



Minutes - DRAFT

Date: 28th July 2026
 Time: 13:00 – 16:00
 Location: NCH Grenville Room / Microsoft Teams
 Chair: David Cooper (DC)
 Vice Chair: Shelley Barratt (SB)
 Attendees: Jeremy Elvins (JE), Jim Hancock (JH), Susan Parker (SP), Carly Cosh (CC), Tim Passmore (TP), Donald Martin (DM), Phil Allen (PA), Jon Rowell (JR), Adam Chell (AC), Dave Wood (DW)
 Apologies: Cllr Karen LaBorde, Cllr Steve Webb

1. Welcome and Introductions

DC opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Path Classifications – Adam Chell / Dave Wood (presentations copied to members)

AC gave his presentation, outlining the designations of the Visitor Safety Group classifications (Wilderness / Countryside / Urban Fringe / Urban) and how they are now used to determine safety inspection frequencies for the rights of way network in Cornwall.

DC asked where the new mapping for the coloured routes is available – AC advised that these are on CAMS and are internal only at present, not available on the public mapping yet.

DC noted that the GSB classifications have already disappeared from the public mapping system and also that VSG seems to be based on physical location only rather than user activity / levels of use.

PA stated that LMP inspections for maintenance also flag safety issues, and that the most common safety issues are identified at the time maintenance happens. Members of the public are using paths

daily, so they are best placed to identify safety issues. It would therefore be helpful if there were little signs throughout the network prompting users to report safety issues and explaining how to do it.

AC responded that we could trial getting LMP volunteers to do a safety survey whilst doing maintenance - if this becomes reliable then inspection frequencies by Cornwall Council could potentially be reduced, but audit requirements would still require a minimum level of official inspections.

DC also noted that specific safety checks need to be done by people with specialist knowledge and training.

DM added that not all routes are subject to maintenance routines so those will always need specific safety inspections. This approach was initiated after advice from insurers over a decade ago.

DW then delivered his presentation on GSB vs VSG, explaining that LMP is the only operation that still uses GSB classifications. Since the new safety inspection frequencies came in around 2022, parishes have benefitted from the fact that LMP is independent of safety inspections, meaning there is increased flexibility to change schedules and grant funding levels.

DC stated that LMP should be parish-led as they know the paths in their area best, especially the rural networks, and asked how is the money going to be divided up by Parish when it switches to the new classifications?

DW advised that it will need a settled period to try and undertake the new apportionments. Currently there are 154 parishes on LMP and it would be good to go to the 12 CAP & Local Area Networks to try and increase this number. PA asked to be involved in the new distribution of funds exercise given his involvement with the networks.

DC noted that some parishes appear to have little or no interest in rights of way maintenance, but DW said all it takes is for a new parish clerk with different interests to be appointed and suddenly that can make a huge difference, e.g. St Cleer.

DC asked DW about the Capital Programme update – there is now a new webpage which includes this information, and the intention is to update the page quarterly as a minimum:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/countryside/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way-capital-programme-2026-2027/>

(link to pdf at the bottom of the webpage)

All members thanked AC and DW for their presentations.

3. Cormac Update – Don Martin (presentation copied to members)

DM talked through his presentation giving a summary of the 2025-26 year.

All members thanked DM for his presentation.

DM, DW and AC left the meeting.

4. AGM Business

As it was CC's first meeting, all members introduced themselves.

AGM Business:

- a. Previous AGM minutes (July 2025) – these have already been approved by the forum.

- b. Chair's Report – DC read out his report of the year. **AP26/3/1** – DC to send the report to TP for distribution to members.
- c. Election of Chair – DC is willing to carry on / no other offers received, therefore JE proposed, JH seconded, and DC was confirmed as Chair for the 2026-27 year.
- d. Election of Vice Chair – SB is willing to carry on / no other offers received, therefore JE proposed, JH seconded, and SB was confirmed as Vice Chair for the 2026-27 year.
- e. Presentation and Adoption of Forum Annual Report (Retiring Chair) – the report was distributed to members before this meeting and no comments or amendments were received. DC has made two minor changes (dates correction and a few typos) and will now sign the final version; the report is therefore formally adopted. **AP26/3/2** – TP to send the report to Natural England / check process with Jane Tomlinson.
- f. Constitution: Review and Adoption – no comments received so the forum formally adopts the new constitution. Proposed by PA, seconded by JH.

SB asked if there had been any interest from the Cornwall Council newsletter organisers in promoting / advertising for new members (TP advised that there was no response to his enquiry). JR suggested SB go straight to the newsletter organisers with a proposed small article to include, as it may receive a more favourable response coming from CLAF direct. **AP26/3/3** – SB to contact newsletter organisers. SB noted that remaining quorate is hard with current membership numbers. New Councillors need to be sought as well. DC will write to Democratic Services to request relevant members.

SB – the Youth Council meeting had a very helpful and interested councillor in attendance – Cllr Hilary Frank – who was really positive about SB's presentation. SB suggested it might be worth asking her to join as a member, and possibly also Loic Rich given he is the Portfolio Holder for Environment.

AP26/3/4 – DC to email Democratic Services asking if Cllr Frank and Cllr Rich would consider becoming CLAF members (or if not themselves, if they could recommend someone else).

5. Minutes of previous meeting.

Previous minutes – 28/04/2026 adopted, and approved unopposed (SP proposed and PA seconded)

Follow up on Action Points from the previous meeting:

- AP26/1/1 - Ramblers' submission to RoWIP – DC completed
- AP26/1/2 - CAP Report for Feock – ongoing (PA)
- AP26/1/3 – Contact with Youth Council – SB completed
- AP26/1/4 – Constitution Amendments before AGM – DC completed
- AP26/1/10 – Website updates – ongoing (DC/TP)
- AP26/2/1 - Capital Programme 2026-27 to be sent out – DW completed
- AP26/2/2 - Consult SWCP Association for new rep – DC completed
- AP26/2/3 - Send out declaration forms prior to AGM – TP completed
- AP26/2/4 - Surface standards / access points on mapping - completed
- AP26/2/5 - Mid Cornwall Metro – TP completed
- AP26/2/6 - MUT barriers / safety discussion – ongoing
- AP26/2/7 - A30/A38 access & links with MUT - completed
- AP26/2/9 - CLAF website domain – check payments - ongoing
- AP26/2/11 - CLAF Annual Report prior to AGM – completed

6. Changes to Membership / Appointment of New Members

Resignations received from: Rob Knill, Kay Driver, Cllr German

End of appointment tenure (and not continuing): Carol Wilson, Paul Rabbeth, Stephen Church

AP26/3/5 - DC to follow up with SWCPA to find alternative to replace Stephen Church.

Non-attendance resignations:

Martin Howlett responded to DC's email and apologised for not being able to attend CLAF meetings. He is too busy to be a forum member.

Jim Flashman hasn't responded to DC's email and hasn't attended any meetings for 18 months.

DC has been in contact with Paula Brunt and she has agreed to present at the next meeting for Disabled Ramblers (who will hopefully be able to suggest a potential new member).

JR suggested John Fitter (a now retired councillor) might be a useful member who is very interested in rights of way.

JE also suggested Matt Luke (Parish Councillor in Treverbyn) as someone who might be interested.

Declarations of Interest – PA and JE completed their forms in the meeting. All other members have submitted their forms via email.

7. PROW Team update - Jon Rowell

PROW Team update – Claire Chetwynd left the team earlier in the year and Julie Bate and Linda Holloway (Senior Enforcement Officer) have retired. Lucas Humphrys has been promoted to PROW Officer to replace Julie. Tim Passmore will now become Assistant PROW Officer to replace Lucas and a new recruit from the Planning Dept called Sophie has also joined the team, also as Assistant PROW Officer. We will advertise for a new Senior Technical Officer to replace Tim soon. JR will oversee all Enforcement cases going forward but PROW Officers will take the lead on individual cases.

