

CORNWALL COUNCIL

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held at Grenville Room, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY on Tuesday 17 July 2012 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:- James Scobie (Chairman)
Julie Bate (Vice-Chair)

Adrian Bigg, Terry Faull, Chris Ferguson, Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Jane Kiely, Robert Osborne, Paynter, Shakerley and Duncan Thurnell-Read.

Also in attendance:- D Attwell – Principal Countryside Officer
R Brebner – Democratic Services Officer
E Coad – Senior Democratic Services Officer
V Davis – Legal Advisor
M Eastwood – Countryside Access Team Leader
C Hawke – Forestry Officer

Apologies for absence:- Gill Derryman, Double, Lugg and Jeremy Varcoe.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/1 It was moved by Julie Bate, seconded by Nick Jeans and

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

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

(Agenda No. 2)

CAF/2 It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Shakerley and

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

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS AND OUTGOING MEMBERS

(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/3 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, in particular the two recently appointed Members of the Forum Peter Edwards and Robert Fraser (who was unable to attend due to a family holiday).

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
17 July 2012

He bid farewell to Robin Moore, outgoing Member and a previous Chairman who had served on the Forum since its inception in June 2003 and thanked him for all his hard work over the past nine years.

Mr Moore thanked the Members, Secretariat and Officers for their support over the years and wished them well for the future.

The Forum gave Mr Moore a unanimous vote of thanks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/4 There were no further declarations of interest made other than those registered.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2012

(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/5 It was moved by Terry Faull, seconded by Chris Ferguson and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 22 June 2012 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA

(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/6

CAF/110/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 22 JUNE 2012 MINUTES:-

- i) CAF/92 Andy England, Assistant Head of Planning and Regeneration
The Forum was advised that no feedback had been received from the Assistant Head of Planning and Regeneration following his visit at the May meeting.
- i) CAF/93 TRAC Project Update
The Forum received a written update from Steve Wood at the meeting and *it was agreed that a further update be received at the next meeting.*
- ii) CAF/96 Site Visit Discussion – Lostwithiel
The Countryside Access Team Leader advised that he would liaise with the relevant staff and Jane Kiely and discuss the suggestion of a circular walk.

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
17 July 2012

- iii) CAF/99 Moorland Access Working Group
Julie Bate gave an update and advised that she had contacted Chris Monk who was unable to assist at this time due to work commitments. It was difficult to know how to make progress if suggestions made by the group did not fit with the service priorities. *David Attwell advised that he would meet with the Moorland Access Group and discuss the way forward and report back at the next CCAF meeting.*
- iv) CAF/103 Paths For Communities
In response to a question relating to the level of uptake of the above scheme by Town and Parish Council the Countryside Access Team Leader advised that he was aware of 4 schemes although there were probably more than that. Julie Bate gave an update of the proposals planned for Shevioc Parish Council.

It was agreed that the email sent to Town and Parish Councils be circulated to Forum Members.
- v) CAF/104 CCAF and the New Countryside Code
The Countryside Access Team Leader advised that the press release would include photographs recently taken and could include information about the Paths4Communities scheme. *Progress with this to be reported by him at the next CCAF meeting.*

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/7 The Chairman made the following announcements;-

- 1) Regional Co-ordinator and Huddle
Training had been provided by Hilary Winter for the Huddle representatives: Mike Eastwood, Julie Bate, Peter Tunstall Behrens, Adrian Bigg and James Scobie.
- 2) Local Nature Partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
The formation of this was being noted. Terry Faull would be the Forum's representative.
- 3) Local Enterprise Partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
He had spoken to Colette Holden of the AONB about the importance of access in their response to the LEP draft management plan and they had altered their response to include this.
- 4) Natural England: proposed dedication under sec 16 Crow Act 2000 of some National Nature Reserves.

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
17 July 2012

Natural England were looking at each individual site, both those owned by NE and privately owned ones, to see if they were suitable for more access.

- 5) 1SW Cycle Project for Lanhydrock.
The National Trust (Rebecca Sullivan based at Lanhydrock) hoped that the planning application would be submitted in the next few days and that the work would be completed by October 2013.
- 6) Match funding for Paths for Communities
Section 106 money was viewed as public money and therefore not eligible as part of match funding. The same applied to monies from the Local Transport Plan and Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
- 7) SW LAFS meeting 3/7/2012.
This had been attended by Peter Tunstall-Behrens who had provided the following information relating to topics which had been discussed:-

Huddle There were problems with people not signing up due to onerous terms and conditions. There was a need for everyone to be able to use it to be really useful. DEFRA had been asked to commit funds to extend membership. There was an October deadline for staying on or passing your place to another person.

Expiring Permissive Accesses There were less of these due to the expiring Higher Level Schemes - when these ended there would be no money for landowners. A suggestion was made that LAFS should approach landowners to get them to agree to continue on a voluntary basis e.g. by 'Licensed Permissive Schemes' with public maintenance. There was the problem that NE and DEFRA would not share information on ownership involved so it was hard to identify who owners were.

Joint Strategic Assessment This idea from Wiltshire was for the gathering of evidence of the benefits of specific routes as this important information was often needed and statistics needed were not always provided by MENE.

Local Nature Partnerships LAFS should be getting involved as closely as possible (especially access that may generate business).

Small Grant Scheme A successful scheme was run in Wiltshire.

Sarah Litter's report on Defra public consultation on the proposed improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way

Sarah Littler had 20 years experience of Modification Orders whilst working for the Council, and was now a Member of the Somerset LAF who have 6,000km of paths. Wiltshire had a backlog of

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
17 July 2012

unprocessed applications mainly from horse riding groups. She was supportive of streamlining the process. Their response to the DEFRA consultation was much the same as CCAF's.

