

ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Note of the Meeting of the Angus Local Access Forum held online on Monday 8th March 2021

Present: Nick Hamilton (Chair), Irene McGugan (Vice Chair), Euan Walker-Munro, Jonathan Dymock, John Hamilton, Barbara Thompson

In attendance: Paul Clark (Countryside Access Officer, Angus Council), Andrew Matthews (prospective member)

Apologies: John Rymer, Fiona Waddell

1. Welcome and introductions

NH was experiencing problems with limited connectivity to the meeting. It was therefore agreed that IMG should chair the meeting. AM introduced himself to the members.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute of 14 December 2020 was approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Edzell River Path – NH had enquired whether Inveresk Community Council were satisfied with the outcome. The response had raised some concerns over the quality of the completed work. PC clarified that the work has not been designed or supervised by Council engineers, and that it had not required permission from the Council. NH had walked the path, and shared photographs. After discussion, there was agreement that it was not appropriate for the Forum to assess or advise on the quality of the work.

Denmill – PC confirmed that he had written to the landowner following the Forum's advice. He had reminded them of their obligation not to obstruct the path.

Kinpurnie House – EWM agree to contact the owner and offer a meeting.

4. Access issue, Ferry Road, Monifieth

PC had prepared a paper which outlined the issue. Angus Council had received complaints of obstructions to an access route in summer 2020. The route had previously been used by members of the public to access a public park from Ferry Road. The issue remained unresolved and the Council was seeking the Forum's opinion. The paper contained various background information, including recent and historic maps, aerial photographs, and Google Streetview images.

After discussion there was agreement that the route was undoubtedly somewhere that access rights applied, that it had clearly been well used by the public, and that the owner had acted unreasonably in obstructing it. The view was that the Council should pursue that matter further with the landowner. Members didn't see a further role for the forum at this stage, but would consider further involvement if asked.

5. Membership and recruitment

After discussion, there was agreement that AM should be appointed to the Forum. PC confirmed that committee approval for appointment of both AM and JD would be sought in due course.

There was agreement that further attempts at recruitment should take place later in the year. In the meantime members should take the opportunity to approach any prospective candidates that they may be aware of.

6. NAF/LAF joint meeting 26 March

It was agreed that IM, NH and AM would attend the meeting, which was to be held online.

7. Access Issues update

Former Kinpurnie Estate – PC advised that there was ongoing correspondence with one of the owners.

Kirkton of Airlie – PC had met of owner of the section of path. He had agreed installation of self-closing gates, as part of proposed core path improvements, which would allow access along a field margin when the cow was in the section of path.

Backmuir of Liff – The Council was corresponding with the landowner and awaiting their position on the matter.

The Council had received new enquiries regarding issues at Wellbank and Guthrie. The owner of the land at Guthrie had agreed to install gates, which would resolve the matter.

6. A.O.C.B.

There was no other business.

7. Date of next meeting: Monday 14 June 2021.