

ACHMORE AND STROME FERRY PATHS GROUP – NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20/03/2024.

Present – Colin Parsons, Chris Cartwright, Marion Howat, Claudia Weegan, Mhairi Macrae

Apologies – Mary Macbeth, Kath Smith, Iseabail Howat, Kate Biss, Rory Biss

PREVIOUS MINUTE AND ACTIONS ARISING	AMENDMENTS/UPDATES	COMPLETED	WHO	DATE
1. Previous Minute		Approved		
3. AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	TARGET DATE
<p>Action points from last meeting - <u>3.1.ii)</u></p>	<p><u>3.1.ii) Update from Fernaig Community Trust. FCT members</u></p> <p>See email from CP sent out at 20/03/2024 for update on FCT meeting with Forrest and Land Scotland (FLS)</p> <p>Meeting was last week with Alex MacLeod, Regional Manager for north Scotland, Mike Beveridge and Becky Milne local Foresters, and their Land Agent, Mr Ruairidh MacLennan. FLS are happy for FCT and Local Community to help with Footpath Maintenance but would want alerted in advance to any planned voluntary activity. CC suggested that if there was a planned activity to maintain paths, we should prepare a Risk Assessment for volunteers to read first. We were not sure if insurance would be required for such activity. Probably not, going by Scotways Guidance on right of way paths maintenance and from what Nic Boulivant’s input to the last meeting was. Alex Macleod re-iterated this at the meeting with FCT, saying that if a walker trips on say, a tree root while out walking, the owner of the land would not be held responsible for injury, while, if someone injured themselves on a broken gate or stile, the owner could be held responsible.</p> <p>He also said it would not be impossible for volunteers to use machinery (e.g. chainsaws) for path maintenance activity if they held a chainsaw ticket and insurance had been organised in advance. It was also noted at this meeting that neither Highland Council nor FLS would be</p>			

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	Stewart Eastaugh can attend the next meeting on 17 th April.	Completed		
3. Strome Woods Paths 3.3.i)	<u>3.3.i) Review of Forestry Commission and FCT Concordat for South Strome Woods.</u> See action point 3.1.ii)			
4. Portchullin to Strome old route 4.i)	No change	i) Hold on agenda		Rolling item
5. Rights of Way 6.i)	<u>6.i) Create List of Potential Sources of Funding - IH</u> CP referred to the list IH has produced listing the range of potential funding sources from small local ones (£50) to much larger ones. It was suggested we discuss sources of potential funding with Stewart Eastaugh. <u>ii) Signage – CP</u> We agreed that signage would be needed at both ends of the Strome to Achmore path over the hill. Organising signs and a new gate would be a good start to getting this path re-instated. These signs could include text from the Outdoor Access Code stating walkers were responsible for their own safety on the track. All planned signs would be shown to the landowner for their approval prior to being made up and we would also update landowner on liability and what they would and wouldn't be liable for in case of injury (i.e. only liable for any injury due to broken gates and stiles for example). Nic (Bullivant Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust & ex Countryside Ranger) had stated he had never come across any claims for injury on Rights of Way in his career so far and expected them to be extremely rare.	Discussion with Access Officer Discussion with Access Officer		Next meeting Next meeting

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<p>6. Strome Beach Track – 8.i)</p>	<p><u>8.i) Write to new contact for the landowners.</u> IH has written explaining volunteers would like to tidy this up if they have no objections.</p>	<p>i) Reply awaited.</p>	<p>IH</p>	<p>Update at next meeting</p>
<p>7. Sulky Road and other forest roads</p>	<p>i) Another possible volunteer project that would need discussed beforehand with FLC. It was noted that before we set up any volunteer activity, we would need to liaise with FLS first to alert them to planned activity and see what they would want us to have in place first.</p>	<p>i) Hold on agenda</p>		<p>Rolling item</p>
<p>8. Hall fees</p>	<p>Rather than all chipping in at each meeting we agreed that a different person each meeting would pay the Hall Committee Treasurer (Mhairi Macrae) either in cash or by bank transfer.</p>	<p>i) Payment to be made after each meeting to Hall Treasurer.</p>	<p>M Macrae for this meeting.</p>	<p>Every meeting</p>
<p>Date of next meeting</p>	<p>17/04/2024 – 7pm – Achmore Hall</p>			

Approved 17/04/2024