

**Countryside Access Forum
Wednesday 17th December 2007
Islesburgh Room 11 – Lerwick**

Minutes

Present:

Jim Henry	Councillor (Chair)
Ian Walterson	A.S.C.C
Simon Smith	Scottish National Heritage
Malcolm Johnston	Disability Shetland
Emma Georgeson	SIC, Planning
Sheila Johnson	SIC, Planning
Claire Linton	SIC, Administration (Minutes)
Pete Ellis	RSPB
Abigail Robertson	Equestrian Association
Debra Carr	Visit Shetland
Alex Miller	Shetland Anglers Association

Apologies

Sue White	SCFWAG
Maurice Henderson	NFU
Paul Harvey	Shetland Amenity Trust

1. Introduction and welcome

Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table and there are two new members.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Core Paths Plan

Emma started off by saying that 2007 has been a big year for feedback for the Core Path Plan (CPP) after the Summer Consultations. It was hoped that all the consultations and the draft of the CPP would be finished by Autumn but also of advice and suggestions have been given on how to improve it and certain routes had to be changed. Emma estimated that they are 3-4 months behind in making the CPP but we are ahead of other Local Authorities except Edinburgh. The formal 12 week consultation which is due to start in February 2008 is to be changed to a second consultation. Emma and Sheila will be making amendments to the current CPP draft so it is ready for the second consultation and it will also be available online. Emma showed an example of the formal consultation and said that. Simon mentioned that there needs to be more information in the blurb. There was some confusion about when the deadline for the draft CPP will be complete and it should be February 2008. Since Shetland is further ahead than other Local Authorities in completing the

CPP Emma and Sheila have more time to work on the draft before February 2008. Emma thanked everyone for all their help with the CPP. Alex asked if any environmental assessments have been done and Emma said she had done them. It was agreed that all landowners should be contacted if the CPP affects them. Emma and Sheila got a lot of landowners addresses at agricultural shows through the summer and they are also going to ask Community Councils if they have any contact details for landowners. Hopefully a list should be made in January. A student is coming to work with Development Plans over Christmas so they will be making up a database with all the landowners in Shetland by using details in the Community Council folders kept by Emma and Sheila, and by finding out new ones. Letters will be sent out to all the landowners and a paragraph in the letter will ask them to name any other landowners they think will be affected.

5. Objectives for the next year

Emma and Sheila put objectives for the next year on the agenda to get some ideas. Jim asked how much will be in the budget next year and Emma explained that it will probably be quartered and most of the money will probably be used for maintenance rather than new developments. Jim explained that the maintenance costs will not be the same every year. Jim brought up the section on the back on the agenda about health and wellbeing and asked if walks will be advertised. Years ago there were requests for walking leaders but it needing many volunteers and the interest is now gone but it might be something to look back into. Transport would also need to be linked into walks.

6. Appointment of officer bearers

Maurice Anderson is going to carry on being the Chair and Ian Walterson will now be the Vice Chair.

7. Dates, venues and times of next year's meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting should be on Thursday 21st February 2008 at 2.30pm and somewhere out of Lerwick. A disc will be sent out to everyone of the consultation so they can familiarise themselves with it before the next meeting.