

Sunart Paths Network

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 January 2018

Present: John Jones (Chair); Izzy Baker, Eilidh Ann Philips, Gill Wilson, Sheila Wilson, Sue Metcalfe, Sheila McKenzie, Jean Campbell, Robert Dunn, David Barker

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies from Morag Jones.

2. Appointment of Secretary

Noted IB would in future not be able to provide full secretarial support to the Group as her current contract and hours coming to an end. SMcK agreed to take minutes for meeting.

3. Update on Funds Spent and Funds Available

IB tabled a statement of Income and Expenditure for the group to 2018. Noted that total income was £5,500 with outgoings of £3,036, leaving balance of £2,463.93. Noted this meeting would help determine how the balance of monies could be spent on future projects.

4. Current Projects

Ardnastang Beach: It was noted that the Access Officer had looked at the path and whilst it was looking good some work still required to be carried out. There were two options going forward – pay contractor or get a group of volunteers together to work on section below the part already completed which required to be dug out and filled with terrain and stone. JC read out statement from Murdo Campbell offering to carry out digging and drainage works free of charge. This would include using digger to drain path and filling in with membrane and stone. Chair on behalf of the Group proffered thank you to Murdo for his generous offer.

There was some discussion about future parking. The possibility of using spaces at hatchery and charging a small sum discussed. Agreed to monitor whether there was an issue pending any final decisions.

Action Points: RD to speak to Andy Goodison re agreement to carry out works; JC to speak to MC re a date and information on how many volunteers he would like to assist on the day of the works; JJ to speak to Men's Shed about new sign.

Longrigg Burn: It was noted that some further working days were required as parts of the path had become a mud bath and the bridge had gone. Work would largely involve moving stone to fill in holes. Agreed dates for working groups as follows:

7 April

12 May

2 June

all from 10.00 till 1.00 or until work completed or people had enough.

Action Points: IB to put notices about working days in De tha dol? and on notice boards. IB will also email members of the Group about the dates.

Hotel Path: Noted that the work to the path was standing up well and it was generally good underfoot. No further work required at this stage. However noted that path to compost site had a few hollows and needed dug out and some stone put in. RD, DB and JJ agreed to deal with this.

Action Points: RD, DB and JJ to set date to carry out work.

5. The Old School Plot

There was a discussion about creation of a new footpath from plot leading into Phemies. It was noted this would be expensive and would require a contractor. In terms of raising funds it would be hard to justify if there was already a path there. There was also some discussion about the dimensions of the plot which are not clear.

Action Point: JJ to speak to Forestry Commission to obtain exact dimensions of plot.

There was a discussion about the possible creation of a new path on the river from the church to the schoolhouse plot. It was agreed that this was a longer-term project which could perhaps begin with some clearing of the land in the autumn when the wood could be used for the village bonfire.

Action Points: IB to propose a date and time for the potential route to be walked.

There was further discussion on walk up to the Fairies Road. Noted that seat at top was broken and that gate into Fairies Path was gone. EAP will look at situation with regard to seat in her work capacity. Agreed probably a Community Council issue rather than for this working group.

6. Leaflet Project

The Group looked at the Paths Around Strontian leaflet developed some years ago. All agreed that it was a good leaflet and it would be good to produce something similar with updated map and information. CGF may be a possibility for funding or alternatively by charging a small amount for each leaflet the on-going printing of the leaflet could be self funding. Noted IB's contact is map illustrator and publisher and would be able to advise on potential costs of doing map.

Action Point: IB to speak to contact about cost for drawing map for potential leaflet. EAP to check with Highland Council ok to use leaflet as base for new leaflet.

7. GPS Mapping

Noted that this had not really progressed since agreement to allocate funds to it from CGF monies.

Action Point: IB to follow up with Karl Bungey.

8. Any Other Business

SW raised issue of Tom a Sithien path. Agreed to carry forward discussion of this to next meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 15 May 2018