

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

Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 7.30pm
Evie Community Room, Evie Primary School

Present:

Hugh Halcro-Johnston	Scottish Land and Estates
Anne Gascoigne	Orkney Field Club, Vice Chair
Ken Lawson	Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
Jan Blatchford	Orkney Archaeology Society
Ross Irvine	Orkney Islands Council
Ian Wilkins	Orkney Islands Council
Cllr Leslie Manson	Elected Member of Orkney Islands Council, Chair
Cllr Steve Sankey	Elected Member of Orkney Islands Council
Simon Treasure	Orkney Tourism Group
Barbara Scollay	Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Iain Talbot, Ian Robertson, Roddy Mackay, Liz Dennison, James Green, Sian Evans, Alan Leitch and Victor Muir.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 August 2016

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Hugh Halcro-Johnston, seconded by Simon Treasure.

3. Chair's Report

Leslie noted the successful adoption of the access strategy, and that Ross was ensuring the forum's oversight. Leslie was delighted that the Council had engaged Ross for a further year and expressed his desire that OLAF continue to push for permanency of the post. Important outcomes on a range of access issues where no resolution had been found previously have been seen, and having a full-time access officer has meant that face to face meetings with landowners and complainants has been possible and Ross has had just the right attitude and personality to tackle matters and reach successful outcomes.

In finishing, Leslie noted that due to his commitments as recently-elected Depute Leader of the Council, he would be resigning from OLAF and Steve Sankey was ready and willing to become the new elected member representative on the forum, pending the approval of a report recommending this to the Development and Infrastructure (D&I) Committee. This is necessary as the elected member representative on the forum is normally a member of the D&I Committee but Steve does not sit on this committee.

4. Treasurer's Report

Copy statement attached to the minutes.

Barbara explained the budget position and the proposal for future funding from OIC, which is to provide top-ups to OLAF's balance of up to £2,000 per annum, with a cap on the balance held of £3,000. This will ensure there are sufficient funds to operate but limit the amount held and being rolled-over each year.

Barbara noted the extremely useful representation and networking achieved by the Vice Chair attending the Annual Joint National Access Forum/Local Access Forum event and hoped that the forum would continue to support representation at this meeting.

5. Election of Office Bearers

Chair – Steve Sankey accepted the nomination after being proposed by Hugh Halcro-Johnston and seconded by Simon Treasure.

Vice Chair – Anne Gascoigne accepted the re-nomination after being proposed by Simon Treasure and seconded by Ken Lawson.

6. AOCB

A suggestion was made to utilise some of the forum's funds to take ownership of the Walk Orkney website and Ian, Jan, Simon and Ross will explore the potential of this and bring back findings to a future meeting.

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