

Minutes of the meeting of Orkney Local Access Forum and Countryside Committee

Wednesday 10 June 2015 at 8pm
Deerness Community Centre

Present:

Anne Gascoigne	Orkney Field Club/Vice Chair
Roddy Mackay	Orkney Islands Council
Simon Treasure	Orkney Tourism Group
Ken Lawson	Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
Barbara Scollay	Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Kate Townsend, Hugh Halcro-Johnston, Alan Leitch, Rob Crichton, Brenda Blunn, James Green and Ian Wilkins.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 April 2015

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Anne Gascoigne, seconded by Ken Lawson.

3. Matters Arising

- Members noted that the sea eagles had not had a successful breeding season this year but that it hopefully would be a learning experience for them and their presence had certainly generated a lot of positive interest.

4. Core Path Maintenance

It was noted that planned repairs at the Dwarfie Stane could now proceed as the Sea Eagles breeding had been unsuccessful this year. Discussion took place over the issue with the car park at the Standing Stones of Stenness with all hopeful that a resolution would be found soon. Thanks were paid to Ian for his due diligence.

Those who had made the visit to the Newark bridge were very impressed by its construction and design and commented that it had a very secure and well-built base and gabions on which to sit which ought to mean it lasts a long time. One question raised was why the sides were so high; Roddy to ask Ian about this.

5. Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy

Alan Muir's temporary post has come to an end and he has left OIC, leaving a gap in terms of the access work and other items; officers are looking to make progress on filling that gap. A date is still to be looked for in order to hold a workshop between OIC officers, elected members and partner organisations on the OOAS.

6. AOCB

As noted at the AGM preceding this committee meeting, Stephen Jenkinson resigned from the role of Chair on 18 May and a new Chair is still to be identified. Stephen will remain as a representative of The Kennel Club/Scottish Kennel Club on the committee. Elaine Clarke resigned as the Historic Scotland Ranger Service representative at the AGM and thanks were paid to her for her valued contributions over the years.

It was noted that Stephen was willing but unable to attend the RACE Parliament Day held recently in Orkney.

Anne and Simon will be attending the SNH networking event in Kirkwall on 17 June, Anne as OLAF representative and Simon as a representative of OTG.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23 September, 7pm at St Magnus Centre