

PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE NORTH INCH COMMUNITY CAMPUS, PERTH AT 6PM 21st NOVEMBER 2019 (74th MEETING)

PRESENT

Nick Cole, Mary Conacher, Karen Inkster, John Andrews (in part), Hugh Anderson, Andrew Thomson, John Andrews (in part), Sandy Simpson, Jennifer Herd, Alison Hood.

IN ATTENDANCE

Dave Stubbs (minutes), Jeannie Grant, Ross Fletcher & Sarah Millar (in part).

1. Apologies

Anne Macintyre, Annie Benson, Councillor Mike Barnacle, Mike Strachan.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Convenor and Vice Convenor Elections.

DS reported that the proposed changes to the membership were confirmed at Council Committee on 30th October. The following appointments were then agreed:

- i. Nick Cole, Convenor. Proposed Sandy Simpson. Seconded Mary Conacher.
- ii. Andrew Thompson. Proposed John Andrews. Seconded Karen Inkster.

4. Presentation Ross Fletcher and Sarah Millar. Cross Tay Link Road.

- i. A Briefing Note was circulated prior to the meeting. RF & SM outlined the project with particular reference to proposals for non-motorised users (NMUs).
- i. JA expressed concern about a crossing at Denmarkfield & the lack of direct consultation with the Forum when other NMU groups were consulted.
- ii. **Action DS** to consider better mechanisms for PKC to consult the Access Forum when NMU groups are consulted.
- i. **Action NC** to write a Forum response to the current planning application.

5. Minute of meeting 29th August 2019

- i. Proposed KI. Seconded AT & approved subject to alterations to those present. Jennifer Herd and Councillor Barnacle did not attend the meeting.

6. Matters Arising

- i. Item 9 (Feb). **Action** DS to check when Forum website was updated and update as required. Updates to include changes to membership and representation on the exemptions and obstructions sub group following the AGM etc.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Item 4 (May). NC is in discussion with PKC development management re planning issues and the procedures followed for the Panholes diversion. The hearing was held 2-3 October. The outcome of which was still outstanding pending the completion of the inquiry process.
- iv. Post meeting note: The Panholes core path & right of way diversion order was confirmed 22/11/19. The report and decision letter were circulated to members. See email 09/12/19.
- v. Item 4 (May) Dunira. **Action** SS to arrange site visit for members. Update. The former gamekeeper has left the estate. SS to follow up through the estate's lawyer.
- vi. Item 7 (Aug) Exemption and Obstructions. See Below.
- vii. Item 8 (Aug) Wild Camping. Action DS to circulate letter. See email 25/11/19.

7. Greenspace Ranger Update.

- i. Jeannie Grant provided a verbal update on her work in Highland Perthshire which includes supporting a number of paths groups, investigating access issues and providing SOAC advise. Particular local issues include dog control, mediating between user groups e.g. at the Kenmore Gallops, wild camping, campervans and parking issues, beavers & non-native invasive species. For invasive species contact see email 25/11/19.

8. Exemptions and Obstructions Report

- i. Following changes in Forum membership the membership of the sub-group has also been changed. Members are Mike Strachan (agencies), John Andrews & Karen Inkster (access takers), Hugh Anderson & Andrew Thompson (land managers).
- ii. DS circulated details of the obstructions process prior to the meeting. AT requested that obstructions be prioritised later in the process to allow time for further reports to come in. He also requested copies of the standard letters. **Action DS** to circulate.
- iii. Issue 31 Stewart Towers. KI had attended a site meeting with Jane Pritchard & SS had also spoken to the land manager. **Action SS/KI** to pursue possible solutions with the land manager.
- iv. Issue 61 nr. Comrie Croft. Circumstances have changed. Issue not to be closed. **Action AT** to provide more details to DS.

- v. All other issues marked for closure on the May, August and November reports to be closed.
9. Consultation to the Forum.
- i. See 4. ii. above.
10. National Access Forum
- i. Current issues include mediation mechanisms, wild camping and irresponsible parking.
11. Water issues.
- i. MC reported that the Tay Descent canoe event would be held Sunday 30th August 2020.
 - ii. The SCA are still seeking details on the fatality on the river at Stanley in case there are lessons for other water users or if a remaining metal spike had contributed to the accident. **Action MC** to write to Police Scotland. DS to provide a contact.
12. Correspondence
- i. Karen Mitchell, SNH had written to say that SNH would remove themselves from the PKC local access forum even as a corresponding member.
 - ii. Nick had written to Peter Pearson to express the Forum's thanks for his contribution over the years. JP/DS had also written in similar terms and this was also noted by the committee convenor when he introduced the annual report.
13. Any Other Competent Business
- i. JH noted & welcomed new equestrian gates at Comrie and a planned gate at Enochdhu. **Action DS** to update JH, JA & KI on progress with the equestrian obstructions along the Wallace Road.
 - ii. SS intends to fell trees beside a path on his land. Scottish Forestry have been informed. **Action SS** to send details for DS to circulate.
 - iii. DS highlighted a current Scottish Government consultation on dog control to which PKC would be responding. See <https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-operational-effectiveness-control-dogs-scotland-act-2010/> PKC also responded to the National Access Forum consultation on consistent high level messages about dogs and livestock.
14. Dates and arrangements for future meetings.
- i. **Action DS** to undertake a doodle poll re 2020 dates.