

SOMERSET LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON
17TH JUNE 2015
AT RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL

SLAF Members present:

Virginia Jones, Roger Conway, Ann Fin, Suzy Dymond-White, Clare Poole, Bill Knight, James Bateman, Julia Gadd, Hugh Warmington, Alan Carr, Trish Coombes

SCC Officers present:

Pete Hobley – Rights of Way Service Manager, Ed Loat, - Principal Project Manager SouthWest One, Emma Parsons and Karen Tunnock – Joint Secretary to SLAF

Welcome, Apologies and Notes of absence:

Pete Hobley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

Apologies were received from Anthony Gray, David Lovejoy and Cllr David Fothergill

Pete Hobley advised that the nomination for the Mendip District Councillor would be announced shortly. Cllr David Fothergill wanted to formally note he was disappointed that he was unable to attend this meeting.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Hugh Warmington proposed that Roger Conway should be elected as Chair and Bill Knight seconded. All were in agreement that Roger Conway be elected as Chair.

Hugh Warmington proposed that Trish Coombes be elected as Vice Chair, Julia Gadd seconded. All were in agreement that Trish Coombes be elected as Vice Chair.

Member Training

Pete Hobley gave a SLAF training presentation.

Questions raised following the presentation

Roger Conway – commented that two formal meetings are held annually; should there be a need for any consultation before the next meeting do we have email contact details for SLAF members? Emma Parsons advised that one SLAF member does not have an email address and she has email addresses for all other SLAF members, and will seek their clearance in order to circulate them to other SLAF members.

Minutes & Matters arising from previous meeting held on the 22nd October 2014

Item no: 13.2.7a – Pete Hobley to investigate whether Bridleways Association are able to assist with modification orders and investigate increased use of volunteers within the Modification team. **Pete Hobley advised that continued discussions are taking place with the Bridleways Association on this matter. With reference to Hugh's comments on the backlog this is an on-going problem relating to resource issues and appreciates there is a long wait but we are doing our best to process as quickly as possible.**

Item no: 14.1.3b – Lisa and Emma to write article about becoming a SLAF member for inclusion in the Autumn Edition of 'Your Somerset'. **Done.**

Item no: 14.1.5 – Greg to compile a formal response on behalf of SLAF regarding their concern about the lack of resource to deal with the backlog in modification orders, and send to Cllr Harvey Siggs. Deadline start of July for response to be discussed at next SLAF meeting in October. Awaiting a response to Greg to chase up. **Emma Parsons believes Lisa Portman did the response. Emma Parsons to check. Post Meeting Note: Response found, please see below**



Public Rights of Way
Modification Orders.m

Item no: 14.1.7a – Greg Jones to set up working party to respond to the ROWIP2 consultation. Greg to set up working party to meet in January 2015. **Done.**

Item no: 14.1.8b – Lisa and Emma to send details of the Brean Cross sluice project to SLAF members. **Emma to clarify if this action has been completed.**

Item no: 14.2.1 – Greg to compile response to Robert Harris at Forestry Commission re the closure of the section of the Neroche Path. **P Hobley advised that the**

Forestry Commission have done a report and found failings. A meeting is to be set-up with the Crown Agents in the next couple of weeks and Pete Hobley will provide feedback.

Railway crossings and temporary closures

Roger Conway wanted to raise awareness relating to Network Rail's proposals for closure of railway crossings, further information contained in the paper attached with today's Agenda. Network Rail's website does not have any information on this.

A suggestion was made by a member of the public that it is no good just to say we object but to accept that there is a problem and that this is how we propose to resolve the issue and find alternative routes. Pete Hobley commented that whilst SCC has no formal policy in relation to applications to divert or extinguish rights of way rail crossings, such applications would be assessed in line with s118a & s119a Highways Act 1980. Reference was also made to contentious applications in Wales and England which had led to the suggestion for a defined protocol that Network Rail and Local Authorities would work to. Development of this protocol is already underway with one of the suggestions being consultation with Local Access Forums.

Pete Hobley commented as follows on Roger's recommendations outlined in his paper:-

1. In Burnham case this was a risk, the path was under a temporary closure and unsure what works were done to improve. Works were undertaken and the path reopened. Pete Hobley is unaware of any other pending applications.
2. Peter Hobley agrees, previous problem at Edithmead did not have full evidence of there being a Safety issue and the evidence received was not that strong.
3. Currently not applicable as none are earmarked.

Ann Finn commented that Stoke St Gregory Parish Council have had a footpath closed by network rail for 18 months and they could not get any response from network rail. Pete Hobley commented that the Parish Council should contact him to request that the gate be opened again.

ROAM – IT System update

Ed Loat, SCC gave a presentation of the new system.

After the presentation Pete Hobley commented that the key drivers for him were:-

- Statutory Requirement
- Asset Management/Audit trail

- Flexible working
- Efficiency to delivery as a whole

Roger Conway asked the question who owns the system? Ed Loat commented that SCC developed therefore ownership is SCC. Ongoing maintenance beyond 2017 should the SouthWest One contract end would be SCC's responsibility.

Any Other Business

Peter Hobley to look at Roger Conway's written report concerning footbridges, particularly Bradford On Tone.

Date of Next Meeting

7th October 2015 2-4pm

Roger Conway thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.

Summary of Actions Arising

Item Number	Details	Update/Outcome
Item no: 14.1.5	Greg to compile a formal response on behalf of SLAF regarding their concern about the lack of resource to deal with the backlog in modification orders, and send to Cllr Harvey Siggs. Deadline start of July for response to be discussed at next SLAF meeting in October. Awaiting a response to Greg to chase up.	Emma Parsons believes Lisa Portman did the response. Emma Parsons to check.
Item no: 14.1.8b	Lisa and Emma to send details of the Brean Cross sluice project to SLAF members.	Emma to clarify if this action has been completed.
Item no: 14.2.1	Greg to compile response to Robert Harris at Forestry Commission re the closure of the section of the Neroche Path.	P Hobley advised that the Forestry Commission have done a report and found failings. A meeting is to be set-up with the Crown Agents in the next couple of weeks and Pete Hobley will provide feedback.
Item no: 15.1.1	Peter Hobley to look at Roger	

	Conway's written report concerning footbridges, particularly Bradford On Tone.	
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