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**Date:** 17 January 2022

**\*\* Virtual Informal Meeting**

**North Somerset Local Access Forum  
 Informal Meeting via Microsoft Teams (due to Covid restrictions)  
 Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 6.00pm**

A meeting of the Forum will take place as indicated above. The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours faithfully

*N P Brain*

Assistant Director, Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer <sup>RMH</sup>

To: Members of the Forum

Councillors: Mike Bird, Ann Harley, Robert Payne

Independent Members:

<b>Rights of Way and Access Land Users</b>	
Nikki Barton	Jonathan Brownett
Sheila Dixon	Tina Hamilton
Julie Main (Chair)	Marianne McAleer
<b>Landowning Interests</b>	
Bernard Gray	John Harris
Richard Jones	Robert Parsons
Vacancy (National Trust)	Vacancy
<b>Other Interests</b>	
Gillian Hopkins	Peter McAleer
Rhiannon Robinson (Vice Chair)	Vacancy
Vacancy	Vacancy

**\*THE QUORUM IS SEVEN MEMBERS, WITH ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH INTEREST GROUP. IF SEVEN OR MORE MEMBERS ARE PRESENT BUT NOT ALL OF THE INTEREST GROUPS ARE REPRESENTED, THE QUORUM SHALL NOT BE MET (EXTRACT FROM THE NSLAF CONDUCT OF BUSINESS)**

**This document and associated papers can be made available in a different format on request.**

## **Agenda**

**1 Welcome and apologies for absence**

**2 Declarations of Interest by Members**

**3 Notes**

26 October 2021 (copy attached), to be recommended for approval as a correct record (to be ratified at the next formal Forum meeting)

**4 North Somerset Cycle Forum (Ben Searle at NSC)**

**5 Abbots Leigh Parish Council's Lost Ways Project (Kester Harris)**

**6 Secretary's Report**

- i. DMMO – Wraxall Permissive Bridleway (attached)
- ii. Felton Common (oral report)
- iii. Membership of the North Somerset Local Access Forum
  - a. Buddy System (attached)

**7 Access Officer's Report (oral report)**

- i. England Coast Path
- ii. Banwell Bypass WCH Engagement
- iii. Clevedon to Weston Cycle Route

**8 Chair's report**

- i. Control of Dogs on Public Rights of Way (attached)
- ii. Future meetings (oral report)

**9 Vice-Chair's report (oral report)**

**10 Sub-Committee Reports**

**11 Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting**

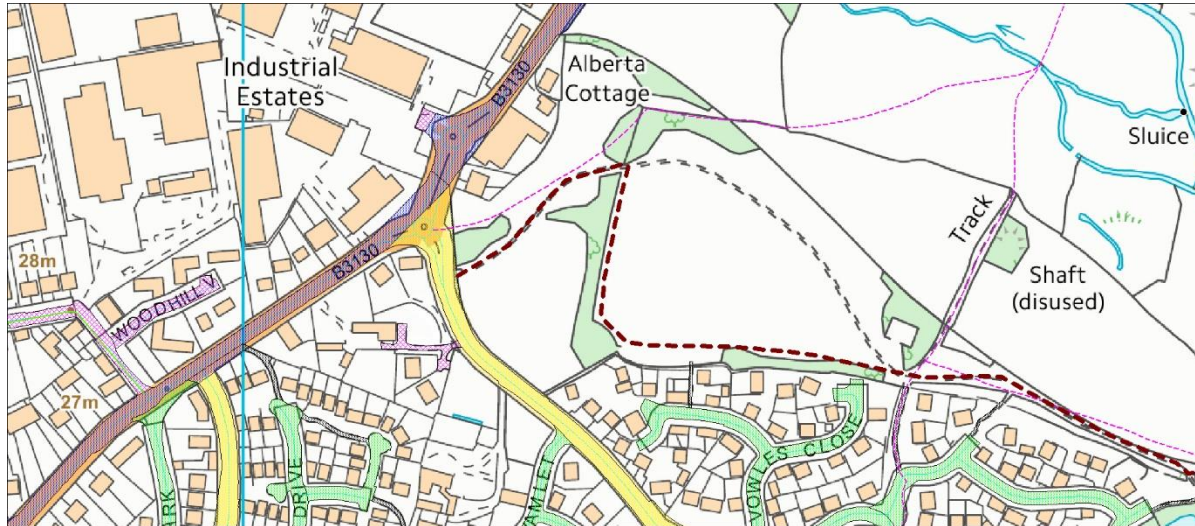
**12 Any other Business (notified to the Chairman by noon on date of meeting)**

