

Present:	Ms Lesley Cranna, Community Representative	LC
	Mr David Hannah, Access Taker/User	DH
	Cllr Jim McGillivray, Councillor, Highland Council	JM
	Mr John Ross, Access Taker CHAIR	JR
In Attendance:	Mr Matt Dent, Access Officer, Highland Council	MD

1. Apologies

2. Notes from meeting of the 21 March 2022

Accepted as

3. Matters Arising

Dairy Park – feedback from LC. Has not been ploughed in Spring or Autumn

Reidchalmi – MD said matter is with Scottish Forestry. MD commented that THC is getting more consultation now.

Rail Crossing – No news regards Dunrobin

Ardgay/Badvoon - Signs ordered but no success in contacting Mr Ian Munro regards replacement bridge. DH suggested stepping stones. Signs will be a help, not overly welcoming. Owners do not have a duty to maintain a bridge.

Carbisdale – MD not heard if village hall group has taken on woodland. Main interest is replacement hall. MD offered help but not taken up.

4.

- a. **Littleferry** – MD said he has received forms and is awaiting guidance from legal. Need to take to Malcolm Macleod. JM asked if photos any use he had forwarded. MD said some photos were useful but missing photo evidence before 2000. CAMORE historic site really useful. MDs only concern is that access to dunes has been retained so no real loss of amenity but if looking at public Right of Way then much more defined line to consider. Although diversion up to day time car park is significant in the local context if taking the route through to Golspie as a whole then diversion is probably minor. DH asked if MD had asked Patrick Marriott as he had researched the area.

JR said he had used it to access the water with canoe, MD said seawall was retained by estate. House was still owned by Mr and Mrs Christine Henderson (both deceased).

Has been over a year now, lots of time to uphold PRow but not planning regards gates across route or garden ground being taken in.

Turning head, was not included in road description.

b. Deer Fencing

DH said Glen Loth an issue

MD highlighted Loch Brora

Led to discussion on parking in passing place, email MD if any known parking in passing places, new signs possible. Forestry is not consulting, relying on agents. JH said gate were tight for mtb's near mind horse access.

5. Access Rangers

Less high profile year for AR's but still busy. MD asked if Tourism committee still ongoing, JM felt it had been pulled in to Malcolm Macleod. Phil Waite will report as busy for campervans and Motorhomes but quieter for tents. MD said when camping occurring it is not transient, longer stays in bigger tents. NatureScot though still not updating code regards defining close to road, defining lightweight. MD suggested that 5m the road over a fence may not technically be on the road verge it is still close, too close, in his view. DH said car still parking Struie VP, and tents only over the wall.

MD said human toileting still a on-going. Possibly not just visitors but as AR's looking for litter they are finding human waste. DH said Shin Falls an issue. MD commented on toilets being closed due to vandalism. JM said Dornoch opening and closing toilets which has worked well with rota. Falls of Shin – no operator of centre.

Overspill from full visitor car parks, like Smoo Cave, Ardvreck, Achmelvich. No change in capacity in 25 years. DH mentioned private car park at Smoo, upgrade at Achmelvich.

DH asked about Strathy, new signs and knee rails has helped.

MD said few officers dealing with car parks and reliant on Ullapool/Wick.

AR's have been a great help with minor works.

6. AOCB

DH – feature on Access Rangers? MD said there had been plenty of press

DH – new JOGT manager Kenneth McElroy

JH – Balblair Wood – flail cut last year but now coming back quickly

DH – more people paddle boarding

JM – Springfield to old railway track path

JR – **Loch Fleet access from Embo/Fourpenny?**

7. Date of next meeting - proposed

22 May 2023

2 October 2023

DRAFT