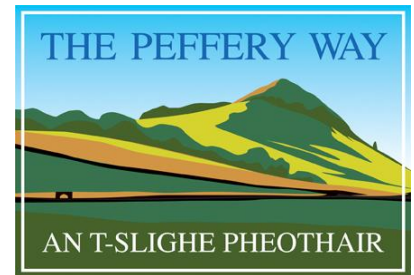


**PEFFERY WAY ASSOCIATION (PWA)
NINTH ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING (AMM)
TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7:00PM
TO BE HELD IN THE HIGHLAND HOTEL, STRATHPEFFER**



**COMBINED CHAIR AND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT
COVERING THE PERIOD 30 NOVEMBER 2023 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2024**

Summary

This year which spans the period 30 November 2023 through to 30 November 2024 has been quite different for the PWA. In previous years, we have normally carried out major construction works and while we completed some improvement construction works at the very beginning of this year, our main focus has been on two things: maintaining what we have already built and addressing the outstanding permission to complete the one remaining part of the path at Millnain Croft.

Maintaining what we have built

Our approach to this has been to hold regular maintenance days on the last Saturday of each month. Heather and Kev Crockett have organised these sessions for us and we are very grateful to them for all their hard work. These days allow us to address various issues like cutting back overgrown vegetation, installing benches, clearing ditches and many other necessary jobs. As in previous years, we have been very lucky with the strong levels of support we have seen from members and volunteers turning out in all types of weather to help. If you would like to join us as a member or would want to attend one of our maintenance sessions simply as a volunteer, then please let us know. We send out regular emails and Facebook posts advertising the events. All are welcome.

Obtaining permission to build the one remaining section of path

This has been the key focus of our efforts this last year and we have made some good progress but we are not quite there yet.

The landowner at this one remaining section of the path, continues to refuse to let us construct the path across his croft along the route we wish to use. As he has refused to speak to us, we have enlisted the support of the Highland Council. The Local Access Officer has met with him on a number of occasions but unfortunately has not been able to reach any agreement with him. We have now been left with no choice other than to call on powers available to the Council under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. These powers allow the Council to promote a Path Order. This Path Order is a compulsory order and, if confirmed, would allow the Council to "create and maintain" a path across the land in question. Promoting such an Order takes a lot of time and effort, however we are pleased to say that during November 2024, a draft Order was eventually served on the landowner. As the landowner objected to the Order, the matter has had to be submitted to the Scottish Government for Scottish Ministers to determine. To allow Scottish Ministers to consider the matter fairly, they appoint a person called a Reporter to review the submissions by both sides and then give both sides the opportunity to be heard.

At the end of January 2025, the Path Order was formally submitted to the Government. Since then, the Reporter has been considering the matter, asking for various pieces of information and he has now held a site inspection at which all parties were present. He will

now consider all the information he has received and will prepare his report. Once he has done so, it will then be submitted to the appropriate Minister for a decision. How long this might take is difficult to judge but we are hopeful that we will have a decision before the Government enters the formal period of 'purda' prior to the next Scottish elections which will be held in May 2026. 'Purda' will start around mid-March 2026.

As soon as we hear the outcome of this process, we will publicise the matter.

Improving the section of path at the Strathpeffer end

The first section of the Peffery Way to be built was the one at the Strathpeffer end. It was completed in 2017. The work was carried out by Highland Council on our behalf. While this was a great start for us, this section was built to a narrower width and didn't come all the way back to the Strathpeffer end leaving a short muddy section at the start of the path. In the early days of 2024, we revisited this section and widened the path and extended it back to the start, addressing the muddy section. This work was completed by Highland Conservation with the majority of funding coming from a Scottish Government grant. We also received an award from the HC Ward Discretionary Fund and we are very grateful for both of these.

Funding and financing support

Over the course of this year, we have continued to receive funding from a number of different sources.

Details are given below:

SRDP/IPA Scheme	£11,200
THC Ward Disc Fund	£2,550
Donations/Gifts	£3,206

All of these grants, donations and gifts are very welcome and we are very grateful for the support given.

Annual Accounts

Please note, the accounts of the PWA can be viewed on our website – www.pefferywayassociation.scot

The accounts for the latest year, to November 2024, have already been approved and registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Chris Monckton

We rely very heavily on the hard work and support of all our trustees. So, it was with a good deal of sadness that we accepted the resignation of Chris Monckton from the board. Pressing family issues meant that he was no longer able to devote as much time to the PWA. Chris has been a tremendous support to the team and can turn his hand to any maintenance task. We are all sorry to see him leave us but wish him and his wife Ann, all the best for the future.

Once again, we would like to say thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. It really is appreciated by all the trustees.

Ron McAulay (Chair) and Ian Searle (Treasurer)

September 2025.