

## CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

### MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING Held at the Albert Memorial Hall, Ballater

Tuesday 7 March 2006 at 16:00

#### Present

Mike Atherton	Peter Ord
Dick Balharry (Convenor)	Roger Searle
Simon Blackett	Richard Wallace
Nic Bullivant	Andrew Wells (Vice-Convenor)
Jo Durno	Jamie Williamson
Helen Geddes	Bryan Wright
Debbie Greene	
John Grierson	
Jack Hunt	

#### Apologies

David MacKay  
Dave Horrocks  
Ken McMillan  
David Selfridge  
Fred Gordon  
Ian Dunlop

#### In attendance

Adam Streeter-Smith, Paths for All Partnership  
Murray Ferguson, CNPA  
Bob Grant, CNPA  
Sandra Middleton, CNPA  
Fran Potheary, CNPA

#### Summary of Action Points

There were no action points arising from the meeting.

#### Welcome and Introductions

1. Dick Balharry (DB) opened the meeting and noted that there would be discussion of only a single item, the open meetings paper, before the business meeting was closed to allow the workshop to commence.

#### Minutes of the last meeting

2. These were not considered at this date and are scheduled for approval at the following meeting on Saturday 22 April 2006.

### **Paper 1: Moving Towards Open Meetings**

3. Fran Potheary presented the paper and a short discussion ensued. Reservations were expressed about the potential difficulties of managing sensitive casework issues in a public forum; and the effect that the presence of the public might have on the nature of the discussion.
4. However there was also support for the idea on the basis that open meetings give opportunities to showcase the Forum's work and help the public understand the role of the Forum. It is also an opportunity for dialogue with the public. It was also considered that certain items could be held in 'camera' and a review of the success of open meetings could be held in due course. It was also noted that although there would be a more limited availability of venues to ensure all-abilities access, this was easily managed to the benefit of all.
5. The Forum agreed that as from April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006 Forum meetings would be open to the public and advertised by way of a notice in the press.

**The meeting closed at 16:15 to allow the commencement of the Outdoor Access Strategy workshop**