**South Ayrshire Local Access Forum**

**Minute of Meetings**

**on Wednesday 22nd February 2023.**

**Council Chambers, Ayr Town Hall**

**Present: Apologies:**

Colin Clark Colin Mair

Angus Craig Jenny Fergusson

Cllr Ian Davis Janice Kirkpatrick

Cllr Craig Mackay Iain Gairns

Euan Terras

Neil Feggans

Robin Wilson

Mike Hazlewood

Dougie Graham

Clive Stacey

**Attending:** Rachel Shipley, Outdoor Access Officer

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| **No** | **Item** | **Action** |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9.  10.  11.  12. | **General Meeting**  **Welcome and Apologies**  Colin Clark welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.  Apologies were intimated as above*.*  **Minute of General Meeting on**  Minute was proposed by Euan Terras and seconded by Colin Clark. Minute was adopted.  **Forum Report**  CC read report submitted by Colin Mair.  All Forum members agreed Colin had done an excellent job as Chair and were very grateful for his contribution.  **Forum officer bearers/ members**  All members present confirmed they are content to remain as members for the next term.  RS will check with other members who were not present at meeting, if they wish to continue as members.  Chair – NF proposed and ET seconded Colin Clark as new Chair. CC accepted.  Vice-chair – RW proposed and DG seconded Neil Feggans as Vice-chair. NF accepted.  **Business Meeting**  **Minute of meeting on 16.11.22**  Proposed by ET and seconded by AC. Minute was adopted.  **Matters Arising**  NE Troon active travel/ public routes within/ through the site  Cllr CM – re. disconnect at burn paths, had discussion with planner about which builder got the levels wrong, thereby preventing the bridge being built and to try to get enforcement to resolve issue. Developer has applied for variation to consent, so possibly use this application to include bridge build.  DG – core path to Deveron Rd needs gap create in 2 stone walls: an important path around the development to Struthers Primary School. Condition allows for certain number of houses completed before core path route reinstated. Cllr CM advised that 750 houses competed, but layout has been changed.  Troon LCN  Dundonald Road by Marr College, cycle route underpass.  MH asked if route being used by buggies. CC confirmed that is being used, and that line of sight is better after path widened. MH will raise matter with Keiran Gallagher (golf section) to advise golfers of responsible use, by note on golf cards.  **Access Terminology (NF)**  Scotways now intends to refer to “access rights” rather than “right of responsible access”, which implies only those exercising access rights have to behave responsibly, whereas land owners/managers have to be responsible too. The Act explicitly refers to “access rights”, not a “right of responsible access” The “right of responsible access” is only mentioned (twice) in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Court cases have referred to the “right to roam”, which could imply the public has the right to take access over any land.  The NAF has also debated the use of the terms “access takers” versus “access users”. The word “takers” possibly has a more negative sound to it, and may annoy landowners more than necessary!  **Paths Maintenance Update**  River Ayr Way waymarkers – have quotes, awaiting funding update. Still in depot, as funding an issue. East Ayrshire using same waymarker design. Arranged meeting with Tourism to discuss re-design and printing of leaflets.  Lady Hunter Blair trail, Straiton – have arranged site meeting with forester to discuss required works, condition of some trees and what work needs done to safely re-open the Path.  Old Bridge, Blairquhan, Straiton – temporarily closed due to vehicular damage, awaiting surveyor’s report. Until re-opened, can’t use Church Walk as a circular route.  Smugglers Trail – have quotes for replacing sign at Crosbie Church, will arrange contractor  Burnside Path – seeking quotes for improvements to stabilise burn bank, so halt erosion of path  **Outstanding/Completed Local Access Cases/Access Enquiries**  Discussed various cases on the datasheet.  **AOCB**  MH – July 2024 the Royal Troon Golf Club will host the Open. This will involve closure/ restriction on public access rights at various locations/ times. R&A will request section 11 exemption order(s) for the event.  **Next Meetings**  RS to arrange a site visit for Form members. Possibly Smugglers Trail/quarry link road site, contact Hillhouse to discuss.  17th May 2023  16th August 2023.  15th November 2023  **Finish** | *RS*  *MH*  *RS*  *RS* |

RS 29.03.23