

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

**Present**

Members: Ruth Croker (Chair)  
Peter Armstrong  
Bob Damper  
Erika Dovey  
Paul French  
Pippa Hutton  
David King  
Paula Palma  
Ann Sevier  
Sarah Hammett  
Caroline Rackham  
Richard Shirley  
Teresa Monks  
Marcus Ward  
Lucy Andrews

Officers: Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance: n/a

**1 Apologies**

1.1 No apologies were received.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

2.1 AV gave an update on NPA progress at Dilton Farm.

**AP1** RC and BD to compose letter to HCC asking for progress on this important issue.  
AV to format letter and email.

**AP2** RC and BD to compose letter to local county councillor Keith Mann asking for his support on this issue. AV to format and email.

2.2 RC talked about the potential for forum members to attend the 2024 Bee Fayre.

**3 Chair's Report**

3.1 The Chair ran through her report highlighting the 2024 Bee Fayre as a potential outreach event for NFAF members.

**AP3** AV to ask Claire Sherwood (NPA Ranger) if she would mind sharing the NPA stall with a member of the access forum and/or having the NFAF Annual report on their stall.

- 3.2 The FIPL project was discussed. RS said that many of the applications were for hedges and fencing. RC commented that the scheme was going well and is likely to be extended.
- 3.3 The HCAF on-line meeting suffered due to technical difficulties. They are having a theme for each meeting and this meeting the theme was volunteering. There was talk for more co-ordination on volunteering between HCC and NPA.
- 3.4 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

#### **4 Forum Officer's Report**

- 4.1 AV talked about the upcoming 2023 Walking & Cycling Festival. RC, DK and AV are leading a walk at Bolderwood to talk about the work of the forum and accessibility in general. Other members are welcome to attend and engage with the public.

**AP4** AV to send details of the walk to all members.

**AP5** DK to contact wheelchair group about passing their email address to AV

- 4.2 SH suggested dog-friendly walks.

**AP6** AV to contact Heather Gould at NFDOG to see if they would like to be part of the 2023 Festival.

- 4.3 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 – Adam Vasey (NFNPA)**

- 7.1 The 2015 – 2025 HCAP was reviewed by members. The following comments were made about the plan:

- *Will there be an evaluation on the 2015-2025 HCAP?*
- *There were mentions of actions being carried forwards, we would like specifics of what actions are being carried forwards to the upcoming plan.*
- *There are no measurable goals in this report. The upcoming plan will need to have more detail, more 'meat on the bones.'*

**AP7** AV to invite HCC to attend December meeting with more information on how to engage with this process and also for an update on Dilton Farm.

## **8 Habitat Mitigation Scheme Update – Tony Spence (NFNPA)**

- 8.1 Tony Spence gave a presentation, available online, about the work of the NPA habitat mitigation scheme. He answered member's questions about the timescales of the project and whether any new country parks would be developed by the scheme. Tony answered that the scheme had a very long timescale as the mitigation should cover a family dwelling in a house for up to 100 years. He said that Footprint Ecology were working on a report which would suggest a number of measures which local councils can contribute into to mitigate the effects of their house building on the New Forest special area.

## **9 Open Discussion**

- 9.1 AS suggested selecting a forum topic/focus for 2024. RC suggested that Hampshire's CAP would be a good focus for the year ahead.
- 9.2 PP said she would like to give a short talk to the forum about a Lymington Saltpan project she is working on.
- 9.3 AV said that with Richard Taylor leaving the forum, it is short of a vice chair position. He asked members to consider volunteering for the position.

## **10 Any other business.**

- 10.1 BD reported that he, and other members of the Cycle Working Group, are meeting with a small group of Verderers to discuss the permissive cycle network.

### **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 4 December 2023, 9.30am – 1.00pm