

CORNWALL COUNCIL

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held at Trelawny Room, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY on Tuesday 26 July 2011 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:- James Scobie (Chairman)

Adrian Bigg, Gill Derryman, Terry Faull, Chris Ferguson, Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Jane Kiely, Robert Osborne, Councillor Paynter, Graham Ronan, Joy Thomas, Patricia Thomas, Duncan Thurnell-Read and Jeremy Varcoe.

Also in attendance:- David Attwell – Principal Countryside Officer
Rowena Brebner – Democratic Services Officer
Vanessa Davis – Legal Advisor
Mike Eastwood – Countryside Access Team Leader

Apologies for absence:- Julie Bate, Councillor German, Councillor Lugg, Robin Moore, Councillor Shakerley and Peter Tunstall-Behrens.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/1 It was moved by Graham Ronan, seconded by Roger James, and

RESOLVED that James Scobie be elected Chairman of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum.

The Chairman thanked the Forum for his election and paid tribute to the previous Chairman, Graham Ronan.

Graham Ronan, outgoing Chairman thanked Members and Officers who had been involved with the Forum for all their work.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

(Agenda No. 2)

CAF/2 It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Terry Faull and

RESOLVED that Julie Bate be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/3 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/4 In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were expressed:-

- I. **James Scobie** - a Member of the County Landowners Association (CLA), Past President of CLA in Cornwall, CLA representative on Cornwall AONB partnership, owner and occupier of property beside a public footpath and near the coast, occupier of property with public footpaths on it and near the coast and as a Member of the National Trust
- II. **Nicholas Jeans** - a Member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, a Member of the Country Landowners Association, Membership Secretary of Truro Running Club, involvement in the management of a Private Trust property on the North Cornwall Coast
- III. **Jeremy Varcoe** - Vice-Chairman of the Camel Valley and Bodmin Moor Protection Society, a Member of Stop Davidstow Wind Farm Alliance and Parish Councillor for Egloshayle Parish Council
- IV. **Jane Kiely** - a Trustee for the Tamar Valley Trust and Footpath Secretary for the Plymouth Ramblers
- V. **Patricia Thomas** - a Member of the County Landowners Association (CLA)
- VI. **Joy Thomas** - Chairman of the Stithians Parish Structure Plan Steering Group
- VII. **Adrian Bigg** - Chairman of PAROW, BHS Cornwall Access Officer and member of West Penwith Bridleways Association
- VIII. **Gillian Derryman** - Member of the British Horse Society and British Driving Society
- IX. **Terry Faull** - Member of Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust and of the British Agricultural History Society. Associate of Mary and Michael Pilgrim's Way and author and speaker on historic countryside and access issues.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2011

(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/5 It was moved by Duncan Thurnell-Read seconded by Roger James and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 24 May 2011 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:-

- a) CAF/179 - Declarations of Interest i) Duncan Thurnell-Read was a member of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and not Cornwall Protection for Rural England

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- b) CAF/179 – Declarations of Interest ii) Jane Kiely was a Trustee for the Tamar Valley Trust and not Tamar Valley Centre
- c) CAF/185 – Forum to Ratify the Response to the Review of Statutory Duties placed on Local Government – The response had been prepared by Terry Faull after consulting the views of the CCAF Members and not the Coastal Access Group
- d) CAF/186 – Solar Farms – Forum to consider establishing a position statement – a) should refer to the 'feed in' tariff and not 'feeding tariff'
- e) CAF/189 – Coastal Access Working Group – the first sentence should read 'James Scobie gave an update on the Working Group which had discussed by email and telephone ...' in lieu of 'James Scobie gave an update on the Working Group which had met to discuss...'

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA

(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/6

1. CAF/ 181 – Matters Arising other than on the agenda a) CAF/169 – Update on the Strategic Review of Countryside Services and Public Rights of Way

In response to a Member's question the Countryside Access Team Leader stated that he would circulate the reports which were approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2011. He apologised that this had not yet been done.

2. CAF/184 – Update on 1SW Cycle Project

In response to a Members question the Democratic Services Officer agreed to enquire when the public consultation would take place.

Arising from the above Jane Kiely advised that she had some Tamar Trails leaflets available for Forum Members which had not been available at the last meeting. The Chairman congratulated Mrs Kiely on her work with the Tamar Valley Trust.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/7 The Chairman advised that information had recently been circulated to the Forum relating to a consultation on the town and village green registration.

