

Minutes of Meeting of the  
Sutherland Local Access  
Forum held at Drumbuie,  
Golspie on 30 October 2023

<b>Present:</b>	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
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Mr Matt Dent, Access Officer, Highland Council	MD
	Ms Tina Irving, member of public	TI

### 1. Apologies

Frances Gunn, Allan Mackay,

### 2. Notes from meeting of the 22 May 2023

Presented to the forum and MD went over them as matter arising.

### 3. Matters Arising

- MD stated no reply from Colin Taylor regards Coul railway gates. JM to pass on owners email to MD to contact directly. Comment that route from Fourpenny road also needs to be sign posted. **Action - MD**
- No progress on promotion of the Sutherland Space Port, matter still with Council legal. Discussed consulting Highlife Highland countryside ranger as no local walking group is active.
- Access Ranger season is ending. No winter ranger staying on for East Sutherland but cover for North Sutherland and East Sutherland Coast from Sutherland. Black Isle based Access Ranger possibility for projects in Southern Sutherland.
- Dairy Park has suffered from Storm Babet/Cieran with seaweed and stone covering path beyond diverted path. JR commented that Golspie Path Volunteers were not able to help out with path maintenance at the Dairy Park. JR also said his work with the group on the Big Burn to Dunrobin link had stopped due to constraints in planning consent.
- MD had approached Cycling Scotland about potential maintenance projects to use HiTrans Fund to carry. Uppat Wood had been suggested but MD considered this too

broad a track repair project to be seen as maintenance. JR reported that Sutherland Outdoor Activities Project had been unable to agree agreement to work on this track. MD is planning to use this fund to remove the encroached verges at the Invershin – Culrain path.

- JR reported that gorse clearance works had likely started at Balbair – MD to follow up.

**Action – MD**

- LC asked about Littleferry, still with legal. Right of way time period is 25years on none use.
- DH discussed gabion baskets for use as stepping stones and for bridge abutments, JOGT at the Loth Burn.

#### 4. AOCB

- JH asked about forest track from Kincardine to Gledfield, had emailed MD earlier in month. MD does not recall. JH had to lift e-bikes over the gate. MD to contact Tihill.

**Action – MD**

- Tracks behind Spinningdale and Whiteface, very overgrown. New access at Overskibo has made a number of the original tracks no longer used for land management. Public using these tracks much less, dog owners often driving to managed trails (like Bonar Bridge Balblair or the beach).
- Discussion about JOGT being core path or not.
- LC updated forum on storm Cieran damage on the golf course along coast which is a core path and the JOGT, option to use the beach or the footway. Poor access at old gas works/rowing club in village. Public veering onto or close to the fairways.
- DH mentioned JOGT at the Mound, no consent to divert path from behind bus shelter towards Creag Bheag. Invite Ken from JOGT.
- DH asked about HC suppling gabion baskets. HC does not keep them in stock.

**Action – MD**

JR allowed TI to speak to the forum. TI wishes to be on the Sutherland And Caithness LAF. TI said lots of time had being spent into the North Highland Way by both herself and THC and NatureScot.

MD said area committees appoint members to the LAF's. Applicants needed to be supported by a representative body. Council is intending to advertise for new members Highland wide.

TI asked if Geopark wanted to take the NHW forward, MD said he suspected Geoparks priority is the Scourie visitor centre and other Rock Stops.

**5. Date of next meeting - proposed**

25<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2024

DRAFT