



Minutes of Meeting Held at 18:30pm on 19 August 2024 in HQ

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Access Forum

19/08/2024

Present.....	1
In Attendance – National Park Authority staff.....	2
Apologies	2
Items and Actions.....	3

Present

Don Milton (DM) Chair
Chris Smith (CS)
Sue Riches (SR)
David Fettes (DF)
Andrew Clark (AC)
Grant Dolier (GD)
Falcon Frost (FF)
Rachel Taylor (RT)
Emma Sandhu (ES)
Calum Langdale (CL)
Sheena Foster (SF)
Kira Samide (KS)
In Attendance – National Park Authority staff
Sue Hilder (SH)
Matt Buckland (MB)
Dave Robinson (DS)
Ayeasha Temple (AT) Minute taker
Apologies
Paul Prescott (PP)
Guy Keating (GK)

Items and Actions

Item 1: Welcome and apologies

DM welcomed all and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Apologies received from Paul Prescott and Guy Keating who is on secondment for 6 months with the Scottish Government.

Item 2: Introductions and any Declarations

Round table introductions with a brief description of each person's background for the new members.

FF Declaration as he is Gamekeeper/Deer Stalker at Glen Falloch Estate.

Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising/actions

Minutes approved and actions complete.

DR gave an update on who is responsible for the Rob Roy Way signage; he advised that there is not one organisation who has responsibility for upkeep of the signage.

Members to advise SH/AT on their preferred time for site visits, evening or afternoon. **ACTION AP/1**

Item 4: Brief feedback on recruitment process

There were 9 applications received and scored by the Access Team and the Governance Manager, the top 4 applicants have been selected and have now joined the Forum.

DM - Congratulations to all members

Item 5: An overview of Visitor Operations – Matt Buckland, LLTNPA Visitor Operations Manager

SH introduced MB who gave an overview of his role and on the Visitor Operations Team. Areas he covers include:

- Ongoing work on the interactive map
- Working with Communities
- Visitor Management groups covering 4 areas
- Some visitor infrastructure
- Visitor flow and safety
- Loch Lomond Byelaw review
- Camping Byelaws – due for review every 10years

MB offered to email round a blanked-out work plan to members – ACTION

Members had a discussion on the Interactive map, car parking and a lack of funding for communities.

Kira Joined the meeting 19:10 and gave a brief introduction to the Forum.

Item 6: Post-site visit discussion and future site visit planning

DR gave a brief overview of the obstructed core path at Gartmore which is a live case. He discussed the next steps in this case, including Legal action that may follow.

DR advised that the landowner has been made aware that he can ask the LLTAF to provide independent advice. This sparked a discussion about how this service might be better advertised to other land managers, with the Forum agreeing that this option needs to be better advertised.

SF suggested that the NFUS newsletter has scope to advise their members about how to contact the LLTAF if they have an issue.

DM/SH – to prepare a few paragraphs and send to SF – **ACTION AP/2**

The Forum discussed the benefits of having regular site visits and the option of visiting a case that has now been resolved to help with training.

Item 7: Access team update + Q&A, incl. National updates, as follows

Core Paths

SH advised the Forum that GK is on a 6-month secondment and the Access team will not have a replacement. No change at this point in the year. There is a small capital budget of £5,000 which is likely to be used for signage and small-scale infrastructure such as replacement gates.

Core Paths and Private Level Crossings

The NPA has received a directive from the Scottish Government requiring Access Authorities to review their Core Paths Plan in the light of a new legal position. This indicates that core paths that cross private level crossings are no longer considered legitimate, the implication being that they should be removed or diverted. Only one core path in the National Park is affected – at Tyndrum Lower Station – and this short section of core path can be removed from the Plan without significantly affecting access to the wider network. However, there is an ongoing discussion with Network Rail and Scottish Government at a national level regarding alternative interpretations of the legal position, as well as further scrutiny of some specific cases in other Access Authority areas, so it may be advisable to wait for a national resolution before taking any action.

Updating of LAF Guidance

Nature Scot will have completed the refreshed guidance by the end of the calendar year.

Item 8: Site visit planning

DM advised the British Horse Society is running a number of online training sessions available to all LAF members over 4 evenings in October.

No update from SOAN as meeting in the next few weeks.

Lake Menteith site visit postponed due to limited number over the next 6 months.

Item 9: Any Other Business

There were no items of AOB

Signed

Don Milton, Chair

Actions

AP/1 Members to advise SH/AT on their preferred time for site visits, evening or afternoon

AP/2 DM/SH – to prepare a few paragraphs for NFUS Newsletter and send to SF