

Caithness Local Access Forum

Minutes - Action Note

Meeting held on 18th September 2023
Halkirk 1800 to 2000

Present:

Karl Rose (KR) – Highland Councillor (Chair)
Ben MacGregor (BMG) - Pentland Canoe Club
Donna Mather (DM) – British Horse Society Scotland
Jay Wilson (JW) – John O’Groats Trail
Eilidh Willoughby (EW) – Caithness Disability Access Panel

In attendance:

Matt Dent (MD) - Access Officer

Item		Action
1.	Apologies William Bruce, Paul Castle, Islay Macleod KR asked to note the death of Forum member Bill Mowat who passed away in the summer.	
2.	Notes from meeting of the 28th March 2023 Minutes agreed to be a right and proper account of meeting JW asked that minutes could be approved by email, as opposed to at the next meeting. All members agreed to this. MD to follow up that this is possible, it is likely as forum business can be conducted by email as this is done for Access Exemptions where timescales do not allow discussion at next planned meeting.	MD
3.	Matters Arising It had been agreed to noted to close the Whaligoe case which had not been done on the September issue of the Caithness Access Issues and Initiatives table. ACTION MD Table of Caithness Access Issues and Initiatives MD talked over the circulated paper	MD
	Members welcome the progress on the Halkirk – Sibster link.	

4.	<p>Core Path Suggestions</p> <p>Raised by DM onto agenda with regards tracks in and around Keiss/Auckengill. MD to add for consideration during core path changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hawkhill Road, North Keiss to Nybster Road - Nybster Road to Rockhill Road - A99 by cemetery to Whitegate Broch <p>JW asked about John O’Groats Trail with specific reference to Highland Council motion from 2018. KR and JM to take this matter up with Nicole Wallace</p> <p>BMG – wanted to raise an old track from Castletown to Murkle Hill</p> <p>MD stated he did not think the Highland Council would do a large scale review of the core paths plan again, unless directed to do so by Scottish Ministers. Inverness down to Fort Augustus and Nairn has yet to be reviewed at all. It is expected that individual core paths would be added on a more regular basis.</p> <p>DM asked if Limekilns to Achvarasdal link was still planned? MD said link to Broubster was substantially proposed but nothing to Acharasdal.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>KR/JW</p> <p>MD</p>
5.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Membership of forum - MD raised gaps in the current forum membership, mainly land ownership (two) but also one community. MD is seeking possible names to ask and that it may be time for a press release to seek new members - a notice in the paper had not brought forward applicants in the past.</p> <p>MD mentioned working with Caithness Disability Access panel to improve beach access at Dunnet/Seadrift</p> <p>BMG – highlighted no parking signs at Loch Watten, not strictly a Land Reform Act matter but MD would look into.</p> <p>EW asked if Highland Council would take on a path project if all funding had been granted and there just needed to be a delivery body? MD said unlikely HC would be able to commit to projects not on its own land. JW did point out to EW that the Friends of the John O’Groats trail had reformed as ANTS (Assoicaition of Northern Trails) in part to widen it scope of possible involmnet and suggest EW speak to JW.</p>	<p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>JW/EW</p>
6.	<p>Date of Next Meetings</p> <p>Monday 11th March 2024 Monday 9th September 2024</p>	