

**Caithness Local Access Forum**  
**Action note**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015**  
**The Ross Institute, Halkirk.**

**Chair – Chris Hobson**

<b>Present</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Chris Hobson (CH ), Chair – Land Manager David Glass (DG) – Community Group Ben McGregor (BM) – Access Taker/User Willie Mackay (WM) – Landward Member Elena Koponen-Baikie (EK-B) – Community Group	Kirsty Rosie (KR) – East Caithness Countryside Ranger Traylan Peat (TP) – Access Taker/User, Caithness Disability Access Forum (CDAF) Matt Dent (MD) – Access Officer Alex Macmanus (AM) - Clerk

<b>Item</b>		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  William Bruce – Community Group Marina Swanson – Caithness East Ranger Alan McVeigh – CDAF Susan McVeigh - CDAF	
<b>2</b>	<b>Notes from meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>  Amend – Site Visit – visited the broch and long cairn. Not the long broch and loch broch.  Amend – MS. – Three string barbed....to.... (CA15.16). Should read – ‘a 3m high fence has appeared on route from Ackergill to the Tower. I have investigated this and TEC’s erected the fence. Matt has been informed.’  Crosskirk - MD ‘has replaced’ remove and add MD ‘will be replacing.’  Agreed by DG, seconded by CH	
<b>3</b>	<b>Action points from 2 above not covered in agenda</b>  <b>Halkirk to Sibster path</b> – CH would speak to Cllr Gillian Coghill to see if support would come from Halkirk Village Council. Believed that the Forestry Commission would be supportive. MD would make contact with Cllr Coghill to get her input on the landowner’s thoughts. <b>ACTION</b>  <b>Jessan’s Bridge</b> – Landowners now known. Suggest that the Castletown Community Council (CCC) take this forward. CH would contact the CCC Chair and brief her and follow up with an	<b>MD</b>

	<p>e-mail.</p> <p><b>Ormlie Moors</b> – WM would speak to Inspector Clasper on 30<sup>th</sup> November about the concern being raised over motorised vehicles on the moors. CH would also contact Pentland Housing for their views.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b></p>	<p><b>CH</b></p> <p><b>WM/CH</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Caithness Disability Access Panel (CDAP) report - TP</b></p> <p>Last CDAP meeting was held in the cottage at Newton Hill woodland. Notes from meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> October to be sent out to CLAF members.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p>CDAP now have a web site - <a href="http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/caithness-access-panel/">http://accesspanelnetwork.org.uk/caithness-access-panel/</a></p> <p>MD has been auditing paths for the CDAP using the Paths for All grading guides - <a href="http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pathgrading">http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pathgrading</a></p> <p>A questionnaire will be prepared for local businesses to complete to upload onto the new CDAP website.</p> <p>Three members had a guided tour around Caithness House and were pleased with what they saw.</p> <p>New high school campus would be looked at at the end of February next year.</p> <p>MD would try to obtain a copy of the Ross &amp; Cromarty leaflet on paths.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p>Next meeting will be in Wick at PPP on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016</p> <p>A joint meeting with other area Disability Access Panels is due to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016.</p>	<p><b>AM</b></p> <p><b>AM</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Local Access Officers report - MD</b></p> <p>Ackergill – fence at play park to be investigated.</p> <p>Suggest members have a look at Highland Council PDI Committee minutes to familiarise themselves with works that have been approved for Caithness. E.g. steps at Reiss Golf Course car park onto beach</p> <p>SSE Spittal sub-station – No planning required for works being carried out. Public should have access to core paths.</p> <p>New properties being planned 20m from cliff top on north coast. MD has made comments.</p> <p>Braemore – May look at a site visit in the Spring.</p>	

	<p>Crosskirk – Due to visit tomorrow with work being done on the bridge. Owner of the east and west land is the same person.</p> <p>BM – Scrabster to Quarry path has a locked gate. MD would make contact with landowner.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Date of meetings and venues for 2016</b></p> <p>Date set as 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 with venue still to be decided. No other dates were set</p>	