Trail Partnerships How can LAFs engage with the process. A Natural England representative had advised that funds would not be restricted and that it was up to Partnership to decide how to spend. LAFs should be an influence on Partnerships but not actually part of one.

- 8) Consultation by the Department of Transport about implementation of Penfold in respect of planning and highway consents.
He reported that Defra stated that the consultation currently taking place about Penfold and public rights of way would not be affected, The Consultation period ended 24/8/2012.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF FORUM'S CONSTITUTION

(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/8 Vanessa Davis, Legal Advisor presented the report relating to the Annual Review of the Forum's Constitution. The General Principles of Public Life as referenced in Cornwall Council's Code of Conduct for Members was circulated at the meeting for information.

During discussion particular reference was made to the following:-

1. the date the Annual Report was published and whether this should be included in the Constitution
2. reference to the Secretary and whether this should be from the Appointing Authority or an Independent person
3. reference to the frequency of meetings – the constitution stated that meetings 'were usually held twice a year' when in fact, meetings were usually held six times a year

It was moved by Terry Faull seconded by Nick Jeans and

RESOLVED That the following amendment be made to the Forum's Constitution:-

- a) Paragraph 7.1 be amended to read 'The Forum shall normally meet six times a year but additional meetings shall be arranged when necessary'

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP, FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TRAINING

(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/9 The Chairman introduced the report which outlined the appointments made to the Forum on 17 July 2012.

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
17 July 2012

Consideration was given to the proposed future meeting dates.

A training session for new members would be held on 25 September 2012.

During discussion reference was made to whether the training should include existing Members.

It was moved by Duncan Thurnell-Read, seconded by Roger James and

RESOLVED That the Forum:-

- a) noted the new appointments and re-appointments to the Forum
- b) Agreed the following dates for future meetings:-
 - Tuesday 25 September 2012, 2pm, Council Chamber, Truro, TR2 3AY
 - Tuesday 20 November 2012, 2pm, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR1 3AY
 - Tuesday 29 January 2013 2pm, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR2 3AY
 - Tuesday 19 March 2013, Trelawny Room, Truro, TR1 3AY
- c) Noted that a training session would be held on the morning of 25 September 2012 for new Members

ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPOINTMENT TO WORKING GROUPS

(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/10 The Forum considered the report of the Secretary's Representative relating to the Annual Review and Appointments to Working Groups.

During discussion reference was made to the title of the Working Groups and it was suggested that the following changes be made: 'Moorland and Open Access Working Group' and 'Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group'

It was moved by Duncan Thurnell-Read, seconded by Chris Ferguson 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 and Open Access Working Group continues with the following members: Julie Bate, Jeremy Varcoe, Adrian Bigg, Chris Ferguson and Nicholas Jeans;
3. The Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group continues with the following members: Adrian Bigg, Roger James, Jane Kiely, Gillian Derryman and Patricia Thomas;

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
17 July 2012

4. 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.

FORESTRY REPORT - COLIN HAWKE, PRINCIPAL FORESTRY OFFICER WILL GIVE A VERBAL PRESENTATION

(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/11 Colin Hawke, Principal Forestry Officer attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the recently published Final Report of the Independent Panel on Forestry as follows:-

1. 2011 Government Proposals
2. Summary – Trees are Good!
3. Woodland Culture for 21st century
4. New Ways of Valuing Woodlands
5. Trees and Woods – Good for People
6. the Public Forest Estate
7. Statutory duties, powers and functions
The Charter
8. Ministerial Response

During discussion reference was made to the following:-

- a) The opportunities for planting on a range of sites
- b) The need to retain food production land
- c) Forestry Planting Grants
- d) No reference was made to Tree Preservation Orders within the report
- e) The Forum welcomed the report

The Chairman thanked Mr Hawke for his presentation.

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY MID-TERM REVIEW

(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/12 The Forum considered the report, circulated at the meeting, of the Countryside Access Team Leader relating to a mid-term review (MTR) of the Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy which was building on the 'Strategic Review of Countryside Access' work that had been undertaken by the Forum.

During discussion reference was made to the following:-

- a) The pressures of budget constraints whilst ensuring the need for adequate resources
- b) the value of the Coast paths in terms of health and wellbeing
- c) Reference was made to this months copy of 'Country Walking' which made reference to the poor state of some Public Rights of Way in Cornwall – this was not good for the county

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
17 July 2012

The Principal Countryside Officer advised that they were trying to use a sustainable approach for managing the network of paths, that there were a high volume of issues and that a longer term approach was being taken.

It was agreed that this should be an item on the next agenda.

RESPONDING TO CUSTOMER LED ISSUES ON THE PUBLIC PATH NETWORK

(Agenda No. 14)

CAF/13 The Forum considered the report of the Principal Countryside Officer, circulated at the meeting, which provided information on dedicating and creating public rights of way. In view of the time constraints, the Chairman advised that the Forum would re-visit the topic at the next meeting.

POSSIBLE SMALL GRANTS SCHEME - VERBAL UPDATE BY JULIE BATE

(Agenda No. 15)

CAF/14 Julie Bate gave an update on the Possible Small Grants Scheme. The original pilot scheme was being put forward and discussions around funding were still underway.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM

(Agenda No. 16)

CAF/15 The Forum noted the correspondence which had been circulated since the May meeting.

The meeting ended at 5.00 pm.

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