

**Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum**  
**Draft Minutes of Meeting 51**  
**Monday 28 April 2014**  
**6.00pm Council Chamber, Gordon House, Inverurie**

**Present:** Alison Espie (Chair), Hamish Booth, Gordon McKilligan, Robin Maitland, Judy Middleton, Adam Wallace. David Culshaw, John Hughes, Chris York, Ian Cowe, John Fyall, Andy Robertson

**Council officers present:** Linda Mathieson, Piotr Gudan, Matthew Watt.

**Observers present:**

	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p><b>Welcome:</b> John Fyall – Land Manager rep.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> J. Spratt, David Fyffe</p>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting 50 &amp; Matters arising</b> Approval proposed CY, seconded GM.</p> <p><b>Matters arising:</b> CY and Colin Miller to form sub-group and develop guidance on 'ALOAF Members and access disputes'. – this will be included as an appendix to the Operating Principles. CY to circulate draft guidance before next meeting and place item on agenda for next meeting.</p>	<b>CY</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>ALOAF Administration</b> <b>Land Manager rep</b> – John Fyall introduced himself and his background. He was accepted onto ALOAF as a land manager rep.</p> <p><b>Scotways Rep.</b> – Scotways contacted the group to enquire about someone becoming a rep. - essentially an information gathering exercise. No volunteers but ALOAF agreed that meeting minutes should be sent to Scotways.</p> <p><b>RAFTS Rep.-</b> There are two agency places available on ALOAF, these are currently taken by SNH and NHS. It has been noted that SNH does not attend the ALOAF meetings. It was felt that the NHS place should remain open for them. The group discussed the opportunity to allow RAFTS to replace SNH as a regular member. Mark Bilsbury has been contacted and is keen on the idea.</p> <p>CY questioned the fact that they are not an agency and may have a sector interest.</p> <p>LM – do we need a change to the operating principles to agency/organisational?</p> <p>The group agreed RAFTS can join ALOAF and SNH should be a correspondence member.</p>	<p><b>LM</b></p> <p><b>LM</b></p>

	<p>Approval proposed RM, seconded JM.</p> <p><b>Updated leaflet/Newsletter</b> The leaflet will be updated with new members and the new logo.</p>	<b>LM</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>ALOAF Activities</b> <b>Brain storming session – workshop</b></p> <p>See separate attachments.</p> <p><b>Work programme for 2014</b> AE suggested that PG submit a report on relevant outdoor access and dog issues to the next ALOAF meeting</p> <p>It was suggested that good examples of land management and public access should be brought to the next meeting. This will provide an opportunity for all members to see what positive developments are happening across Aberdeenshire.</p> <p><b>Turriff Show and theme</b> A discussion took place on the theme for the upcoming Turriff Show. There was a strong leaning towards the theme of ‘Dogs and Outdoor Access’.</p> <p>Some members felt that the dogs theme was too restricting and the group should be covering a wider remit. It was suggested that we should be also be promoting health through access. After much discussion it was decided that ALOAF would not promote a particular theme but take a general approach.</p> <p>JF stated that he had a media recording of a sheep attack – potential to use this at Turriff Show to highlight the dangers.</p> <p>DC enquired if the stand could include appropriate Sustrans material? All agree that it was an appropriate place for material.</p> <p>On a side note, HB raised a query on the inclusion of disabled people on the NHS ALOAF group. It was pointed out that this group is represented through the access panel.</p> <p><b>Regional LAF meeting</b> No further progress on LAF meeting</p>	<p><b>PG</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>JF</b></p> <p><b>DC</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Upholding Access Rights Cases -- update</b> Discussion of casework – closed session for confidentiality reasons. <i>[Minuted separately as a confidential paper for ALOAF members].</i></p> <p>Meeting minutes – 49 &amp; 50;</p>	

	<p>Minutes 49 Approval proposed JM, seconded AW</p> <p>Minutes 50 Approval proposed CY, seconded JH</p> <p>No further updates on UAR cases.</p> <p>JF declared interest in Straloch case.</p>	
5	<p><b>Aberdeenshire Council Update</b></p> <p><b>(1) Sustrans Community Links bid/Meldrum Meg Way</b>  Brief update on the funding received from Sustrans to enable a variety of Aberdeenshire project to commence. There was a discussion about the feasibility of the Meldrum Meg Way route –the feasibility study for the MMW will further examine routing issues. AR is happy to be involved in any discussions with locals/landowners in regard to the experience at Tarland.</p> <p><b>(2) SOAN Workshop – LAFs</b></p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council will be presenting at the forthcoming SOAN workshop (27 May 2014) – the theme is Local Outdoor Access Forums. The presentation will be on ‘The Key to Creating a Sustainable LAF’.</p>	AR
6	<p><b>Access Consultations, Issues etc SRDP submission</b></p> <p>A response to the SRDP consultation was submitted to the SG by ALOAF and a reply was received from Paul Wheelhouse. There was a general consensus that there is no obvious access funding although it was recognised that funding may be available through indirect routes.</p> <p>AR was disappointed by the consultation response by ALOAF as he felt it was slightly negative in terms of path development – a number of quality paths have been delivered through this funding mechanism.</p> <p>On a side note, it was felt that there will be issues with funding for path development and maintenance in the future. It was suggested that a ‘list’ of funding opportunities would be useful to distribute to landowners/community groups etc. One possibility discussed was to use community funding opportunities for farmers to develop local path networks.</p>	

	<p><b>Haddo – Rules for equestrian Use</b></p> <p>Haddo paper to next meeting</p>	<b>MW</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Events, Training, Information</b></p> <p><b>(1) National Access Forum Papers</b> No comments.</p> <p><b>(2) Deer Management Group Papers</b> David Fyffe has been involved with the consultation paper.</p> <p><b>(3) Paddlers meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014</b> Tomorrow night at Adventure Aberdeen. Issues on the River Dee and Loch of Skene. Attendance LM &amp; PG.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Nothing to note</p> <p>Discussion on the location of forthcoming meetings – options include Haddo, Huntly FC, Huntly Development Group?</p>	<b>LM</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Dates of next meetings:</b> Agreed dates in 2014 -- 3<sup>rd</sup> February; 12<sup>th</sup> May; 23<sup>rd</sup> June; 6<sup>th</sup> October; 24<sup>th</sup> November.</p>	