The Legal Advisor stated that Cornwall Council would be submitting its own response through liaison with the Commons Registration Officer. It was agreed that Nicholas Jeans would collate Forum Members' views and comments relating to this and formulate a response. This would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON NATURAL ENGLAND - PETER BOWDEN

(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/8 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Peter Bowden. Mr Bowden thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

- a) The details of the restructuring of Natural England
- b) The newly restructured 3 tier Higher Level Stewardship scheme
- c) Some of the issues faced on Carnyorth Common some of which were highlighted in the report of the CCAF Moorland Access Working Group following a site visit on 15 December 2010. Some of the suggestions made by the group had been addressed for example, gates. New signs had been produced and would shortly be erected on site.

During discussion reference was made to the following issues:-

- I. Controlled burning
- II. The choice of breed of cattle grazing on the land
- III. Some of the cut paths were narrow which could pose a problem if users were faced with cattle in a confined area
- IV. Educating users of the land in the countryside code

The Chairman thanked Mr Bowden for his presentation.

UPDATE ON CORNWALL COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES - DAVID ATTWELL

(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/9 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting David Attwell, Principal Countryside Officer. He thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

- a. the service had been reorganised and restructured with a view to maximise interaction between the different elements of the service and provide a more joined up approach in the service delivery
- b. there were many challenges facing the service particularly in view of the budget cuts but by working together more effectively it was hoped that progress would be made
- c. the changes were significant and this should be borne in mind by Members

In answer to comments made by Members, the Forum was advised that the Council was looking at pragmatic ways to approach community and volunteer working in accordance with the Council's policies and good practice. A long term approach with long term commitment was needed.

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The Chairman thanked the Principal Countryside Officer for his presentation and invited him to attend a future meeting to report on progress.

DEFRA WHITE PAPER ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - COLIN HAWKE

(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/10 The Countryside Access Team Leader gave a presentation relating to the DEFRA White Paper on Natural Environment 'The Natural Choice Securing the Value of Nature' and proceeded to outline some of the elements contained within the document.

LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIPS

(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/11 The Countryside Access Team Leader gave a presentation relating to Local Nature Partnerships. The Principal Countryside Officer advised that Collette Holden, Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager, would be happy to attend the September meeting and provide further information.

RED TAPE CHALLENGE - BIODIVERSITY, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, LANDSCAPE, COUNTRYSIDE AND RECREATION

(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/12 The Countryside Access Team Leader gave an overview of the Government's Red Tape Challenge and suggested that Members of the Forum put forward their views with individual responses.

It was moved by Chris Ferguson, seconded by Nicholas Jeans and **RESOLVED** that at this stage the Forum does not submit a response, but that individuals put forward their views independently via the website.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP, FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TRAINING

(Agenda No. 14)

CAF/13 The Chairman introduced the report which outlined the appointments made to the Forum on 26 July 2011.

Consideration was given to the proposed future meeting dates.

A training session would be held on 27 September 2011.

During discussion reference was made to the following:-

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- a) suggestions for site visits to be held at a Tramway near Redruth, another AONB and/or Wheal Martyn, China Clay trail
- b) a suggestion that training take place for new members prior to the AGM in July 2012 in order to hold a site visit in the morning of the September meeting

It was moved by Nicholas Jeans, seconded by Terry Faull and **RESOLVED** that the Forum:-

- i. Noted the new appointments and re-appointments to the Forum;
- ii. Agreed the following dates for future meetings:-

Tuesday 27 September 2011 2pm, Council Chamber, Truro, TR1 3AY

Tuesday 22 November 2011 2pm, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR1 3AY
*site visit AM

Tuesday 24 January 2012 2pm, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR1 3AY

Tuesday 20 March 2012 2pm, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR1 3AY

Tuesday 22 May 2012 2pm, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR1 3AY

Tuesday 17 July 2012 2pm, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR1 3AY *
provisional date

- iii. noted that a training session would be held on 27 September 2011
- iv. Agreed that a letter be sent to the former Chairman, Graham Ronan formally thanking him for his work with the Forum.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPOINTMENT TO WORKING GROUPS

(Agenda No. 15)

CAF/14 The Forum considered the report of the Secretary's Representative relating to the Annual Review and Appointments to Working Groups.