**13 Dates of future meetings during the 2021-22 Municipal Year**

- Tuesday 19 April 2022 at 6.00pm

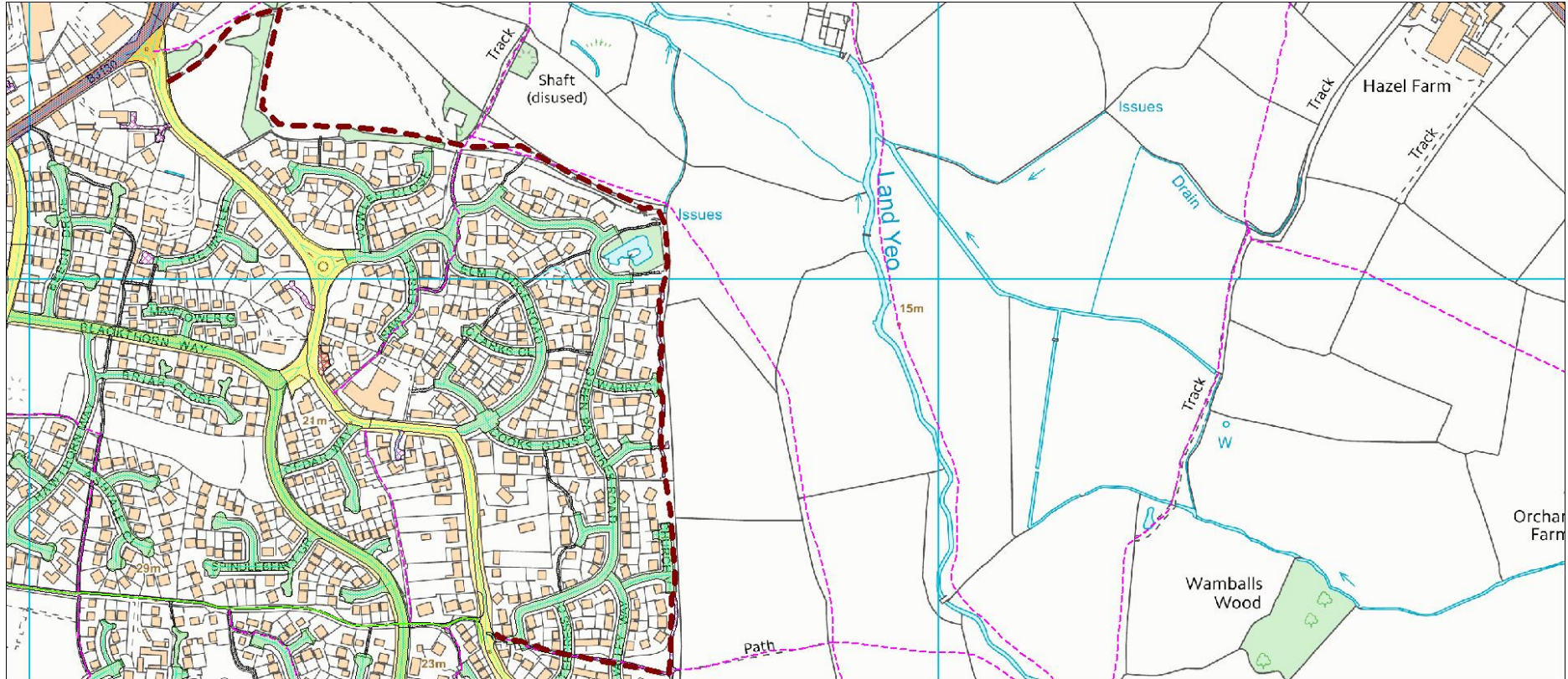
**Agenda Item 6 – Secretary’s Report**  
6i. DMMO – Wraxall Permissive Bridleway

**Wraxall Permissive Bridleway Route**



**Agenda Item 6 – Secretary’s Report**  
6i. DMMO – Wraxall Permissive Bridleway

**Wraxall Permissive Bridleway Route – Plan 2**



**Agenda Item 6 – Secretary’s Report  
6iia – Buddy System**

**PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL ALIGNMENT WITH MEMBERS  
“Parish Links” updated 5 January 2022**

<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>	<b>LAF MEMBER</b>
ABBOTS LEIGH	Rhiannon Robinson
BACKWELL	Bernard Gray
BANWELL	***Vacancy***
BARROW GURNEY	Julie Main
BLAGDON	***Vacancy***
BLEADON	***Vacancy***
BROCKLEY	Bernard Gray
BURRINGTON	***Vacancy***
BUTCOMBE	John Harris
CHURCHILL	Bob Rischmiller
CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO	***Vacancy***
CLEEVE	James Tonkin
CLEVEDON (Town Council)	***Vacancy***
CONGRESBURY	Richard Jones
DUNDRY	Julie Main
EASTON-IN-GORDANO	***Vacancy***
FLAX BOURTON	Sheila Dixon
HUTTON	***Vacancy***
KENN	John Harris
KEWSTOKE	Bob Parsons
KINGSTON SEYMOUR	John Harris
LOCKING	***Vacancy***
LONG ASHTON	Rhiannon Robinson
LOXTON	***Vacancy***
NAILSEA (Town Council)	James Tonkin
PORTBURY	***Vacancy***
PORTISHEAD & NORTH WESTON (Town Council)	***Vacancy***
PUXTON	***Vacancy***
ST GEORGES	Jonathan Brownnett
TICKENHAM	***Vacancy***
WALTON-IN-GORDANO	***Vacancy***
WESTON-IN-GORDANO	***Vacancy***
WESTON-SUPER-MARE (Town Council)	Jonathan Brownnett
WICK ST LAWRENCE	Bob Parsons
WINFORD	Julie Main
WINSCOMBE & SANDFORD	Bob Rischmiller
WRAXALL & FAILAND	Sheila Dixon
WRINGTON	Richard Jones
YATTON	James Tonkin

## **Agenda Item 8 – Chair’s Report**

### **8i Control of Dogs on Public Rights of Way**

#### *Responsible dog ownership – Dogs and the countryside*

So, you may be new to having a dog, or may have had dogs in the past, however are you a responsible owner? Dogs are great, man (and women’s!) best friend! However, do you know that there are laws surrounding dog ownership? More of us over the past couple of years have been enjoying greater access to the countryside and taking with us our furry friends, however it is imperative that we enjoy the great outdoors and our access to nature in a safe and controlled way.

It is a criminal offence (Under the 1991 Dangerous Dog Act) to allow your dog to be ‘dangerously out of control’ either in a public place or on private property e.g. your home. A ‘dangerously out of control’ dog can be defined as a dog that has injured someone or a dog that a person has grounds to reasonably believe that it may injure somebody. It could be as simple as your dog chasing, barking at or jumping up at a person or child.

Dogs chasing horses and horse riders have also become more prevalent over the last couple of years, with the British Horse Society citing 419 cases across the UK in the past few years and 15 in the former Avon area.

