

PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2 HIGH STREET, PERTH AT 6PM 29th AUGUST 2019 (73rd MEETING)

PRESENT

Nick Cole, Mary Conacher, Karen Inkster, John Andrews, Hugh Anderson, Andrew Thomson, John Andrews, (in part).

IN ATTENDANCE

Dave Stubbs (minutes), Alistair MacLeod.

1. Apologies

Sandy Simpson, Peter Pearson, Sue James, John Lindsay, Jennifer Herd, Annie Benson, Councillor Mike Barnacle.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Membership Issues and confirmation of new members.

- i. Since the May meeting and AGM John Lindsay has reconsidered his position and will not be taking up his place. Peter Pearson has decided to retire. **Action** NC to write him a letter of thanks. This leaves several vacancies to be filled, including PP's place on the obstructions and exemptions group.
- ii. Changes in membership will be confirmed at Council Committee on 30th October.

4. Minute of previous meetings

- i. 21/02/19. Proposed HA and seconded NC. Approved subject to the clarification that members *could* look again at the Meikleour on the ground with a view to asking the Council to reconsider.
- ii. 15.05/19. Proposed JA, seconded MC and approved.

5. Matters Arising

- i. Item 8 (Feb). **Action** DS to obtain forestry and access guidance and JH to circulate the correspondence about it . The guidance is here: <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/352-managing-woodland-access-and-forest-operations-in-scotland>

- ii. Item 9 (Feb). **Action** DS to check when Forum website was updated and update as required.
- iii. Item 4 (May) The Solheim Cup exemption order has been confirmed. Tge event itself is 13-15th September.
- iv. Item 4 (May). **Action** DS still to provide NC with contact in IT dept. re more effective indexing of path pages on the PKC website.
- v. Item 4 (May). NC is in discussion with PKC development management re planning issues and the procedures followed for the panholes diversion. The outcome of which is still outstanding pending the completion of the inquiry process. The hearing is due to take place on 2-3 October.
- vi. Item 4 (May) Dunira. **Action** SS to arrange site visit for members. AT has reports of further incidents which he will forward on to PKC.
- vii. Blairgowrie riverside parking issue. PKC officers are considering options to manage this.

6. Greenspace Ranger Update.

Alistair MacLeod provided a verbal update on his work in East Perthshire which includes supporting paths groups and investigating access issues. Recently he has assisted the Ramblers and other local volunteers building sleeper bridges along a core path at Guildtown.

7. Exemptions and Obstructions Report

- i. The content of the May report and the August report were noted but none of the issues marked for closure were agreed to be closed pending clarification on the process now being followed.
- ii. Future action on issues:
 - a. Issue 20 Dalcrue. JA has done all he can. **Action** Jane Pritchard to write to the landowner.
 - b. Issue 34 Sunnyhall. Second LM1 prepared but issue marked for closure. JA reported path does not go near to the steading. **Action** refer back to sub group.
 - c. Issue 44 Lochelbank. Not closed. Locked gate at steading remains. **Action** DS to write again to the farmer.
 - d. Issue 41/42. Gates at loch Ordie locked again. **Action** Ranger to investigate.
 - e. Issue 52. Ardoch Estate, Braco. Marked for closure as only one complaint. JA reported Ramblers seeking separate legal advice on this one.
 - f. Issue 48. Lawers Estate, AT expressed concern about how this one had been dealt with. **Action** AT to contact Ros Mills.
 - g. KI asked DS to log a further issue re a cattle grid near Stenton. **Action** DS.
- iii. **Action** JA/NC to write to Andy Clegg for clarification on the process and how it is being implemented.

8. "Wild Camping" and associated issues.

- i. NC has asked the National Access Forum to re-write SOAC in relation to camping with separate guidance for backpackers, wild campers and those in vehicles.
- iii. NC had also responded to an article in the Courier. **Action** DS to circulate the letter.

9. National Access Forum. No update.

10. Water Issues Report (verbal update MC)

- i. Mary reported an incident at Luncarty where paddlers had been challenged when parking cars. DS had replied to Eddie Palmer, SCA, about this and asked that any enquiries to PKC are directed to him.
- ii. DS reported renewed interest in the access point at Burnmouth following the fatality in the Spring.

11. Correspondence

- i. Councillor Williamson had enquired about establishing area access forums to address specific issues such as wild camping in Highland Perthshire. NC suggested he could come to a future meeting and/or act as Councillor Barnacle's sub.

12. Any Other Competent Business

- i. A workshop for recreation members is planned for 28th September. JH, AB, MC & JA plan to attend. Action DS to circulate details.
- ii. DS to investigate opportunities for mediation training.
- iii. JA reported concerns with plans for path crossings proposed as part of the Cross Tay Road Bridge proposals. Current plans appear at odds with the Green Infrastructure Policy in the latest draft Development Plan. JA to circulate the proposals. The Forum or members may wish to comment.

13. Dates and arrangements for future meetings.

- i. Next meeting Thursday 21st November at NEW VENUE North Inch Community Campus, Perth
- ii. 2020 Dates to be set after the November meeting.