

Fife Access Forum Meeting Minutes

Thursday 30th April 2026, 7-9pm, at Michael Woods Leisure Centre and online

Attendees: Robbie Blyth, FCCT, Chair (RB); Catherine Wilson, Senior Access Officer (CW); Marjory Wood, FCCT, minutes (MW); John Stewart (JS); John Andrews (JA); Jim Taylor (JT); James Adam (JAd); Kirsty Nairn (KN); Brian Cruickshank (BC); Roslyn Paris (RP); Ranald Strachan (RS). Brian Dewar (BD) and Beryl Leatherland (BL) attended online.

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

RB welcomed all and gave apologies from Neil Sutherland, Ian Wilkinson, Jan Kerr, Cllr Allan Knox, Cllr Louise Kennedy-Dalby. KN is from Fife Riding Club; RP from St Andrews Links Trust (SALT); BC from the Fife running community; BL is a community rep from Limekilns; BD is a member of Ramblers Scotland and from Aberdour. RS (from SALT) attended for agenda item 5.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the online meeting of 12 March 2026 were proposed by JS, seconded by JT and therefore approved.

3. Declarations of Interest

CW is in the team reporting on the Freuchie path but as she has no vote on this Forum there was no conflict of interest.

4. Matters Arising

Actions from the last meeting were completed by MW and RB. RB contacted Disability Sport Fife who are hoping to have a representative attend the Forum.

5. Voting of new members

Roslyn Paris – proposed by RB, seconded by JT.

Kirsty Nairn – proposed by JS, seconded by JAd.

Brian Cruickshank – proposed by JT, seconded by RB.

Brian Dewar – proposed by RB, seconded by JS.

RB said it was really good to have more representation from various bodies and thanked those for attending.

6. St Andrews West Sands Code of Conduct

RB congratulated SALT on their hard work over the past 15 years to protect the dunes at West Sands and to educate and engage with people. It's a very well run beach, that is free for everyone, and a huge success story.

RS presented the proposed content for the new Code of Conduct signage at West Sands, as part of his consultation on this. Since 2016, SALT has been more active in managing West Sands beyond the highwater mark. The Code of Conduct sets out what SALT's behavioural expectations are from the public. It is advisory and part of wider public engagement: SALT Rangers are on duty seven days a week to engage with the public about issues like camping and parking.

BD said the Code of Conduct looked really good. There was discussion about some of the detail in the Code of Conduct, which RS noted. For example, BL suggested a 15mph speed limit rather than 20mph and RS agreed. Some Forum members thought the language could be a bit stronger by, eg, removing the words 'if possible' and beefing up the section on dog control. KN, as a horse-rider, explained that riders only want to ride on wet sand and that they do attempt to pick up horse dung in the car park and approaches to the beach. There was discussion around whether the public would actually read this detailed sign. CW said the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) access team hand out business cards containing bullet points on key issues, such as fires, which are working well as an aid to educating the public. RS said NatureScot still need to approve the content, which will also be used in social media.

RB proposed the Forum approved the Code of Conduct content, with the minor changes suggested and made by RS. Agreed.

7. Freuchie Right of Way

CW said the Freuchie Right of Way report was brought to Fife Council's North East Fife Area Committee on 22 April. A decision was postponed until the next committee on 17 June to allow for a site visit and looking at drone footage. RB noted this item had been discussed for 2 hrs.

8. Dovecot Park, Glenrothes

CW reported that unfortunately the gates are locked again and she has emailed the football club again. RB said, in his capacity as Forum chair, he would write to Fife Council who have issued the lease to the football club. **Action:** RB to write to FC.

9. Kilconquhar Loch Core Path - P227/01

CW reported that the North East Fife Area Committee approved the decision to permanently divert the core path, on condition that the new path is widened and the wall finished. The diversion will now be publicised by FC legal team for 28 days. As long as there are no comments, the diversion will be implemented when the conditions are in place.

10. Fife Core Paths Update

CW reported there are 24 open cases and a further 24 ongoing, low priority cases. In total 30 are on core paths. The Right of Way at the waterworks at the Tay Bridge is a complex issue and conversations are ongoing with multiple landowners. JA commented on the really impressive stats and how cases must have been getting solved.

11. Declarations of Interest

As an example, RB been asked to sit on the Westfield working group (potential conflict of interest), to involve rerouting the Fife Pilgrim Way (managed by FCCT). It was agreed that Declarations of Interest are to be a standing agenda item moving forward at forum meetings.

12. Fife Coast and Countryside Trust staffing update

CW said she has handed in her notice at FCCT and is staying on part-time until mid-June to work with FCCT's new Access & Recreation Manager who starts on 1st June. Discussions are taking place at FCCT about recruiting to her vacant role. RB thanked CW for her work and said that in a short space of time she had 'moved heaven and earth' and would be missed.

13. Section 11 and Closure Notices

CW reported. See Appendix 1 to this minute.

14. Updates from Forum members

All were invited to introduce themselves/provide an update. RP has just joined SALT and is tasked with making the new sustainability strategy operational. JS reported the ongoing issues of countryside litter and fly-tipping. In response to a comment from JA about core paths data, RB said the Forum has to be very careful about data protection and CW said there is a FCCT data and privacy statement (currently on email signatures). BC has served as president of two Fife running clubs and organises trail runs on some FCCT routes. BL raised the issue of fast cyclists using the steep path from Limekilns to the A985 Admiralty Road, which was discussed at a community council meeting. People have complained to the local councillor about the cracked tarmac, but in fact this helps people avoid slipping especially in icy weather. **Action:** BL to send information and minutes of this meeting to RB who will look into this.

15. AOCB

JT asked about the Halbeath gates and CW said no update. JT asked about the Harperleas kissing gate. **Action:** JT to send What3 Words of its location to RB so it can be looked at. JA has used the Limekilns path BL referred to and says there is little signage. RB will look into that. BD reported a large beech tree that looks like it could fall on the core path P731/01. **Action:** RB said it's on private land and an attempt will be made to identify the landowner. BD reported flooding issues on the road by Otterston Loch near Aberdour. **Action:** RB to talk to Transportation Services. RB received an email about a core path in Jamphlars Place, Cardenden, which was resurfaced by the community but is being used to access a field leased by Fife Council. FC has asked the Forum to look into solutions. **Action:** RB to investigate solutions.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Thursday 9th July 2026, 7pm – 9pm at Michael Woods Leisure Centre, Glenrothes, and online [details TBC].

List of actions:

- RB to write to FC about their tenant closing the gates at Dovecot Park, Glenrothes.
- BL to send information about the Limekilns to A985 path, and minutes of the CC meeting, to RB who will look into this issue and check there is enough signage.
- JT to send What3Words location of Harperleas Reservoir gate to RB.
- RB to attempt to identify the landowner of the beech tree on core path P731/01.
- RB to talk to Transportation Services about flooding on road at Otterston Loch.
- RB to investigate solutions to tenant using Jamphlars Place path.