Last year, in September, a rider from Radstock was badly mauled while out hacking after a loose dog attacked her horse and then her when she dismounted, resulting in her having an asthma attack and being admitted to hospital for both the asthma and dog bites. And in December, in Clevedon, two horse-riders were seriously injured after falling from their horses when a dog ran towards them and scared the animals. One rider has sustained “potentially life-changing injuries”, whilst the other has a broken foot and bruising. Both riders were admitted to hospital.

If your dog injures somebody, it may be seized and if convicted you could face a lengthy prison sentence and/or a fine. Your dog could also be euthanised (unless you can persuade the Courts that it is not a danger to the public, in which case it may be subject to a control order).

Dog attacks on Livestock are also on the rise. A recent survey by NFU Mutual, found that the estimated cost of dog attacks on farm animals in the first quarter of 2021 had risen by a staggering 50%.

The research carried out with more than 1,200 dog owners revealed:

- 88% of owners said they now walk their dog in the countryside
- 64% said they let their dog run free off the lead
- 50% admitted their pet doesn’t always come back when called

The RSPCA also ran a survey for their #DogKind report, finding that 24% of the owners polled had dogs who've chased livestock, wildlife and other animals. And whilst 29% of them had sought help for this behaviour, 37% didn't feel that it was a problem.



## **Agenda Item 8 – Chair’s Report**

### **8i Control of Dogs on Public Rights of Way**

The reality is that the stress of being chased alone is enough to kill a sheep.

Dogs must never worry livestock the owner or whoever is responsible for the dog at the time will be committing an offence (**Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953**) if the dog chases, attacks or causes suffering to livestock. A police officer may seize a dog suspected to be worrying livestock and if convicted of an offence under this Act then a person may be liable to a maximum fine of £1,000. (Scotland have just changed their laws to a maximum fine of £40,000 and potential imprisonment for the dog owner if is found to have attacked an animal). It should be noted that a farmer may be able to shoot any dog worrying livestock if there are no other reasonable means for stopping the dog from doing this.

Advice for dog owners:

- Being able to instantly recall your dog and put them on a lead when you see a horse is essential to avoiding potentially dangerous situations, and the least a responsible dog owner should be able to do.
- If a dog does not have good recall, it’s advisable to keep it on a lead if you may encounter horses or other livestock (be aware that with cattle, it may be safer to let go of the lead or leave them off lead as it can be more dangerous to leave them on lead).
- Be aware when walking through or near fields with horses and livestock, it is advised to put your dog on a lead to keep everyone safe (the exception to this is with cattle as above).
- Be aware that even small lap dogs can attack and kill farm animals
- Take special care to keep close control of dogs unused to farm animals
- Don’t let dogs loose in gardens adjoining livestock fields – many attacks are caused by dogs can which escape and attack sheep grazing nearby

And finally, dog poop; dog poop is toxic, it contains bacteria, viruses, parasites and other components that can be dangerous for humans and animals alike. It can take over a year to break down and is an environmental pollutant. In a worst case scenario it can cause cows and sheep to abort their young. In some public spaces it is an offence not to pick up dog mess with a maximum fine of £500.

- Always bag and bin your dog’s waste

**Agenda Item 8 – Chair’s Report**  
8i Control of Dogs on Public Rights of Way







# ARE YOU A... **RESPONSIBLE** **DOG OWNER?**

**KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER CONTROL**  
Keep dogs on a short lead around cows and sheep

**CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG**  
Bag it and bin it wherever you are

**NEVER GET BETWEEN COWS AND CALVES**  
Walk round the herd and re-join the path when safe

**IF CATTLE FOLLOW YOU STAY CALM**  
Walk quickly and quietly round the herd

**IF YOU FEEL THREATENED BY CATTLE**  
Release your dog and get to safety separately

**IS YOUR GARDEN SECURE?**  
Many dog attacks on sheep happen when the dog has escaped from home.

**YOUR DOG CAN SCARE OR HARM FARM ANIMALS**  
PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD AROUND LIVESTOCK

**THESE FIELDS PRODUCE YOUR FOOD**  
PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD AND UNDER CONTROL

