

MINUTES

Lochaber LAF Meeting
Thursday 29 July 2021
online - Teams

Chair:	Ben Thompson
Present at the meeting	Dr Michael Foxley, Bridget Thomas, Ruari Watt, Marion Macdonald, Drew MacFarlane-Slack, Jackson Anderson, Lea MacNally, William Kelly, Donald Houston, James Robertson
Officials in attendance:	Stewart Eastaugh, Access Officer [minutes]

ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION	ACTION
1.	Welcome and Introductions Members of the public attending	
2.	Apologies Ian Stewart, Ian Moir	
3.	Minutes and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice of meeting onto website• No notice to press• No papers available to public on website – to be formatted• No papers available to public at Service Point – closed• December 2019 meeting to be listed on website with Agenda and Minutes• Item 6, LO08.01C to read WM, not MK. SE to correct• Council website to be updated	SE SE SE SE
4.	Membership No comments	
5.	Core Paths Plan Review – West Highlands and Islands LOLAF recommendations approved by Lochaber and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committees Those changes are to be subject of a further 6 week formal public	

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	<p>consultation. It is currently in draft form waiting approval of managers. It is hoped it will be completed by the end of 2021.</p> <p>The LAF will not be consulted further on this review. Any objections to the proposals will be submitted along with any outstanding objections to the original proposals to the Scottish Government to be dealt with by a public inquiry.</p>	SE
6.	<p>Access issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilfinnan car park charging – visited site twice – no issues encountered • Electric fence guidance available via Moorland Forum and National Access Forum. SE to circulate link to members. • Glenborrodale public right of way investigation will form part of submission to Scottish Government on the core path plan. MF frustrated at time taken to address this issue. DH said the route could not be a public right of way. • River Arkaig – no progress • Glengarry. Westernmost cattle grid is an issue as it has no pass gate. SE to approach owners for a pass gate • Loch Garry Bridge. SE to approach THC for wider board for equestrian crossing cattle grid at south end. • Bracorina to Tarbet bridges – repair projects in preparation. Decking to be replaced. Working on logistics of delivering material to site. • Monessie Bridge. News from June 2021 was that it needed specialist roped access engineering assessment, that estimated costs of repair would be 6-figures and several months' work subject to a more detailed assessment. MM and BT felt this an important crossing. SE to contact Jonathan hart at Jahama Highland Estates for an update. RW mentions Jahama's improvements to the Puggy Line and bridge. • Silver walk east is to be reinstated this summer and a better link found for the path down to the shore path. MF concerned that temporary diversion is no longer signposted clearly or suitable. SE to contact Forestry and Land Scotland to check progress • Silver walk west –not seen • Ben Alder Estate and mountain bikes. Concerned at damage to paths they have upgraded and built over the years. SE to get parties together. DMS and RW (who is working with CNPA) offer help. • E-bikes. National Access Forum sub-group formed. Link to their short report to be circulated by SE. RW comments that a lot of research being led by British Cycling 	<p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p>
7.	<p>Public rights of way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE to doodle poll the LAF about availability to attend an on-site 	SE

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	<p>introduction to public rights of way in the North Ballachulish area at which attendees might decide whether or not to offer an opinion on whether or not the route is a public right of way. A meeting of the LAF would follow at an indoors venue. Date will be in October or November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMS asks whose duty it would be to take action. THC although others could. • MF happy to advise THC whose responsibility it is • DH recommends a lawyer or QC give the training 	
8.	<p>Access Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Lundy Bridge replacement being led by Lyndsay Sharp of FLS who is exploring options and contributions from stakeholders • Paddy's Bridge in Glen Nevis has had a temporary repair but needs more extensive work. Jahama investigating ownership • Glen Nevis Youth Hostel bridge in need of repair. THC looking to use contractors to fix it. • Inverie to Mam Barrisdale path project being explored by estate and Improving Public Access grant scheme by application. 	
9.	<p>Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See item 7 	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM mentions Kinlochhourn to Barrisdale path being in a poor state. SE to investigate options. • MM mentions signs disappearing from Cona Glen north. MF to investigate. SE asks if it might be due to FLS closing dangerous boardwalk at Callop / Glenfinnan end with a view to repairing it with NTS partners 	<p>SE</p> <p>MF</p>