

Somerset Local Access Forum
Minutes For The Meeting Held On
16th August 2016
At Ruishton Village Hall

SLAF Members Present:

Julia Gadd (Chair Person), David Lovejoy, Ann Finn (Vice Chair), David Perris, James Bateman, Suzy Dymond-White, Alan Carr, Virginia Jones. Patricia Coombes.

SCC Officers Present: Pete Hobley – Rights of Way Service Manager, Andrew Saint – Senior Officer Rights Of Way, Tara Moore (Joint Secretary), Natasha Tremelling (Joint Secretary)

Apologies:

Cllr David Fothergill, Roger Conway, Hugh Warmington and Emma Parsons

Two members of the public were also in attendance.

Welcome

Julia Gadd welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

Minutes From 12th May 2016

Julia Gadd asked everyone present if they agreed the minutes from the last meeting.

James Bateman said he had difficulty accessing the attachment sent to his inbox with numbers/letters appearing. Pete Hobley responded that he would look at how the documents were sent and if there was a way to resolve this going forward.

Action: Pete Hobley to liaise with Emma Parsons with regard to attachments and contact IT if necessary.

David Lovejoy apologised for being unable to attend the previous meeting and referenced the question he asked to be raised in his absence – Item No:7.10 – David Lovejoy requested further depth to the answer provided by Pete Hobley. David Lovejoy commented areas other than Somerset had in place some plan to deal with the matter. There were also various laws/acts in relation to this matter. David Lovejoy wondered what the reasoning behind Somerset County's policies was. In particular David Lovejoy wondered if Somerset's response was purely budgetary and expressed the opinion this was not good enough considering incidents nationwide that had occurred, for example 'The Birmingham Ash Case'.

Pete Hobley responded that most court cases hinged on the 1974 Act.

David Lovejoy referred to the Guidance Of Tree Safety Council. Pete Hobley said he had not received this.

Action: David Lovejoy agreed to forward a copy to Pete Hobley. It was agreed to revisit this at the next meeting. **Deferred.**

David Lovejoy said he attended a LAF conference in Bristol which was well supported by many organisations. He found this to be very informative and encouraged other SLAF members to attend at a future event.

Julia Gadd (Chair Person) asked again if all those present agreed the minutes.

Action: Minutes agreed.

Deregulation Act 2015

Andrew Saint introduced himself and the purpose of this afternoons meeting. He briefly explained Deregulation Act regulations would be coming soon. This would change the way Somerset County Council dealt with modification to the definitive map and possible amendments to the statements of priorities. Somerset County Council wanted to engage with SLAF members at the start of the process to help shape future policy changes.

Andrew Saint cross referenced and drew people's attention to sections of The Deregulation Act 2015 and Somerset County Council's Statement of Priorities.

Andrew then split the members into two groups headed by either Pete Hobley or Andrew Saint to discuss

Members returned to the table feeding back thoughts discussed

Andrew Saint continued on the topic with regard to the Score Card Mechanism and whether this could be improved. He gave examples of improvements and asked the members to return to their groups to discuss the pros and cons of each one.

Members returned to the table feeding back thoughts discussed.

Action: The written results from the two exercises to be available as an attachment with the minutes.

Any Other Business:

Julia Gadd (Chair Person) asked if there was any other business.

Pete Hobley said Volunteer driving expenses were available and to email if a member wished to do so.

The meeting was then concluded.

Summary of Actions Arising: 16 August 2016

Item No	Details	Action	Update/Outcome
16.08.16a	Pete Hobley to liaise with Emma Parsons with regard to attachments and contact IT if necessary.	Pete Hobley/Emma Parsons	
16.08.16b	David Lovejoy to forward a of 'Guidance Of Tree Safety Council' to Pete Hobley. To be discussed at the next meeting.	David Lovejoy All SLAF members	
16.08.16c	The written results from the two exercises to be available as an attachment with the minutes.	Pete Hobley	

Summary of Actions Arising: 12 May 2016

Item No	Details	Action	Update/Outcome
12.05.16a	Comments from members in relation to the Axe Route Options of the England Coast path to be collated by Julia Gadd before passing on to Andrew Chester of Natural England.	All SLAF members by 26/5/16	
12.05.16b	Research and forward to Pete Hobley any examples from other counties of LAF organisations becoming more closely involved in Rights of Way work.	All SLAF members	
12.05.16c	Pete Hobley to report back to members the figure indicating how many DMMOs had been processed this year.	Pete Hobley	

