dated 19/01/11. At that time deterrent signs remained. The issue the subject of a complaint from the Ramblers Assn and this was answered 27/06/14. The deterrent signs were removed and the issue was closed by the Forum at its meeting 21/08/14.

- iii. Balnakeilly House, Moulin. Public Access is no longer obstructed. The issue will be put forward for closure at the next sub group mtg.
- iii. Issues to be closed on recommendation of Sub Group. Agreed.
- iv. The Council has consulted the Forum on revisions to its obstruction process. This was remitted to the sub group for a separate meeting.

7. Implementing Local Development Plan policy relating to access matters.

Action NC to approach Andy Clegg for contact within Development Management.

8. Effects on access of forestry operations.

National guidance exists "Managing Woodland Access and Forestry Operations" but current practice is of concern to members and the subject of national debate (NAF/FCS/BHS). JH will circulate correspondence if possible.

9. Information about access closures on PKC website.

JA asked again for these to be listed in one place rather than by area. DS reported that this is not possible as the Council's web team is in control of the layout of the website and it is apparent from webpage statistics that users are navigating to the path closures pages. NC suggested that pages could be more effectively indexed. Action NC to contact JP about this.

10. Panholes Level Crossing. Right of Way and Core Path Diversion Order.

A site meeting had been held with objectors including the Forum. It was agreed that the Forum would not withdraw its objection and the matter will now be referred to the Scottish Government for an Inquiry.

11. National Access Forum.

DS circulated papers on the work of the National Access Forum and will continue to do so. The NAF are recruiting a LAF representative and NC has put himself forward.

12. Water Issues Report

No issues.

13. Correspondence

None.

14. Any Other Competent Business

SS asked about plans for a further review of the Core Paths Plan. There are no current plans but the Council maintains a list of possible changes. SS to contact JP about this.

SS has still to arrange a Forum site visit to Dunira. SS to revert to land manager through his contact.

JH to speak to NC about the River Ericht Trail.

HA asked for a press release for lambing time as in previous years. DS to ask SS for picture of a sign referring to lambing field as a maternity ward for use in connection with this.

DS outlined current issues of anti-social behaviour along John Norrie's Brae at Blairgowrie. A resident has requested the path to be closed. The Forum's views were sought on whether such a closure would be feasible, desirable or likely to address the reported issues. NC knows the route and reports that it is well used. Objections to a closure would be expected and other measures such as CCTV should be considered instead.

15. 2019 Dates and arrangements for AGM on 15th May