

## Scottish Borders Access Forum

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2014 (4-5.30pm)

Old Gala House  
Scott Room  
Galashiels

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - William Davidson (Chair)
  - Walter Douglas (National Farmers Union Scotland)
  - Anne Fraser (British Horse Society Chair)
  - David Langworth (Melrose Paths Group)
  - Neil Mackay (Scottish Borders Council Senior Access Officer)
  - Beryl Masson (British Horse Society)
  - Erica Niven (Scottish Borders Council Access Ranger)
  - Douglas Wright (Central Tweeddale Paths and Scottish Rights of Way Society)
2. Apologies / Absent
  - Ian Aitchison (Scottish Land and Estates)
  - Denise Carmichael (Paths to Health coordinator)
  - Bill Coombes (Forestry Commission Scotland)
  - Susan Kevan (Scottish Borders Council Access Ranger South)
  - Rory Powell (Buccleuch Estates Bowhill Ranger)
  - Keith Robeson (Scottish Borders Council Senior Countryside Ranger)
  - Councillor Ron Smith
3. Minutes of last meeting of Access Forum
  - 3.1 please note p2 of the previous minutes: Police Scotland arranged to meet with the landowner, not the other way round
4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
  - n/a
5. Access issues
  - 5.1 **Rachan:** EN reports to the group that the works discussed at the last access forum are underway. However, there are reports from the community that there are signs up that point recreational users away from the pond. The BAF group would like this to be checked out, their decision did not promote misleading signage.
  - 5.2 **Gascoigne Farm:** EN has visited this farm after a ramblers group complained of confusion between open land and garden ground and an incident with the farmer. The layout is different because of the relatively new farm-steading so a map needs to go to the ramblers group showing the route off the hill.
  - 5.3 **Broughton to Biggar railway:** the farmers' railway committee made contact with EN in order to undertake joint maintenance works. There are still horses on sections of this route which appear calm and assuming but there are still some complaints coming to EN regarding aggressive horses. The farmers' committee have intimated that they would like to see the horses removed.
  - 5.4 **Cademuir Farm:** EN reports that there has been lambs killed on this farm by dogs (DNA tested at the Bush Loan laboratories). EN is working with landowner

and shepherd regarding this repeat incident. Due to the proximity to the town there is a lot of pressure on this area.

6. Paths for health update  
6.1 see attached

7. A.O.B

- 7.1 **Cavers:** BM reports that her neighbours have been approached aggressively in this area. The protagonist informed them that he had received a warning from the police but he still had to check for paedophiles.

7.2 **Access ranger post:** NM updated Forum on the vacancy of Access Ranger (Berwickshire). Internal secondment only. Hope to appoint early June.

8. **Date of next meeting:**

~~Tuesday 4 November~~

**Re-scheduled to Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**2-4pm Committee Rm 3, SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells**