

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting
13 September 2021

Present

Members: Ruth Croker (Chair)
Ann Sevier (Vice Chair)
Peter Armstrong
Bob Damper
Paul French
Sarah Hammett
Henry Mellor
Richard Taylor

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

In attendance: Richard Deakin (Verderers)

1 Apologies & Welcome

1.1 Apologies were received from Paul Ames, Gary North, Kristie Clark and Julian Sheppard.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

2.2 The Chair advised that the Forum were still waiting for confirmation as to who would replace Fran Carpenter for Hampshire County Council. Barbara Moorhouse had now resigned as Equestrian representative on the Forum and would shortly be replaced.

3 Chair's Report

3.1 The Chair ran through her report highlighting the recent taster session that was attended by some members at PEDALL and the new confidence rides they were offering; more information on these can be found here - [PEDALL inclusive cycling in the New Forest National Park](#)

3.2 The Chair highlighted a recent letter that had been written from the Waterside Cycling Action Group which concerned the safety issues at Applemore crossing point on the A326, it was agreed that this was of particular concern and the Access Forum should push for improvements as and when appropriate to do so.

3.3 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

4 Forum Officer's Report

4.1 Adam Vasey presented his report highlighting the 2021 New Forest Walking and Cycling Festival which was due to begin on 16 October and would run until 7

November, the festival was sponsored by Hoburne-Bashley and concentrates on teaching people about the special qualities of the National Park and how to help keep it that way for future generations. He also advised that the NPA were waiting to hear from Natural England regarding the Calshot to Gosport section of the coastal path, once determined work could begin to add new gates, signposts and interpretation boards.

4.2 Mr Vasey advised the Forum that Nigel Matthews retired at the end of July and as such there would be some slight restructuring within the NPA, this would be confirmed shortly.

4.3 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

5 Additional Reports

5.1 The Wiltshire Countryside Access meeting report was taken as read.

6 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

6.1 Ruth Croker was proposed as Chair of the Access Forum and Ann Sevier as Deputy Chair, they were both re-elected for the ensuring year.

7 Public Representations

7.1 There were no public representations.

8 The Role of the Verderers – Richard Deakin (Verderers)

8.1 Richard Deakin gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Forum regarding the role of the Verderers, how they work in conjunction with partner organisations as well as landowners. He also explained the history of the Verderers and how members were sought. For more information, please see their website at - [Home - Verderers of the New Forest](#)

9 Waterside Improvement Works – Adam Vasey (NFNPA)

9.1 Adam Vasey's PowerPoint presentation focused on the Waterside Improvement works, he began by highlighting the A326 improvements which was to improve key junctions on the more southerly section and linked to the Fawley Waterside development. He advised that funding was still to be secured for the second phase, and views were sought on proposed improvements for the more northerly section.

9.2 Mr Vasey went on to explain that as part of the consultation views were being sought on the impact of the Junction Road, Totton level crossing whereby a series of concept options had been identified for potentially changing or closing the level crossing. The reintroduction of the passenger rail service on the Fawley branch line were also part of the consultation and feedback was being sought on potential options and considerations.

A copy of the presentation is available on the website.

10 Using the NFAF Website and SharePoint

- 10.1 Adam Vasey gave a brief overview of the NFAF website and SharePoint site, for more information please contact Adam or Vicki.

11 Discussion

- 11.1 It was agreed that further discussion on the Fawley Waterside development would be advantageous for a future meeting.

12 Any other business

- 12.1 No further business.

Date of next meeting:

6 December 2021, 9.30am – 1.00pm, Venue: Exhibition Room, Brockenhurst Village Hall

The meeting closed at 12:45pm