

Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum

Minutes of Meeting 35

7th February 2011 - Council Chambers. Gordon House, Inverurie

Present: Gordon McKilligan (Chair), Alison Espie, Bill Ashcroft, Bill Dow, Brian Martin, Cllr. Isobel Davidson, Dan Cadle, David Culshaw, David Fyffe, Drew Elphinstone, Hamish Booth, Judy Middleton, Molly Atkinson, Paul Timms, David Finlay

Guest: Fiona McInally (Paths for All Partnership)

Candidates for ALOAF vacancies – John Hughes, Antony Miller, Douglas Williamson, Chris York.

Council officers present: Linda Mathieson, Kevin Wright

1	Apologies, introductions, deputisings	Action
	Apologies - Alison Mitchell, Robin Maitland (Geordie Burnett-Stuart on Tuesday morning) Introductions – Fiona McInally (Paths for All) Douglas Williamson, Chris York, Robert John Hughes, Antony Miller (Community and Access User representative candidates) David Fyffe – Reserve for Robin Maitland	
2	Minutes of meeting 34 and matters arising	
	Minutes approved by AE, 2 nd by DC Land use strategy consultation; the deadline for responses has passed. Councils UAR process, due to long agenda at this meeting this topic will be deferred to the following meeting.	
3	Selection and appointment of new representatives	
3.1	Membership rotation	
	LM ran through the members and length of service table. AE, BA, DFi, DFy, GB and RM all indicated that they wish to continue on the ALOAF	
3.2	Representatives standing down	
	BD, BM and MA are standing down after 6 years in service	
3.3	Presentations from candidates	
	ALOAF received interest from 3 candidates for the Access User vacancy and 3 candidates for Community vacancy.	

	<p>Access User candidates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Antony Miller - Douglas Williamson - John Hughes <p>Community candidates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris York - Douglas Williamson - Geordie Burnett Stuart <p>Each candidate was given 2 minutes to respond to two questions which were supplied to the candidates in advance;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why are you interested in becoming member of ALOAF? 2. What skills can you bring to ALOAF? <p>Further questions were then taken from existing forum members.</p>	
3.4	Voting procedure	
	<p>Each ALOAF member was given one Access User and two Community votes. Votes were noted on ballot papers with no more than one vote per candidate allowed.</p> <p>Vote counting was undertaken by GK and LM.</p> <p>The one access and two community candidates with the highest votes would be successful with their positions taking effect from 9th May 2011.</p> <p>LM announced the new Access representative as John Hughes and the two new community representatives as Chris York and Douglas Williamson.</p> <p>All applicants were thanked and invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting, as observers.</p>	
4	ALOAF review workshop	
	<p>Introduction by GK; it was noted that as input to the Core Path Plan (CPP) process is tailing off for the ALOAF that there was an opportunity to consider future activities that ALOAF may wish to be involved in. GK introduced FMCI from Paths for All who would run the workshop exploring ideas for future ALOAF activities.</p> <p>GK suggested a development checklist for the ALOAF this would ensure that individuals who are representing the ALOAF at Master Planning events consider the same issues.</p>	GK

	<p>GK handed over to FMcl</p> <p>FMcl noted she has undertaken similar workshops for other LOAF's and highlighted ideas which other LOAF's had come up with, these are listed below along with ALOAF's ideas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subgroups for working on new activities - CPP implementation and prioritisation - Assisting with LEADER applications - Fund raising - Dealing with access issues - Lobbying for increased awareness/resource for outdoor access - Input to master planning/development <p>A general discussion took place regarding how the above could be implemented and what role the ALOAF could or should have in implementing them.</p> <p>The ALOAF then broke into two groups to discuss the two areas that was of most interest;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input into master planning/development - CPP implementation and prioritisation <p>Outputs from the workshop included the following thoughts/ideas;</p> <p>Input into master planning/development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of an access and development checklist, that could be used by the ALOAF members, community council and community groups to help them inform new developments. - Seek stronger links with others; Safe routes to school, transport and strategy sections. - Create subgroup and/or email group to input into planning applications - Decide at which level it is relevant to input into planning - Funding - Consider 40% open space <p>CPP implementation and prioritisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Input into prioritisation of core paths - Liaise with communities to encourage participation - Information gathering exercise to identify how implementation has been achieved elsewhere - Empowering communities to deliver core paths - Focus annual gathering or other event on promoting path use and community involvement in local paths - Local business advertising 	
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	<p>- Developer contributions</p> <p>It was highlighted that ALOAF needs to focus on what the forum members can deliver rather than council officers.</p>	
5	ALOAF administration	
5.1	Minute secretary	
	Colin Miller has kindly agreed to act as minute secretary	
5.2	Future agency representative	
	<p>Alex Geddes was not present at the meeting to advise how NHS will be represented in future. LM to follow up with Alex.</p> <p>Paul Timms is leaving his post with SNH, he confirmed that SNH will still want representation on the ALOAF. Who will take on this role is yet to be confirmed</p>	LM
5.3	Web pages	
	<p>ALOAF web pages have been updated.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to continue updating the pages on a regular basis any ideas or information for future content should be brought to the next forum meeting.</p> <p>ID asked if information on the number of hits was available for the ALOAF pages. KW to look into this.</p>	All KW
6	Aberdeenshire council update	
6.1	Budget implications	
	<p>The access strategy budget has been reduced from £60k for 2010/11 to £48K for 2011/12. Other access budget lines have been retained at 2010/11 levels;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance £93k - Capital £105k - Land Reform £12k <p>Over the last 5 years lost around £50-60k from access budget spend.</p> <p>There has been a significant reduction in access staff, the south access officer is now a part time post (½ week), the north access officer is unlikely to be replaced.</p> <p>The north access officer case load has been distributed amongst north team environment planners</p>	
6.2	Aberdeenshire local development plan - checklist idea	
	It is intended to set up a subgroup to develop an access and development checklist. The subgroup will be established at the next ALOAF meeting.	

