

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

North Somerset Local Access Forum

Tuesday 16 July 2024

The Owl in the Oak, Yeo Bank Lane, Kingston Seymour, BS21 6XH

Meeting Commenced: 18.00

Meeting Concluded: 18.25

Councillors:

P Dan Thomas
 A Peter Burden
 P Helen Thornton

Independent Members:

Rights of Way and Access Land Users

P	Marianne McAleer	P	Jonathan Brownett
A	Sheila Dixon	P	Julie Main (Chair)
P	Nikki Barton	P	Tina Hamilton

Landowning Interests

P	Richard Simmons		Vacancy
P	John Harris	P	Richard Jones
A	Robert Parsons		Vacancy

Other Interests

AB	Gillian Hopkins	P	James Tonkin
AB	Nigel Bourne		Vacancy
P	Roger Trubridge		Vacancy

Officers

P	Elaine Bowman (Place)	A	Andy Carroll (Place)
P	Katharine Diver (Place)	P	Esther Coffin-Smith (Place)

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

AB: Absent, no apologies

LAF 01 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2024-25

Resolved:

1. that Julie Main be elected as Chair for the Municipal Year 2024-25
2. that James Tonkin be elected as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2024-25

Julie Main in the Chair

LAF 02 Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Robert Parsons.

LAF 03 Public Participation

None.

LAF 04 Declarations of Interest by Members

None.

LAF 05 Minutes of the meeting held on the 23 April 2024

Resolved: that the notes of the meeting be amended to:

- (1) Noted that Roger Trubridge was present and that he was representing cyclists and walkers.
- (2) approved as the correct record.

LAF 06 Access Officer's Report (oral report)

The Secretary presented a verbal update advising that the section of the coastal path at Ladye Bay remained closed, and that North Somerset Council were in discussion with Natural England concerning the closure. This was due to the coastal erosion which was causing concern for public safety.

Resolved: that the report be noted and that an update would be provided when further information became available.

LAF 07 Secretary's Report

1. The Secretary advised that a planning application had been received for a Solar Farm at Langford. The public rights of way team had been working with the applicants. There were proposals for footpaths to be diverted, a bridleway to be created and additional footpaths to be dedicated.
2. The Secretary advised that there were still membership vacancies for the Forum and that a revised listing would be brought to the next meeting. As a representative of the National Trust was not attending, it was suggested that an email be sent to the head office and Avon Wildlife Trust.
3. The Draft Annual Report was distributed to those present.

Resolved:

- (1) that the report on Solar Farm be noted.
- (2) that the report on the Local Access Forum membership be noted, and that an email be sent to National Trust and Avon Wildlife Trust regarding vacancies.
- (3) that the Draft Annual Report be noted and that any comments be emailed back to Andy Carroll so that a final version could be prepared.

LAF 08 Chair's Report (oral report)

It was reported that Defra Access Site had been slow to gather. The Chair had made contact to gain access and would be seeking better contact with Local Access Forums. The Chair thought that the group for the Southwest would be beneficial and it was suggested that if Defra accommodate a local group, the Chair would action an approach.

Resolved: that the report be noted and that an update would be provided when further information became available.

LAF 09 Notification of Items of business – to be considered at the next meeting

John Harris presented a verbal update regarding a meeting he had with Country Land Association representative, Clare Wright. It was suggested that a group meeting focused on which landowners would be beneficial and that Environmental Land Management, an extension of the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000, might be considered by the new government.

Resolved:

1. that the report be noted, and that a paper report was to be shared with the secretary.
2. that a comment about the Working Party – Public Right of Way Youngwood Lane Footpath be noted as an item for discussion.
3. that a comment about the Planning Working Party be noted as D Thomas and N Barton were interested in being involved.

LAF **Items for next meeting**

10

Resolved:

- (1) that ethnic minority representation be discussed in the next meeting.
- (2) that a buddy system be discussed in the next meeting.

LAF

11

Any other Business (notified to the Chairperson by noon on date of meeting)

None.

LAF

12

Dates of future meetings during the 2024-25 Municipal Year

- 15 October 2024 – 6pm
- 21 January 2025 - 6pm
- 22 April 2025 – 6pm

Chairperson
