

**Before tonight's meeting, members met at the Brough of Birsay Car Park and enjoyed a circular walk via the Whale Bone and Skippi Geo.**

**MINUTES** of the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of Orkney Local Access Forum and Countryside Committee, held in The New Birsay Hall on Wednesday, 12 June, 2013, at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Anne Gascoigne	Orkney Field Club
Andy Knight	RSPB
Ken Lawson	SGRPID
Alice Lyall	World Heritage Site Co-ordinator
Roddy Mackay	OIC Access Officer (acting)
Sandra Miller	OHS
Victor Muir	NFU
Ann Poke	SWRI
Ian Thain	Scottish Rights of Way
Simon Treasure	Orkney Tourism Group
Elaine Clarke	WHS Ranger - Chair
Bertha Mainland	Secretary
Barbara Scollay	New Secretary

**Item 1 – Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Liz Dennison, Sandy Firth, Sheila Anderson, Stephen Jenkinson, Hugh Halcro-Johnston, Alan Corrigall, Jenny Campbell and Caroline Wickham-Jones. In the absence of Caroline Wickham-Jones, Elaine Clarke was in the chair.

**Item 2 – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 June 2012, and matters arising**

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Alice Lyall, seconded by Victor Muir. There were no matters arising.

**Item 3 – Chairman' Report**

The chairman's Report was read and adopted and will be circulated with these minutes.

**Item 4 – Treasurer's Report**

The opening balance of £566.34 was increased by £1,000 grant from OIC and there were expenses for the hire of rooms for four meetings, the subscription to orkney communities website and the secretary's honorarium. The production of new OLAF leaflets and a banner had cost £512. Total expenses were £1,098 leaving a closing balance of £468.77. This was accepted on the proposal of Alice Lyall, seconded by Ken Lawson.

**Item 5 – Election of Office Bearers**

Ms Wickham-Jones' resignation because of illness was accepted with regret.

**Elaine Clarke was proposed as chair by Victor Muir, seconded by Roddy Mackay and carried unanimously**

**Andy Knight was proposed as vice chair by Sandra Miller seconded by Simon Treasure and carried unanimously.**

**Barbara Scollay will become secretary to OLAF on the retirement of Bertha Mainland.**

**Item 6 – Amendment to the Constitution – Point III**

**Proposed:**

**To add "Scottish Kennel Club/Kennel Club to the list of organisations represented.**

Proposed by Sandra Miller, seconded by Anne Gascoigne and carried unanimously.

### **Item 7 – Post of Access Officer**

Mr Mackay had been overseeing the access duties since the departure of Stephen Jenkinson and is now more than ever fully aware that there is a full-time job there for an access officer. It has been decided to create two part time posts. The first will be concerned with repair and maintenance and based within road services. Interviews had been conducted last week. There are some formalities to be undertaken and the appointment should be announced very soon. Simon Butcher will be responsible for seeing that the work progresses and all queries should be passed directly on to him.

The other post will be concerned with the non-maintenance, the access aspects of the job. Interviews for this post will be advertised internally within the next month, the job description is currently being finalised.

There is still some doubt as to what this job title will be and how to contact the person. Roads Assets Manager has been suggested but members felt there was a need for Access to appear in the title. Both OIC and OLAF websites will need to have this information and staff at the One Stop Shop in OIC will need to be alerted. Assurance was sought that these are permanent posts and there will be strict scrutiny so that the workload and the finance stay firmly within Access. Members welcomed the progress being made and look forward to inviting both these persons to attend the September meeting of OLAF.

### **Item 8 – Minutes of meeting held on 27 February 2013 and matters arising**

Sandra Miller proposed and Ken Lawson seconded the adoption of the minutes and this was carried unanimously.

OLAF was represented at the **Enjoy Wild Orkney event** on 12 May with the new leaflets and poster being used.

The secretary had written to the local Territorial Army in appreciation of their repair of the bridge at Swannay. Concern was expressed at the lack of awareness of access issues amongst councillors. It was suggested that they be encouraged to attend OLAF meetings, particularly now when access matters were to be resolved.

### **Item 9 – Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall on Wednesday 25 September at 7.30 pm.

### **Item 10 – AOCB**

The chair noted with regret the death of Dr Tony Trickett who was a representative of the Hoy Trust on OLAF.

Scottish Water will be undertaking maintenance of water pipes which may be near to some core paths and lead to temporary restrictions on use of the paths.

At a recent NFU meeting concern was expressed at the ongoing problem of **dog fouling** and the risks of disease to cattle from this. Danger of going through fields of cattle was again highlighted and it was felt that the new access officer might have a role in raising awareness here. RSPB expressed the same concerns, as did the Orkney Tourism Group.

Members present have a wide range of knowledge of countryside topics and are fully aware of just how many tasks are ahead of the new access officer. This new officer will be sure of support and advice from OLAF.

Thanks were expressed to Ian Thain for leading tonight's walk and to the secretary for more than 20 years working with this committee. Members wished to convey to Caroline their thanks for 8 years in the chair and their very best wishes for her full and rapid recovery. The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.