Summary of year 2025-26, up to the end of March 2026:

- 38 new PPO applications, 29 consulted on, 22 decisions, 21 orders made, 11 of which had to be referred to the SoS for confirmation. For comparison, 22 decisions is a huge increase compared with 3 or 4 decisions per year in previous times. We are also actively seeking more new PPO cases, including more of the proactive cases from Cormac (in order to match up the Definitive Map with the walked and maintained route on the ground) and lots of work with JE for the Imerys project.
- DMMO applications – only 23 new applications (compared with 60-70 per year in the last few years), consulted on 49 (clearing some of the backlog from British Horse Society), made 22 determinations, and made 17 orders (compared with 2 or 3 made orders per year previously), confirmed 15 orders, and sent 4 opposed orders to the SoS. Backlog is now approximately 350 applications awaiting processing.
- Common Land registrations – 17 consultations, 8 decisions (at public hearing, whilst Cornwall Council remained neutral in all cases), 6 registrations in force, 15 opposed and scheduled for future public hearings.

JR highlights of the year:

- Public meeting held at Carlyon Bay for a PPO Diversion of a path that used to go through the middle of the hotel. Approx 200 people turned up, and it felt like there was a lot of opposition, but actually everyone was swayed by the arguments presented at the meeting. We made the order anyway and in the end nobody at all objected to it! Order now confirmed.

- Two Imerys open days held to present plans for the area. Very well received with lots of positive feedback.
- Pro-active work with Cormac for PPOs and expanding the remit of PPOs in general, to improve the route or fix other nearby issues/anomalies.
- DMMO applications being handled differently. Previously lots of time was spent processing the order and anticipating objections. Now we are more pro-active about speaking to landowners about the option of dedicating the route instead (to avoid the whole DMMO process) – e.g. HAD 318 St Issey FP16.
- A30 link road bridleway connections – Side Roads working group at CLAF was heavily involved in laying the foundations for the huge improvement to the network in this area, which has now come to fruition.

PA acknowledges the efforts of the PROW Team and is so pleased to see common sense finally prevailing. This has been the most positive and uplifting CLAF meeting that he has ever attended.

The Planning discussion is delayed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

8. Working Groups Feedback

PA (Mid Cornwall Metro) – the funding hurdle still exists but the opportunity is huge. DC said that in order to be proactive we should put together an advice note about what CLAF believes should be pushed forward.

Regarding developing links with Town and Parish Councils, it is now time to draw up a plan to take to the Partnership meetings; the aim should be to hold these meetings in Oct/Nov. JE noted that he always attends the Clay Area Partnership meetings.

ROWIP report to follow after DC & SB have had a call with Charlotte Evans on 31/07/26.

AP26/3/6 – SB to provide a RoWIP update to members in due course.

9. Cornwall Youth Council – Shelley Barratt

SB attended the Cornwall Youth Council quarterly meeting to try and address feedback originally received from the RoWIP responses by younger people. SB spoke to the Youth focus group on Transport, Access and Travel and her report was circulated to members in advance of this meeting.

Gabriel Orchard (YC Leader) hopes to be able to organise for a YC member to attend CLAF in future and possibly explore the idea of inviting schools to view the meeting as members of public. Cllr Hilary Frank is also hopefully keen to be involved. **AP26/3/7** – SB to follow up in Sept after the school summer holiday.

10. Correspondence to the Forum

Richard Bunt PSPO consultation (dog fouling, dogs on leads etc.)

- JR noted that Trevone beach has the SWCP running over it so there can't be a dog ban on the beach there.

- JE noted that permitted dog access to beaches is not mapped anywhere - this would be a helpful addition for dog owners.
- SB noted that she has never seen a dog warden anywhere – how are these rules enforced?

AP26/3/8 – DC to send a response as per above points.

Weekly Cornwall Council newsletter – a reminder to subscribe if you haven't already:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/sign-up-to-stay-in-touch/>

A30/A38 improvement project – comments received from JE and PA.