It was moved by Jane Kiely, seconded by Roger James and **RESOLVED** that:-

- 1. The Coastal Access Working Group continues with the following members: Councillor Shakerley, Julie Bate, Jane Kiely, Jeremy Varcoe and Peter Tunstall-Behrens
- 2. The Moorland Access Working Group continues with the following members: Julie Bate (taking the lead of the Group), Jeremy Varcoe, Adrian Bigg, Chris Ferguson and Nicholas Jeans

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4. The OS Mapping Working Group continues with the following members: Adrian Bigg, Roger James, Jane Kiely, Gillian Derryman and Patricia Thomas
5. the Chairman be given authority to appoint ad hoc working groups between meetings, where appropriate, after expressions of interest have been sought from all Forum members.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF FORUM'S CONSTITUTION

(Agenda No. 16)

CAF/15 Vanessa Davis, Legal Advisor identified one suggested change to the Forum's constitution. This suggestion was accepted. A discussion relating to the Annual Report took place namely who produced and published this, and when. It was noted that an Annual Report had not been prepared for the 2010/2011 financial year and a suggestion was made that in future this should be considered and approved at the CCAF meeting prior to the AGM.

It was moved by Jane Kiely, seconded by Jeremy Varcoe and

RESOLVED

- i) that the following amendments be made to the Forum's Constitution:-
 - a) Paragraph 7- Meetings, 7.3 to read:- 'Copies of the agenda for a meeting of the Forum and copies of any report for the meeting shall be open to inspection by members of the public on the appointing Authority's Website and at the offices of the Appointing Authority on request at least 3 clear days before the meeting except where a meeting is convened at shorter notice...'
 - b) The date of the next revision be amended to read 2012
 - c) Paragraph 14.1 to read 'An Annual Report prepared by the Forum on its discharge of functions shall be published by Cornwall Council'
- ii) in future, the Forum's Annual Report to be approved at the meeting before the AGM and to be available at the AGM.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM

(Agenda No. 17)

CAF/16 The Chairman identified the following correspondence that had been received since the last meeting:-

- 1 Forestry Sales – draft letter (circulated 26.5.11)
- 2 Notice of application, The Commons Act 2006 – App 2770, the Old Chapel Site, St Austell (circulated 1.6.11)
- 3 Davidstow Wind Farm Appeal – draft letter (circulated 1.6.11)
- 4 NE Board Meeting (circulated 1.6.11)

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- 5 Notice of application, The Commons Act 2006 – App 2771, West
Rosedown Cottage, in the parish of Linkinhorne (circulated
1.6.11)
 - 6 Hidden value of nature reserves in groundbreaking study
(DEFRA) circulated 7.6.11)
 - 7 Red Tape Challenge – Biodiversity, wildlife management,
landscape, countryside and recreation (circulated 7.6.11)
 - 8 Natural Ecosystem Assessment (circulated 13.6.11)
 - 9 Additional Information on websites – Defra white paper on the
natural environment (circulated 14.6.11)
 - 10 Environment champions as Olympic torchbearers (circulated
15.6.11)
 - 11 Countryside Recreation Network E-zine - June 2011 (circulated
20.6.11)
 - 12 Independent Forestry Panel (circulated 30.6.11)
 - 13 Forestry Commission response letter (circulated 30.6.11)
 - 14 Monitoring of Engagement with the Natural Environment
(circulated 4.7.11)
 - 15 Minister says (horse) riders should be allowed to use cycle
tracks (circulated 5.7.11)
 - 16 NE Notification of withdrawal of restriction – ref 2011045887
(circulated 7.7.11)
 - 17 NE Notification of restriction – ref 2011045888 (circulated
7.7.11)
 - 18 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Proposed Diversions and
Stopping Up of Public Footpaths associated with the Cornwall
Energy Recovery Centre. Land at Restowrack Farm, St Dennis
(circulated 7.7.11)
 - 19 The Trails Trust - guide to the creation of a multi user public
rights of way (circulated 11.7.11)
 - 20 Processing of Planning applications - Public Rights of Way
(circulated 15.7.11)
 - 21 South East Local Access Forum Symposium notes (circulated
15.7.11)
 - 22 Physical Activity Guidelines (circulated 15.7.11)
 - 23 Amendment to restriction date Ref 2011035858 (circulated
20.7.11)
 - 24 Minister's letter on Cycleways (BHS website) (circulated
20.7.11)
- It was agreed that this item would be placed on the
agenda for the next meeting for discussion and
consideration.**
- 25 Independent Forestry Panel Newsletter (circulated 21.7.11)
 - 26 Consultation on the town and village green registration
(Circulated 26.7.11)

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS OF
URGENCY**

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(Agenda No. 18)

CAF/17 In response to a query by a Member, the Principal Countryside Officer agreed to provide a written report relating to progress made with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan at the November meeting of the Forum.

The meeting ended at 4.40 pm.

[The agenda and reports relating to the items referred to above are attached to the signed copy of the Minutes].