

Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY FIRST MEETING
Glenavon Hotel, Tominoul**

Tuesday 26th August 2014

Summary of Action points arising from meeting

API - Members to forward nominations for Depute Convener to EB by Tuesday 25th November

AP2 - Members to email D Clyne with feedback on Paper I, app A

AP3 - JP to email members his revised x1 I points for consideration

AP4 - DS to circulate Land Reform Review Final Report to members

Forum members in attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Eric Baird (Convener) | David Lyle |
| Jeremy Usher-Smith | Nick Cole |
| John Grierson | Stewart Blair |
| Peter Mackay | Ruaridh Ormiston |
| | |

Others in attendance:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pete Crane, CNPA | Justin Prigmore, CNPA |
| David Frew, NTS | Alastair Johnson |
| Doug Stewart, CNPA | Bridget Trussell, CNPA (minutes) |
| Stephanie Lawrence, CNPA | |

Item 2 - Apologies

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Vicky Hilton | Nigel Williams |
| Richard Gledson | Gordon Riddler |
| | |

Item 3 - Minutes of the last meeting – approval and matters arising not otherwise appearing on the agenda.

The minutes were agreed with 1 amendment:

- Page 2, l.d. insert 'responsible for'

Action points arising from the last meeting

- API-** Item 4 on this agenda.
- AP2-** Carried
- AP3-** Discharged.
- AP4-** Discharged.

Item 4 LOAF membership update:

1. DS reported he had received a couple of new contacts for potential new members of the Forum.
2. EB & DS both recorded they would like to see more female representation.
3. Nominations for Deputy Convener to be submitted for the next meeting.

API – Members to forward nominations to EB by 25th November

Extraordinary item, NTS Mar Lodge Flood Damage update:

4. David Frew of NTS Mar Lodge updated the Forum on the damage following the recent spate of the Dee. This has caused significant damage across the Estate including two footbridges. Photos were circulated to the meeting. Public access across the Estate is affected and notably to the Lairig Ghru. In places the river has completely re-routed. Many tracks have suffered some degree of damage. Initial discussions with insurers indicate that bridges and flood defences will be covered but repair to paths and track will not resulting in a £200k plus bill, and much remedial work. Work will be prioritised according to both Estate needs and public access requirements.
5. PC reported that Mar Lodge has been worst hit, with other areas across the Park suffering damage to riverside signs and paths. Structural engineers have been out to inspect two bridges on the Gynack and they have been deemed safe.
6. CNPA instigated a live web page, updated by Rangers and Access Managers to provide accurate access information for the public.
7. EB asked if there was further support that could be offered either by CNPA or CLOAF. David Frew responded that plans are still being made and surveying undertaken.
8. DS requested to meet with D Frew to look at prioritising of repairs to Core Paths as and when necessary.
9. PC requested that CLOAF would endorse the CNPA's application to Scottish Government for emergency funding.
10. The meeting agreed to endorse the CNPA's request providing a review of the appropriateness of provision has been made.

David Frew left the meeting at this point

Item 5 Active Cairngorms Update:

11. PC presented paper I. Active Cairngorms seeks to focus on getting people active in the Park. It was noted that Vicky Hilton sits on this group to represent CLOAF.

12. Advice is sought from the Forum on Appendix A.
13. Forum noted that buy-in is need from tourism business stakeholders.
14. Attendance at the Cairngorm Tourism Forum would be beneficial.
15. The meeting suggested 'path provision' should be 'facilities' to encompass all (i.e. toilets).
16. Further feedback should be submitted to David Clyne directly.
17. More stakeholders will now be consulted and a public consultation will follow.

AP2 – CLOAF members to email D Clyne with feedback on Paper 1, app A

Item 6 Speyside Way Extension:

18. PC presented paper 2. The Speyside Way Extension has been ten years in the planning and construction is now well underway. Two new sections are complete and the next section from Aviemore to Kincaig should be finished by Easter 2015.
19. He noted that it has been identified that many parts of the existing path are now in average condition and that in particular the Cromdale to Park Boundary section will be looked at next.
20. David Lyle sought clarification on the standard of new paths. PC confirmed that the new paths are of high specification and to multi-user standard due to the funding streams that have been accessed for the project.
21. Site visit for LOAF members to be looked at ahead of next meeting.

Item 7 Capercaillie Framework update:

22. Justin Prigmore thanked the Forum for their input thus far and noted that since the last meeting the Framework has not changed highly but that advice from members has strengthened the Framework.
23. JP presented his interim conclusions and these were discussed.
24. The group discussion that took place following the presentation are summarised in Appendix I attached to these minutes.

AP3 - JP to email members his revised x1 I points for consideration

Item 8 Section 13 Duty Casework:

25. Doug Stewart updated the members on casework to date.
26. Case 20 was discussed in detail with DS reporting that the case has been upheld as a direct result of information provided.
27. CNPA is going back to the landowner to seek additional crossing points. DS informed the Forum of the decision making process that has led to the proposal for a crossing point every 1k as opposed to the guidance of 500m.
28. Discussion on the strategic and logical nature of crossing points ensued. EB noted that DS has taken into account the user groups and guidance and that the decision is robust on this basis.

Item 9 Activities Update and forward look:

29. DS updated members on current and future activities.
30. EB introduced the Land Reform Review Group final report. It will be circulated to members by email.

AP4 – DS to circulate Land Reform Review Final Report to members

Item 10 AOCB

31. There was no Other Competent Business.

Item 11 - Date of next meeting

32. To be held Tuesday 25th November at Kingussie.
33. A site visit to the Speyside Way extension may precede the meeting.