

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting
Waghorn Room, Calshot Activities Centre Calshot
10 June 2019

Present

Members: Ruth Croker (Chairman)
Ann Sevier (Deputy Chairman)
Paul Brockman
Fran Carpenter
Mark Cowling
Alastair Duncan
Gordon Garrett
Heather Gould
Jane Horton
Hallam Mills
Ross Mitchell
Gary North
Henry Mellor

Officers: Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance:
Jonathan Woods (Hampshire County Council)
Gillie Molland (New Forest National Park Authority)
Petronella Natrass (British Horse Society)

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Peter Scott, Jacqui England and Gary North.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

3 Chairman's Report

3.1 The Chairman introduced her report highlighting the recent UK River Prize and Nigel Holmes Trophy which had been awarded to Forestry England in respect of the wetland restoration project. Ruth Croker also explained that the reason the Hale Pylons Visual Impact provision project had been stopped was due to habitat regulations and that the money which was due to be used for this project would be reallocated.

The remainder of the report was taken as read.

4 Forum Officer's Report

- 4.1 Adam Vasey explained that Hallam Mills and Rachel Pearson would be tendering their resignation to the Access Forum and thanked them for all their input and support.
- 4.2 The Forum Officer's report was taken as read.

5 Additional Reports

- 5.1 Jonathan Woods presented the Hampshire County Council update advising that the coastal path was still proving challenging in this area and would give further information in due course. Jonathan also explained that the network management team had been working hard across the South in order to reduce the backlog of over 1000 unresolved issues, he also advised that Hampshire Countryside Action Forum had produced a horse-riding document which he would forward to Forum members.
- 5.2 The remainder of the Hampshire County Council report was taken as read.
- 5.3 There were no reports from Wiltshire, the Cycle Working Group or HCAF.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 Fran Carpenter advised the Forum that HCC were currently conducting a consultation on 'Balancing the Budget' and she requested that the Forum should respond to this and members should also respond on an individual basis.

Action: Forum members to send their consultation responses to Adam by 1 July in order for him to formulate a response.

7 Supporting Hampshire and Wiltshire with signage and vegetation clearance – Adam Vasey (NFNPA)

- 7.1 Adam Vasey provided a PowerPoint presentation on signage within the National Park he explained that with fellow Officers and the Chief Executive they were looking at how this could be improved to reinforce the special qualities of the National Park. Photos were presented of the current signage in the Forest and how the new signs could possibly look. Adam would update the forum on this project during a future meeting.

8 Site Visit – The Waterside; Fawley Development and the Coast Path – Adam Vasey & Gordon Garrett

- 8.1 Following the site visit the Forum took the opportunity to discuss their findings with all agreeing that it was useful to go out and experience user routes in the area. Ann Sevier commented that the mobility scooter she used was difficult to manoeuvre on loose gravel and found that it required a very tight grip on the handle bars which may not be suitable for all. It was agreed that the Forum should look at both the surface and the overall experience of the walk, with this particular walk not taking in many views of the Solent. It was also agreed that more interpretation boards were required to highlight the risk of ground nesting boards.

9 Voting for Chairman and Deputy Chairman

- 9.1 Both Ruth Croker (Chairman) and Ann Sevier (Deputy Chairman) were respectively elected for the ensuring year.

Date of next meeting:

2 September 2019, 9.30am – 1.00pm, Venue: Hoburne Bashley