

TELFORD AND WREKIN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 1.30pm
at The Studio, Graham Building, Wrekin College, Sutherland Road, Wellington, Telford**

PRESENT:

Cllr Liz Clare (Telford & Wrekin Council), Bob Coalbran (Wellington Walkers are Welcome), Paula Doherty (Rights of Way Projects), Anthony Francis-Jones (British Horse Society), Peter Holt (CLA/Landowner), Marion Law (Ramblers Association), Janet Mees-Robinson (British Carriage Drivers Association), Malcolm Morris (STROWP), Cadi Price (Severn Gorge Countryside Trust), Fiona Smith (Disability) and Gill Steed (Ramblers)

ALSO PRESENT: Ann Sharkey (Legal Assistant, TWC) and Jayne Clarke (Democratic & Scrutiny Officer, TWC).

LAF-30 MINUTES

Matters arising from the Minutes:

In respect page 5 of the Minutes, UK Coal Site, J Mees-Robinson asked for clarification as to reason the Council had received £74,175 from Anton Fix. Cllr L Clare confirmed that she would make enquiries and report back to the next meeting

Action – Cllr E Clare to make enquiries regarding the £74,175

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LAF-31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Andrew Careless (Senior Rights of Way Officer, TWC), Angela Smith (Natural England), and Bob Alton (Ramblers Association).

The Chair announced with great sadness that Jim Roberts had passed away. The LAF's thoughts were with his family at this sad time.

M Law enquired if the Chair knew who the new landowner would be and if they were aware of the rights of way over. This was not currently known.

LAF-32 CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

The Chair reported on the following issues:

- National LAF Conference which the Chair spoke at regarding the recent council dedications and was also attended by J Mees-Robinson and included
 - Disability Group – off road mobile buggy “Tramper” – **Action - Chair to circulate leaflet**
 - De-regulation Bill
- Definitive Map

- Awareness of the Henley Case
- Rights of Way Issues
 - Greenways Ketley (Pink Skips) – Double yellow lines had been installed but the right of way needed to be protected
 - Rookery Road – gate limiting access dealt with
 - TMC Ketley – no progress to report
 - Lawley Phase 7 – Concerns were raised regarding the bridleway and it was suggested that the LAF monitor the site
- UK Coal Site – the rights of way were still not legally open – It was hoped that they would be completed by the end of the summer
- Dedications and Creations
 - DMMOs on Council land which were non-contentious had already been dealt with
 - Silkin Way to Ironbridge – has no status on ground and therefore is not protected – this included Perry Way (Wellington to Trench)
 - Randlay Woods no rights of way but signed for bridleway – A Sharkey explained that this was half right of way and half Council land so there may be a delay
 - M Morris informed the LAF that Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council had commissioned work on the legal status of routes
 - C Price informed the LAF that Severn Gorge Countryside Trust were resurfacing and widening some routes
 - B Coalbran raised an issue at Dothill with the possibility of the right of way being blocked off and an emergency meeting of the “Friends of Dothill” would take place on the evening of 14th April. Feedback from the Walking Festival had raised the lack of walking available at Tee Lake which was blocked by brambles and boggy in the winter
- UK Coal
 - Chair had telephoned Dave Coxill – Surveyors were looking at whole site together with rights of way and aftercare. A meeting with landowners would take place on 18 April 2016. Anton Fix was the contact for UK Coal. The plan was to have the work finished by the end of the summer
 - It was raised if the whole area could be signposted or re-signed where necessary
Action – The Chair to speak to the Senior Rights of Way Officer regarding signage
- Department for Transport Draft Cycling and Walking Policy
 - The Transport Policy did not mention recreation use, horse riders or disabled use and it was felt that this policy was geared for getting people to work and there was no mention of recreational use within the Shaping Places Local Plan.

- Online Highways Maps
 - Examples of Maps from other councils could be found via the link on the Chairman's matters report attached to the Agenda
- TWC Website Update
 - P Doherty reported to the LAF that the website was now much improved. Although this was still basic it now had joined-up information and the ability to identify issues and pinpoint areas even in the countryside. Some further time had been allocated at the end of April to update and amend the website. The LAF were asked to report any errors or omissions to Paula
- Path Clearance Groups Update
 - Work had been undertaken to remove the brambles around areas such as the Golf Course at Limekiln Wood and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust Ercall entrance. A small group of Ramblers had also been clearing brambles from hedges, which had taken place prior to nesting season. Telford Bridleways had cleared a stretch at Lightmoor leading to Gravel Leasowes and had contributed funds towards this
- Briefing Note from Andrew Careless (read by the Chairman in his absence)
 - Re-organisation of Team – AC had now moved into the Planning Team. His duties would remain unchanged but it would enable him to have an input on rights of way at an earlier stage
 - Definitive Map – a one-off sum had been identified in order to start the Definitive Map. A job description had been drafted and a recruitment process would begin shortly. A new layer would be introduced to the GIS mapping system to show rural rights of way
 - Con 29 Property Searches now included rights of way as mandatory and there were 2 additional questions regarding modification applications and public path orders
 - Register of modification order applications to be improved to include public path order applications and registered statutory declarations
 - Commemorating Jim Roberts – AC asked members of the LAF to consider the principle of a form of commemoration for Jim Roberts. A discussion took place regarding this and a vote took place which
 - **AGREED – that the principle of commemorating Jim Roberts be accepted**

Items raised from AC's report:

- Hutchinson Way
- Steeraway Diversion

LAF-33 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The LAF currently had vacancies for a Landowner and a HCA representative. Gill Steed had taken over as the Ramblers Area Secretary and it was proposed and seconded that Gill be accepted as a Member of the LAF.

LAF-34 CURRENT PROJECTS - REVIEW

Current projects had been discussed under Chairman's matters.

LAF-35 REVIEW OF DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER APPLICATIONS

A Sharkey reported progress that had been made on the modification order application.

The DMMO numbers were taken from the on-line register.

There were 77 DMMOs on the open register with 3 being added since January 2016.

- 2) Festival Gardens to Dawley Road, footpath addition- 1 objection had been received so far but consultation was ongoing.
- 5) Sylvan Close, footpath addition- objections had been received and not withdrawn after correspondence sent. There had been a meeting with the client and a report was being drawn up to be sent to the Secretary of State for determination. Papers were currently being prepared
- 83) Footpath from West Road to Shrubbery Road, Ketley Bank, Oakengates – Addition of footpath
- 84) From Upper Huntington Farm to County Road at Dairy Pit (known as Hatch Lane) – Little Wenlock Parish Council - Upgrade to restricted byway
- 85) Hatch to Keepers Cottage, Little Wenlock Parish Council – Upgrade to Restricted Byway.

A Sharkey was currently chasing Homes and Communities Agency Agreements for Town Park and Halesfield but as yet had received no response.

LAF- 36 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

As apologies had been received from the Senior Rights of Way Officer it was agreed that this Agenda item would be moved to the next meeting of the LAF on 13th July 2016.

LAF – 37 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

J Mees-Robinson raised concerns regarding the gate on Hatch Lane and the bridleway that ran from Gravel Leasows behind the houses on Leasowe Green to Lightmoor Road.

LAF-29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and asked that the next meeting of the LAF, the AGM, be held on the 6th July 2016 at The Studio, Graham Building, Wrekin College at 1.00pm for 1.30pm start. The Democratic & Scrutiny Officer would check the diary and liaise with the Chair for the date and time of the next meeting of the LAF.

Action - AFJ/JC to organise the change of date to the LAF AGM and circulate to members.

The meeting ended at 4.33pm

Chair:

Date: