

Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum
Draft Minutes of Meeting 74
29th April 2019

Glen Garioch Room, Thainstone Centre, Inverurie

Present: Adam Wallace (Chair), Hamish Booth, David Culshaw, Wayne Gault, Ruth Riddell, Alison Mitchell, Alison Espie, Judy Middleton, Tim Gordon-Roberts, Chris York, Wilson Irvine.

Council officers: Richard Elliott, Katherine Low, Bridget Freeman (part).

Observers: Jonathan Kitching, Lynsey Craig, Brian Purves, Ron Reid (All Candidates for membership).

Note: in Action column, "A/O" indicates Access Officer(s) **Action**

1	Introductions	Action
1	<p>Apologies Lorna Paterson, Flick Millar, Marina Piper, Gordon McKilligan, Mark Andrew</p> <p>Deputising Wilson Irvine for Lorna Patterson</p> <p>Declarations of interest (None)</p>	
2	<p>Chairman's Report 2018</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their continuing support and gave a summary of the activities undertaken by members during 2018.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Meeting 73 and matters arising (none)</p> <p>Minutes were approved with the proviso that Apologies be amended to include Judy Middleton's apology which was omitted.</p>	
3	<p>Prospective New Members</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the five prospective new members present and observing the meeting, and invited them to introduce themselves, outline their interests and to ask questions of the forum.</p> <p>Lindsay Craig (Struan) outlined her experience as an environmental adviser and project manager and as a member of the Feughdee West Community Council. She is also an access user, enjoying riding, walking and cycling. Lindsay would propose to represent the Community sector.</p> <p>Brian Purves (Aberdeen) described his background as a retired chemical engineer with a key interest in hill walking and is a member of the Cairngorm Club. Brian would propose to represent the Access User sector.</p> <p>Jonathan Kitching (Aboyne) provided a summary of his extensive experience in outdoor education and his personal interests in mountaineering, mountain biking and canoeing. Jonathan is currently an education representative on NAF. He is also Secretary of the Scottish Canoe Association Access and Environment Committee. It was undecided which sector Jonathan could propose to represent; one possibility being the Scottish Canoe Association.</p> <p>Ron Reid (Inverurie) introduced himself as a prospective Community Representative (Inverurie Community Council) and formerly working</p>	

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	<p>in forestry, parks and recreation management. Ron was involved in the construction of the Formartine and Buchan Way.</p> <p>Ruth Riddell currently attends as a representative of BHS Scotland and was asked to consider becoming an elected member. Ruth described her extensive experience as an access volunteer for BHS Scotland and as a member of the Scottish Endurance Riding Club for over 40 years. She has extensive knowledge of access across Aberdeenshire and beyond both prior and since the Land Reform Act.</p> <p>Two other prospective new members were noted as having been met by the Chair prior to the meeting. It was noted that new representatives from both the Land Management and Agency sectors should continue to be sought.</p> <p>Noting that Lorna Paterson (NFU Scotland) had expressed her wish to step down, the Chair invited Wilson Irvine to take on the role of NFUS representative which was accepted.</p> <p>Tim Gordon-Roberts (Scottish Forestry) advised that a representative of SF would not routinely be available to attend. If specific issues were to be discussed relating to SF then a representative would endeavour to be made available.</p>	
4	<p>Operating principles:</p> <p>(a) Membership update Discussion with prospective new members was taken earlier in the proceedings and covered in item 3.</p> <p>AE advised that the email distribution list was still out of date and required further checking.</p> <p>Members advised they would appreciate the spreadsheet showing dates of service to be circulated.</p> <p>(b) Operating Principles</p> <p><i>i) Operation of Sub-Groups relating to case work</i> RE advised that this would be dealt with via email circulation, and would cover items such as secure communications, insurance and the Knowledge Hub area.</p> <p><i>ii) Communications methods employed by the Forum</i></p>	<p>AO</p> <p>AO</p> <p>RE</p> <p>ALL</p>

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	<p>Forum website www.aloaf.org (currently in draft form) would benefit by addition of photographs. RE reminded members that photographs for the site would be appreciated.</p> <p>(c) Regarding previous request made by WG for access-related metrics RE advised that a comprehensive spreadsheet had been developed and would be shown at the July meeting</p>	RE
5	<p>Reverse briefing from members Wayne - Raised the issue of dog ownership and the responsibilities of owners. This was discussed at length with reference being made to an issue at Kellands Park where the council had erected signs forbidding the exercising of dogs. It was decided that the Forum would provide a response to the Proposed Protection of Livestock (Scotland) Bill. This would be created and discussed in the Knowledge Hub.</p>	ALL
6	<p>Upholding access rights cases (a) Proposed framework for A/O+ALOAF case-related activity -- adoption – Deferred to be dealt with via the Knowledge Hub/email.</p> <p>(b) Casework update KL and RE presented examples from their current caseload for discussion purposes, and from which they invited ALOAF to select cases for attention by sub-groups to be appointed by the Forum.</p> <p>(c) Sub-group/ working group update The forum has conducted two site visits, Craigendinnie and The Comply RoW. Reports have been produced for each of these visits. The evidence gathered and advice contained in these reports is extremely valuable to the Access Officers.</p> <p>i) Further requirements for SubGroups will be advised via the Chair as required.</p>	RE
7	<p>ALOAF activities, events, training, information (a) Joint meetings under consideration and to be planned</p> <p>i) NAF/LAF meeting, 5th April 2019 Attended by AW, RE and JM. Notes from the meeting kindly supplied by JM and appended to the minutes.</p>	

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	<p>ii) Royal Northern Spring Show, 27th February 2019 Attended by many members this event was noted as very successful and should be considered for 2020.</p> <p>iii) Turriff Show, 4th-5th August 2019 KL advised that the usual stand space had been booked for Turriff 2019. Consensus that a sub-group was not required to manage members' attendance at the show. Chair to deal with staffing rota via separate communication. BF advised she would attend on the Monday.</p>	Chair
8	<p>Aberdeenshire Council update (a) Staffing – Bridget still on maternity (b) NAF [see 7(a) above].</p>	
9	<p>AOCB (a) Website http://aloaf.org/ remains under construction (b) The forum asked officers for an update on the Deeside Way and in particular the area East of Aboyne.</p>	
10	<p>Dates of next meetings 22nd July, 28th October.</p> <p>Post meeting note: Room bookings for 2020 were requested by KL. Jennifer Booth confirmed the same arrangements will be made for next year and dates advised in due course.</p>	