



NORTH OF SCOTLAND LDWA COMMITTEE – MINUTES FROM MEETING OF JANUARY 12 (held via Zoom)

Present: Andrew Thacker (AT), Graham Smith (GS), Julie Cribb (JC), Bea Jefferson (BJ), John Henderson (JH), Pete Mitchell (PM).

Apologies: Jan Adamson (JA), Margo Forbes (MF), Lorna Sproates (LS).

Matters from minutes of last meeting not dealt with elsewhere

Presentations to former committee members: GS reported that AT had made a presentation to Dave Galloway, for his service to the committee, at the pre-Christmas walk and meal on December 11. It had been hoped to have a presentation to Rikky Beck, who has also stepped down from the committee, but she could not attend the walk and meal. It was agreed to do this at the next group walk on January 29.

Updating group header and logo on website: JC reported that there had been a delay but this would be done by the national IT team as a matter of priority.

Heldon Hill Challenge: JC is passing admin for this event to AT.

Social Walks

JH reported that the group has a good programme, with a wide variety of walks, until September. The walks are on the website, most of them will appear in Strider, and they will be promoted on the group's Facebook page. JH reported that Moray Mountaineering Club is planning a traverse of Lairig Ghru in September as the club's Bus Meet programme is being restarted. Bus Meets are due to run from April to September, and members of our group can attend these meets and are likely to be asked to pay £10-£15 per trip. Pick-up times are 7am Elgin, 7.20am Forres, 7.40am Nairn and 8am Inverness.

BJ reported that, with the group walk from Fochabers on January 29, it might be an idea to arrange for the Moray Way artist in residence to appear (*but BJ was later in touch with her and was told she feels that Fochabers area isn't a good representation of the work, so this is unlikely to go ahead*).

Laich O'Moray 50

JH had checked the Lossiemouth tide tables and it was agreed that the event will be held over the weekend of October 7-8, with a marshals' walk over the weekend of September 23-24. The group AGM is usually held around this time in September and it was agreed that we would have to move the AGM should there be a marshals' walk.

AT will be able to send details of the event to Strider and we will need to publicise it.

Walking Festivals

BJ reported that Moray Outdoor and Walking Festival is being held between June 16-26 and we have a walk taking in part of the Dava Way on June 18, led by Mary Atkinson. This could be included in the festival and marketed to potential new members as a taster, which would involve somebody putting details on the festival website and being the contact point. Mary would be the best person for this – but she would need to feel happy doing it, so she would need to be contacted.

PM reported that the Ghost Train Walk, which is part of the Moray Outdoor and Walking Festival, will be held on June 24-25, with entries opening shortly. Several group members are likely to enter.

GS reported that there was a new contact – Jayne Preece - for Inverness Walking and Wheeling Festival, taking place between May 22-28. GS plans to represent the group at an open day for participating organisations, provisionally scheduled for Saturday May 20. As previously reported, JA has agreed to lead a taster walk on May 27 and GS is in touch with her about this.

Speyside 100

JC reported she had been in touch with Cairngorms National Park Authority, and she and JH were due to meet with a senior officer to discuss the route on Thursday January 19. JC did not anticipate any problems with holding the event.

The SP100 will have an Environment Officer – the first time that an LDWA Hundred will have had such a post - as it is planned that the event will be as carbon neutral as possible.

Date for the next meeting of the SP100 organising group is now being finalised. This is likely to be early in February.

Beach of Dreams

GS reported that he had been contacted by three members of London LDWA – Martyn Howe, Peter Aylmer and Ali Pretty – about this huge project which is planned to see teams of walkers hike the entire coastlines of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland in 2025. Martyn is looking for people to identify sections of the coast which can be comfortably walked in a day and he is seeking LDWA help and support at national and local levels. GS has helped by identifying sections of the coast between Inverness and Castleton, just beyond Dunnet Head, which can be walked in a day. GS reported that JC (as national LDWA chair) and current Local Groups Secretary Karen Pickersgill were being approached for help and support. He said he would keep the committee informed.

Any Other Business

BJ reported that Moray Local Access Forum was appealing for members, and she wondered if anyone from the group would be interested.

GS said that he would produce the group's Spring Newsletter in February and he appealed for contributions from committee members.

AT suggested that we may like to hold a face-to-face committee meeting some time this year, preceded by a walk.

Date of next meeting

This will be on Thursday March 2 (again via Zoom).