

MINUTES

**Lochaber LAF Meeting
Wednesday 10 August 2022
Charles Kennedy Centre, Fort William**

Chair: Drew MacFarlane-Slack

Present at the meeting Dr Michael Foxley, Bridget Thomas, Ruari Watt, Marion Macdonald, Drew MacFarlane-Slack, Jackson Anderson, Lea MacNally, Ian Stewart, Ian Moir

Officials in attendance: Stewart Eastaugh, Access Officer
Mark Crowe, Access Officer

ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION	ACTION
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
2.	Apologies	
3.	Minutes and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice of meeting onto website - done• No notice to press – not done. Internal THC discussion on Standing Orders)• Papers for last meeting available to public on website• No papers available to public at Service Point – not done. Internal THC discussion on Standing Orders)• December 2019 meeting to be listed on website with Agenda and Minutes – not done• Item 6, LO08.01C to read WM, not MK. SE to correct - done• Council website to be updated – done• 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.• Ben Alder Estate offered help. None accepted• MM mentions Kinlochourn to Barrisdale path being in a poor state. SE & MC to investigate options.• MM mentions signs disappearing from Cona Glen north. MF to investigate	<p>MC/SE</p> <p>MC/SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE/MC</p> <p>MF</p>

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4.	<p>Membership & appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMS appointed as temporary chair until return of Councillors • Chair need not be a Councillor • Members to consider whether they want to Chair the LAF 	All
5.	<p>Core Paths Plan Review – West Highlands and Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council hopes to submit responses and unresolved objections to Scottish Government in September 2022 • Scottish Government has requested returns in a favoured format • Hoped that a decision would be reached in 6 -9 months 	
6.	<p>Access Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glengarry sign issues at Tomdoun and East Glenquoich Estate. MC and SE to follow up • Invergarry path bridge closed. Ownership question. SE to follow up. • Invergarry lay by issues. Community Officer asking for better signs. MC to visit. SE to as Ros Birch – Senior Ranger – to get in touch. • SE to see eastern riverside path with Village / Community Woodland Officer with a view to improving access. • Cattle grid with no pass gate in forestry on north side of Loch Arkaig – SE • Cattle grid with no pass gate on Puggy Line by smelter. SE pursuing. • Aonach Mor paths. SE to contact Dot Ferguson about the LOLAF wanting to be represented on it. • SE to let Mountaineering Scotland know too. • IS asks if the new, developing Masterplan may a means to secure better public access. • Bunacaimbe & Back of Keppoch campsite issues. MC distributes background paper and map. Shows photographs of sites. Describes issues and proposes response. Questions asked by LAF members. Ideas provided. Support for concerted response following consultation with Council solicitor. LOLAF supported taking forward approach to write to sites with non-compliant signs and follow up action if necessary. Seek discussion on establishing and managing good quality access routes to shore • Glenborrodale case has been suspended for parties to find acceptable alternative route. • MF asked about locked gates within Ardnamurchan. SE noted these reports and that he had investigated to find these were indeed split links in the chain and not padlocked. • Glencripesdale locked gates. Progress made following visit by ranger and approach from MC. RW suggests acknowledging owner's 	<p>MC/SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE/MC</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>MC</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p> <p>MC</p>

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	<p>positive response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Hurich deer fence. Pledge from Forestry and Land Scotland to install a gate within 6 -12 months. • SE to follow up with FLS on Silver walk east and west, bridge at Ariundle and Glenfinnan boardwalk. • Cuil Bay pressures noted. Reports of toileting and foul smells. Some evidence of Gypsy traveller encampments, general camping and fishing. Access Rangers looking to promote bag it and bin it bag and assisting clearing up. SE offered some land management guidance. • DMS said there were positive reports of the Access Rangers doing a good job of clearing up. 	<p>MC</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p>
7.	<p>Access Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallaig circular – community obtaining grant funding with project coordination from THC • River Lundie, Fort William – done • Rathd na Sithean, Strontian – bridge donated to community • Ariundle to Lead Mines – under investigation. Blocked for 2 years. • 4-mile walk, Duror – explored by THC and community • Red Burn, Ben Nevis path repairs – Nevis Landscape Partnership • Glen Nevis Youth Hostel – exploring new deck 	
8.	<p>Seasonal Ranger update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 access rangers retained over winter 2021/22 • 4 access rangers working Lochaber at present: Matt Bradley, Alison Tait, Stephen Dent and Colin Fraser in Glen Etive. Richard Wright employed as Warden based at Arisaig/Morar too. Contact is via access officers, Senior Ranger Ros Birch or access ranger's email. • Employed until the end of October 2022. 	
9.	<p>Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE to canvas members for a training day in October/November 2022. 	SE
10.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMS mentioned Monadhliath Deer Management Group consultation on their 10-year Deer Management Plan. • SE to circulate details of upcoming event and current 10 year plan. 	SE