AP26/3/9 – DC to compile a response.

11. Any Other Business

CLAF Website – DC has made a few more updates and now needs to remove old members.

DC will upload the meeting minutes onto the website within two weeks of the meeting, so any feedback from members on the draft minutes needs to be provided as quickly as possible.

SB asked if it might be worth posting a recruitment advert for new members on the CLAF website? DC agreed to consider but is mindful that the number of page views is currently very low.

CC suggested The National Trust might be able to put a recruitment advert in their “Property” Newsletter which goes to all staff and volunteers.

AP26/3/10 – DC and CC to explore this further.

JE asked about the Glendorgal Hotel situation in Newquay. JR advised that a good DMMO application has been submitted but the applicant is reviewing the mapping evidence they have supplied. Currently approximately 120 UEFs have been submitted, but this number is still rising. Natural England are also involved regarding whether or not the land should be designated as coastal access land. Cornwall Council cannot enforce over any unrecorded rights of way until a determination has been made.

12. Time and Date of Next Meeting

- 27/10/2026 – 13:00 – 16:00

AP26/3/11 - TP to confirm room bookings and send out invite to members.

Action Point Tracking Table

Action Point ID	Brief Description	Assigned To	Date Completed
AP26/1/1	Ramblers' submission to RoWIP	PR→DC	01/07/26
AP26/1/2	CAP report for Feock	PA	
AP26/1/3	Follow up contact for Youth Council	TP/CE	26/06/26
AP26/1/4	Constitution amendments before AGM	DC/JR	01/07/26
AP26/1/10	Publishing CLAF docs on the CC website	TP	
AP26/2/1	Capital Programme 2026-27 to be sent out	DW	01/07/26
AP26/2/2	Consult SWCP Association for new rep	SC	01/07/26
AP26/2/3	Send out declaration forms prior to AGM	TP	01/07/26
AP26/2/4	Surface standards / access points on mapping	JE/AC	28/07/26
AP26/2/5	Mid Cornwall Metro – MUT case history	TP	14/05/26
AP26/2/6	MUT barriers / safety discussion – next steps	PA/DC	
AP26/2/7	A30/A38 access & links with MUT	JE	07/05/26
AP26/2/9	CLAF website domain – check payments	DC	
AP26/2/11	CLAF Annual Report prior to AGM	DC	01/07/26
AP26/3/1	Send Chair's Report to TP	DC	29/07/26
AP26/3/2	Send the Annual Report to Natural England	TP	
AP26/3/3	Contact Keeping Cornwall Updated newsletter	SB	
AP26/3/4	Email Democratic Services re new Cllr members	DC	
AP26/3/5	Contact SWCPA re new member	DC	
AP26/3/6	Provide a RoWIP update after meeting with CE	SB	
AP26/3/7	Follow up with Youth Council in September	SB	
AP26/3/8	Send consultation response on the PSPO re dogs	DC	
AP26/3/9	Compile response on A30/A38 project	DC	
AP26/3/10	Explore options re advert in NT 'property' newsletter	DC/CC	
AP26/3/11	Confirm room bookings for next meeting	TP	

Forum Membership (as at date of meeting):

<i>Landowner/ Manager Group (7)</i>	<i>User Group (7)</i>	<i>Others Group (3)</i>	<i>Cornwall Council (3)</i>
Jeremy Elvins Carly Cosh	David Cooper Shelley Barratt Philip Allen	Jim Hancock Susan Parker	Karen LaBorde Steven Webb

Working Group Members (as at date of meeting):

- Multi User Trails WG: Jeremy Elvins, Adam Chell
- Parish and Town Council WG: Phil Allen (Chair), Shelley Barratt, David Cooper
- RoWIP WG: Shelley Barratt (Chair), Jim Hancock, David Cooper
- Health and Wellbeing WG: Jim Hancock, Steven Webb,
- China Clay Area WG: Jeremy Elvins, Ollie Howe, Hannah Rodger