

**Countryside Access Forum
Thursday 30th June 2011
7pm Geosetter, Bigton**

Minutes

Present:

Alec Miller	Shetland Anglers Association
Abigail Robertson	Equestrian Association
Jonathan Duncan	Outdoor Access Officer, SIC
Ian Walterson	A.S.C.C (Chair)
Malcolm Johnson	Disability Shetland
Steve Mathieson	Visit Scotland
Claire Linton	SIC Administration (Minutes)
Jill Blackadder	Shetland Field Studies Group

Apologies:

Pete Ellis	RSPB
Austin Taylor	Heritage Manager, SIC
Paul Harvey	Shetland Amenity Trust
Sheila Johnson	Outdoor Access Officer, SIC

Welcome

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions.

Apologies

There were 4 apologies noted above.

Walk around Geosetter, Bigton

The forum walked around Geosetter, Bigton and had a look at bridges and stiles that had recently been put up.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were found to be correct and true. Proposed by Steve Mathieson, seconded by Malcolm Johnson.

SNH's recent decision not to send a representative to the Access Forum

SNH have now decided not to send a representative to any of the Access Forum's meetings, they have said that it is due to a shortage of staff and funds. Alec had a copy of the most recent SNH quarterly financial report and there were articles about the importance of outdoor walks. Jill is going to write a letter from the Shetland Field Studies Group to SNH to clarify why they are not going to be part of the forum anymore. **Action: Jill**

Update on the Viking Energy Windfarm Project

There is currently no update since the forum spoke to the Viking Energy representative Aaron Priest in March.

Update on the Core Paths Plan

There are 8 CPPs still to complete and they are as follows: You can also see the list at <http://www.shetland.gov.uk/conservation/ShetlandCountrysideAccess.asp>

CPPBT05 Symbister, Burra
CPPGQC07 Henie Track, Gulberwick

CPPN03 Access to Tingon
CPPN07 Urafirth to Urafirth Primary School Cycle Track
CPPSc01 Burwick, Scalloway
CPPTWW02 Hellister Loch, Weisdale
CPPTWW03 Scord to the Burn of Tactigill , Weisdale
CPPW04 Clate to Ward of Clett and Hevda Field, Whalsay

AOCB

Jill spoke about the access to the plantation at Voxter and that present access corridor up to the trees was in a state of poor repair. She also mentioned that it would be useful to look into the possibility of getting wheelchair access. Jonathan said that he had been in contact with Alan Ridland at Voxter about the subject of access in the past, and was hoping to speak to him in the near future about what could be done to improve the situation.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the forum is to be confirmed

Iain thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.