

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting
Council Chamber, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington SO41 9ZG
4 December 2023

Present

Members:

Erika Dovey
Paul French
Pippa Hutton
David King
Sarah Hammett
Caroline Rackham
Richard Shirley

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

In attendance: Jonathan Woods (HCC)
Abby Sullivan (HCC)

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Peter Armstrong, Ruth Croker, Bob Damber, Lucy Kennedy, Teresa Monks, Paula Palma and Ann Sevier.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 September were agreed as a true record.

2.2 Adam Vasey ran through the outstanding actions from the last meeting, which had all been completed.

3 Chair's Report

3.1 The Chair was unable to attend the meeting and therefore her report was taken as read.

4 Forum Officer's Report

4.1 Adam Vasey began his report by highlighting the success of the recent walking festival which was a great opportunity to promote the rights of way network, he explained that many walks this year focused on accessibility. Some promoted routes recently had new waymarkers installed, to help people find their way around the countryside. It was suggested that QR codes be added to aid people in case of emergencies.

AV – to investigate the addition of QR codes on waymarkers.

PF - to email AV a suggested emergency location site to have as QR code on sign

4.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

5 Additional Reports

5.1 None.

6 Public Representations

6.1 None.

7 Hampshire Countryside Access Plan – Abby Sullivan & Jonathan Woods (HCC)

7.1 Abby Sullivan began her presentation by advising the forum that the document which had been sent was based on the review of HCC outputs to the current Countryside Access Plan (2015-2025) and that they were now looking at producing the next plan for the 2025 to 2035 period and would like to ascertain members thoughts.

7.2 Forum members then went on to discuss their thoughts on the current and future CAP. It was agreed that members would look at the CAP in more detail and forward any comments back to Adam Vasey. Some suggestions during the meeting included standardised bridges to ensure accessibility, sections on the two National Parks in Hampshire, a yearly update with a possible working document and further information on neuro-diversity. Abby Sullivan and Jonathan Woods agreed they would attend a meeting in Spring / Summer to update the Forum.

ALL – to look at the current CAP and email Adam Vasey comments on any details which should be removed and thinking about the future CAP advise on what they would like to see.

7.3 Jonathan Woods updated the Forum on Dilton Farm, he explained that following a previous meeting with the landowner's good progress had been made. The path had now been strimmed and it would be resurfaced along with new signage being added.

8 Green Health Hub – Jim Mitchell (NFNPA)

8.1 Jim Mitchell began by highlighting the upcoming Volunteer Fair which would be held on 28 January at Brockenhurst Village Hall, he advised that so far 30 organisations would be represented and should forum members know of any further groups to let him know.

8.2 Jim then went on to discuss the new Green Health Hub ([Home - Green Health Hub](#)) which was now live, this was a one stop shop for all health related activities and groups in the New Forest and surrounding area including Southampton, Bournemouth and Salisbury. Jim gave a brief overview of the website and advised the Forum that if anyone had any stories to add to either contact him or add directly to the website, he also advised that if anyone had any further groups to please add them to the website.

9 Open Discussion

9.1 None

Date of next meeting:

Monday 4 March 2023, 9.30am – 1.00pm