	GK to initiate project by circulating initial thoughts for the contents of the checklist, this will then be circulated to all members for input.	GK
7	Core paths plan	
7.1	Aberdeenshire update	
	<p>It was hoped that submission to DPEA would be in November, due to delays with the completion of the SEA submission should be in early April. The SEA will soon be out for consultation, the consultation period will be for eight weeks.</p> <p>Pre-submission discussions will take place with the DPEA to ensure as many issues as possible are considered prior to submission. Issues have arisen with other submitted CPP due to changes in routes without further consultation. Only a few changes have been made to the Aberdeenshire plan some of which have undergone further consultation.</p>	
7.2	National Update	
	Paper was included with the November mailing indicating what stage each of the local authority core paths plans are at.	
8	ALOAF newsletter/review suggestions for articles and volunteers	
	<p>Volunteers were asked to come forward to write short articles for the ALOAF newsletter, 100-150 words + pictures</p> <p>GK – A chairmen’s view of ALOAF DC – Active Travel JM – Bridge of Dee consultations exercise DC – Elsick Master planning JM – ALOAF site visits AE – Input into Core Paths Plan</p> <p>Articles are required for the end of February submit to LM for collation.</p>	<p>GK DC JM DC JM AE</p> <p>LM</p>
9	Annual gathering 2011	
	<p>It was felt that this years’ annual gathering could focus on encouraging and empowering local communities to use and maintain their local paths.</p> <p>Thoughts and ideas included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laying down a challenge to local communities to engage with their local paths - Walking festival - ‘The order of the boot award’, similar to the Green 	

	<p>Butterfly award which is given out to community groups for undertaking the best environmental activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community path booklet (possible source of funding could be public art money) - School event to raise awareness of paths - Invite community councils/community groups to take part in event and show case successful community path groups. 	
10	Access consultations, issues etc	
10.1	Level crossings	
	The NAF response would seem to cover all the points previously discussed by ALOAF, as such there is no need for a separate response from ALOAF	
11	Events, training, information	
11.1	Bridge crossing River Dee 29th November workshop	
	<p>JM attended the above event, various options were discussed issues highlighted included the conflict of motorised and non motorised use of the bridge. Concerns were raised by SNH and Fisheries Trust's due to the potential need for in river supports, Historic Scotland raised concerns over bridge width and the impact on built heritage.</p> <p>The next meeting, late Febuary/early March, will further look at the options that were put forward.</p>	JM
11.2	National access forum papers	
	<p>NAF future work programme</p> <p>NAF have circulated several papers in time for their next meeting, topics covered include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary closure of core paths - Locked gates - Individual membership to the forum (NAF) - Funding for access under the SRDP - Access and cattle <p>These were not discussed in depth at the meeting, but members should review these papers for the next meeting and comment as appropriate.</p> <p>Community dog management initiative</p> <p>Discussions concluded that the ALOAF is likely to take a reactive role on this matter than a proactive response.</p>	All
12	A.O.B	
	GK thanked MA, BM and BD for their input to the ALOAF over the years.	

	Molly expressed that she would be willing to take part in subgroups if her expertise in equestrian use was required.	
13	Items for next meetings agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow on from ALOAF review - UAR process – ALOAF involvement - Access and development checklist - ALOAF newsletter - Annual gathering 2011 - National Access Forum Papers <p>Further items to be forwarded for consideration for next agenda</p>	
14	Date of next meeting – Confirmed dates for 2011	
	<p>9th May 27th June 3rd October 28th November</p>	