

**CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM
(CCAF)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020**

Date: Tuesday 20 October 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Online virtual meeting

Present: Phillip Allen, Gerry Brain, Steve Church, Ross Durkin, David Ekinsmyth CC, Jim Flashman CC, Mark Hynard, Nicholas Jeans, Ester Kieboom, Stephen Wilson and Carol Wilson Wilson,

Also in

Attendance: Sarah Goodall (Democratic Team Leader)
Rob Andrew (Head of Environment Assets and Service Delivery)
Mike Eastwood (Countryside Access Team Leader)

Apologies: (Jacquie Merrick)

Minute no		Action by
CAF/2	Election of Chair for 2020/21 It was moved by Councillor Flashman, seconded by Nick Jeans, and RESOLVED that Esther Kieboom be elected Chair of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum for 2020/21.	
CAF/3	Election of Vice Chair for 2020/21 It was moved by Esther Kieboom, seconded by Nick Jeans, and RESOLVED that Ross Durkin be elected Vice Chair of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum for 2020/21.	
CAF/5	Minutes from the meeting held on 21 July 2020 It was noted that the record of the inquorate meeting held on 21 July 2020 was correct.	
CAF/6	Matters Arising (Not otherwise included in the agenda)	

	The Chair invited Stephen Wilson to address the Forum with his concerns on disabled access to the Countryside. A discussion was had regarding the merits of convening a bespoke working group on this topic or to ensure this was considered through all groups. Mr Wilson agreed to bring a proposal for a working group on Countryside Accessibility to the next meeting in January Cllr Flashman advised that the Cornwall Councillors Community Chest could be a source of funding for improvements to rights of way. The Secretary agreed to circulate details to Forum members. Nick Jeans commented that the minutes of the meeting should include a precis of any discussions. The Secretary acknowledged the point and further advised that the archive of the virtual meetings would be available for 6 years for future reference.	SG/SW SG SG
CAF/7	Chairman's Announcements Chairman thanked Forum members for attending the meeting virtually and advised that she was keen that the work of the Forum continue during these unprecedented times and that all Members felt included, despite working at a distance.	
CAF/8	Countryside Access Service Update October 2020 The Head of Environment Assets and Service Delivery gave an overview of the APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Review of Public Rights of Way (DMMO and PPO) Service report for Cornwall Council (attached to the agenda). He advised that initially progress on the recommendations had been hampered due to Covid, however good progress was now being made. An overview was given of the 5 key areas of the action plan and progress so far which were:	

	- Vision and Leadership; Head of Service was in place and additional funding secured - Agile, flexible team; role profiles reviewed, Senior Records Officer appointed and further recruitment for additional roles underway - Stakeholder Engagement; relationship with CCAF as a supporter and critical friend was highly valued and was a key part of the plans to move the service forward - Process reviews; aim to work leaner and reduce objections - Enhanced network; aim to attract external funding and improve the local maintenance partnership Following questions he clarified the following points: i) He was confident that the action plan could be delivered ii) Covid 19 had highlighted the importance of the countryside to the general public and its links to the wellbeing agenda iii) He cited examples of good working relationships with town and parish councils and organisations such as the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, the National Trust which had resulted in improved access iv) Plans were to consolidate a number of smaller improvements in order that they could be rolled into capital schemes and try to achieve a balance between safety and serviceability The Chair thanked the Head of Environment Assets and Service Delivery for the presentation.	
CAF/9	CCAF Membership Review The Democratic Team Leader (Regulatory) presented the report which outlined proposed changes to the membership number on the Forum and proposals to streamline the recruitment process.	

	During debate a number of comments were made, including; • Recruitment had previously been challenging due to a feeling of lack of influence on the decisions of Cornwall Council • The current membership enabled a large number of working groups to function • There was a lack of clarity around the membership of the working groups • Whilst non-Forum members could be co-opted onto a working group they would be eligible for travel expenses • The current membership was unwieldy for the formal meetings and it was difficult to keep in contact with all the members • More emphasis should be made on recruitment It was proposed by Esther Kieboom, seconded by Ross Durkin and RESOLVED that 1. The proposed streamlined process for appointing Members to the Forum as detailed in paragraph 1.7 of the report be endorsed. The Head of Environment Assets and Service Delivery to keep the Forum informed of the detail of the process and the progress made in appointing Members to the Forum. 2. A further report be brought to the next AGM of the Forum reviewing Membership following the improvements to the recruitment process.	SG/ME/RA SG
CAF/10	Working Group Updates The Forum considered the updates given by the Chairman or Representative of each of the following Working Groups and subsequently AGREED that the information be noted:	
	A30 Road Improvements Task and Finish Group	

	The scheme was progressing and the working group expected to be consulted on the final outcome to check how and if their input had been considered.	
	Carclaze Garden Village Task and Finish Group Councillor Matt Luke had spoken with the developer at Carclaze regarding connectivity concerns and rights of way.	
	Coastal Access Working Group The majority of the coast path access consulted on as part of the Government's major coastal access project had been agreed with the Secretary of State, however there were parts that were not yet agreed, possibly because of objections raised during the consultation. The scheme was due to be launched in 2020 but due to Covid this has been put back to 2023.	
	Consultation Response Working Group Concerns were raised regarding the lack of consultation with the Forum on larger planning developments. However views had been given on the Saints Trail (multi use) Newquay to Perranporth planning application PA20/05207. Comments had also been submitted on the AONB management plan.	
	Developing Parish Initiatives Working Group The mentoring scheme for Town and Parish Councils to encourage them to engage with the Local Maintenance Partnership had been launched and the first request for assistance and advice had been received.	
	Moorland and Open Access Working Group Not met this year, however a watching brief was being kept on the impact of both the new agricultural bill and	

	impact of Brexit on the moorland farmers and subsequent access.	
	Multi Use trails Working Group Covered under the consultation working group.	
	Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group A rights of way improvement plan had been shared with the Countryside Access Team Leader who advised that he would commit to reviewing the plan and giving feedback.	
	St Austell China Clay Mineral Permission Review Task and Finish Group Still waiting to receive a proposal from Imerys. Contact with the company will be reviewed once face to face meetings can take place.	
CAF/14	DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Orders) This new working group was the result of a split of the Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group. Carol Wilson agreed to lead the group and Steve Wilson volunteered to assist.	
CAF/11	Matters of Interest or Concern 1. The Chair asked the Secretary to circulate a copy of the current working groups and the current list to be circulated with the agenda for each meeting. 2. Councillor Flashman made a suggestion for a landowner Member to be approached, the Secretary agreed to make contact. 3. Councillor Flashman advised that Town and Parish Councils may be entitled to bid for CIL monies to improve countryside access. Phil Allen commented that the mining trails were	

	currently submitting an application for CIL funding.	
CAF/12	Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings The Forum noted the dates of future meetings.	

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.

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