

**Countryside Access Forum**  
**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010**  
**2pm Grantfield Conference Room, Lerwick**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Austin Taylor	Heritage Manager
Claire Linton	SIC, Administration (Minutes)
Alec Miller	Shetland Anglers Association
Sheila Johnson	Outdoor Access Officer, SIC
Ian Walterson	A.S.C.C (Chair)
Jonathan Duncan	Outdoor Access Officer, SIC
Abigail Robertson	Equestrian Association

**Apologies:**

Denise Woodford	Scottish Natural Heritage
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**Introduction, welcome & apologies**

Ian welcomed everyone and thanked Alec for chairing the last meeting. The above apologies were noted.

**Minutes of the last meeting**

Alec wrote a letter to Andy Strangeway the Island Man, about his query regarding wild camping on Mousa as discussed at the last forum meeting. Alec stated that as interesting as Andy's project is, in this instance there was nothing the forum could do regarding his problem with the RSPB. He has written back surprised that the forum didn't have more power and he asked for the minutes of the last access forum meeting. Alec included the RSPB in the letter and will send Andy minutes of the last meeting. Alec approved the minutes and Austin second.

**Windfarm**

Ian asked about the windfarm application timescale. Austin attended a meeting and they are aiming for mid May for the addendum but it could be longer. The addendum will be a slimmer document than the one before.

**Printable Versions of the Core Paths Plan**

Austin said that Jill asked about printable versions of the CPP. Austin asked one of the technicians to make a printable version and Sheila added that they are also available on CD's.

**Shetland Local Development Plan**

The Development Plans Department are currently having a consultation period for their Main Issues Report (MIR), which has been extended to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2010. Sheila asked if the response would be from individual groups or as a forum? It was decided that we should respond with a general response from the Access Forum rather than separately and that it should be a general reply given that access didn't seem to fit into one particular issue. Alec said that as long as they are not planning to build over current access

routes there shouldn't be a problem. Sheila would be happy to do a collated response similar to the windfarm consultation. This would need to be done the last week of May so it was all ready for submission. It was thought the forum would not need to meet again regarding this and Sheila can send round the collated response to everyone before submission.

### **AOCB**

Alec spoke about an article he saw in the Orcadian about their access forum and an open meeting they are having about what they are going and have done. Ian said that it is now lambing season and there are usually complaints coming in so it would be good to get something in Landwise reminding dog owners to be careful. Sheila has put a few articles into Landwise in the past and agreed to submit one for the next Landwise on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May.

Sheila introduced Jonathan Duncan to the forum and he will be working part time with Sheila as an Outdoors Access Officer.

Abigail asked about checking for horse paths. Sheila said if you have any paths that are good for horse riding and if they are new routes then they can be added to the CPP when reviewed. Abigail said that there is a gate at the back of the stables that is closing too fast for someone to get through on the back of a horse. It was decided that Abigail would get more advice from the contractor.

### **Dates, venues and times of next year's meetings**

Ian said that meetings are quarterly and when needed. In the Summer time we can go out somewhere for a site visit. Next meeting will be in July and night time will be better for a site visit. No date set yet.

Ian closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.