

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

North Somerset Local Access Forum

Tuesday 24 October 2023

Castlewood

Meeting Commenced: 18.13

Meeting Concluded: 19.08

Councillors:

P Dan Thomas

Independent Members:

Rights of Way and Access Land Users

Marianne McAleer
P Sheila Dixon
P Nikki Barton

A Jonathan Brownett
P Julie Main (Chair)
Tina Hamilton

Landowning Interests

Vacancy
John Harris
P Robert Parsons

Bernard Gray
Richard Jones
Vacancy

Other Interests

Gillian Hopkins
P Nigel Bourne
Vacancy

P James Tonkin
Vacancy
Vacancy

Officers

A Elaine Bowman
(Place)

P Andy Carroll
(Place)
P Harriet Isherwood
(Corporate Services)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

LAF 29 Welcome and apologies for absence (Agenda Item 1)

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

LAF 30 Public Participation
None.

LAF 31 Declaration of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 2)
None.

LAF 32 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 July 2023 (Agenda Item 3)

Resolved: that the Notes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

LAF 33 National England Shaun the Sheep countryside code (Agenda Item 4)

The Chair presented a promotional video for the Countryside Code.

LAF 34 Access Officer's Report (oral report) (Agenda Item 5)

The Access Officer provided updates on:

Coastal Path

The Access Officer informed the Panel that all sections of the Coastal Path except 6 were now open, with the remaining section awaiting a decision from the Secretary of State. He also noted that the cycle path at Tutshill was currently being contracted with aim to open in early 2024. He also referred to the Natural England website which details the Coastal Path process across the country.

Bridge photos

The Panel were shown photographs of the new polydeck bridge at St Andrews in Clevedon, the first of its kind in the district, noting its low maintenance costs and use of recycled plastic. Photographs of the bridge at Lovers Walk, Clevedon, were presented to the Forum and the Officer detailed the extensive process and costs which were covered by Natural England. Pilhay bridge was presented, which was also polydeck and was funded by the Structures team.

Rights of Way cutbacks

It was noted that 26 miles of cutbacks had been completed this year, and that some additional areas still required cutting. A contractor was hired to cut the larger areas, alongside Officers with tickets and landowner permission responsible for the smaller routes.

Resolved:

(1) that the Officer inform the Panel of further plans for the Tutshill cycle path at the next meeting.

(2) that the Officer present the Coastal Path map from the Natural England website.

LAF 35 Chair's report (oral report) (Agenda Item 6)

The Chair provided updates on:

Dog-walking PSPO

The Chair informed the Panel that North Somerset Council had voted to agree a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) across the entire district to limit the number of dogs allowed to be walked by one person at any given time to 6, to prohibit walking without leads, and to legislate against dog fouling. She noted an increase in dog attacks across the UK and within North Somerset, and the current discussions within government around banned dog breeds and generous dog guidelines.

LAF SharePoint

The Panel heard that an officer from DEFRA had been appointed to lead the central Local Access Forum and had created a limited SharePoint with resources. The Chair noted an intention to suggest improvements with the DEFRA officer, including discussion boards and digital resources, and opened an invitation to the site to forum members.

Resolved: that the Chair investigate the operation of Local Access Forums within Scotland and Wales.

LAF 36 Future Items of Business (Agenda Item 7)
Election of Vice-Chair

Pier to Pier cycle way update
Woodspring priory update – National Trust munitions site
National Trust membership
Disability representative – promotion within North Somerset Life
Coastal Path counters update
Avon & Somerset Police dog attacks
Farming update

Sub-Committee Reports

LAF 37 None.

Date of Next Meetings during the 2023/24 Municipal Year (Agenda item 9)

LAF 38 **Concluded:** that the Forum would meet on the following dates:

Tuesday 30 January 2024 6pm
Tuesday 23 April 2024 6pm

Chairman

DRAFT