



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on Thursday 5th October 2017.

PRESENT

Mr. J Howells (Chair)

Ms. V. Allen	Mr. A. Hillier-Fry
Mr. C. Faircliffe	Ms. H. Edwards
Mr. M. Gamble	Mr. T. Kirby
Mr. E. McWilliam LCC	Mr. C. Faircliffe

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr. R.J. Denney, Mrs. P. Posnett CC MBE, Mr. J. Law, Mr. S. Warren, Mrs. H. Brown, Mr. B. E. Sutton and Mrs. A.F. Pyper.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chairman thanked Mrs Dann for providing the minutes of the last meeting promptly.

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and agreed as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman went through the minutes and the matters arising from the minutes.

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An item on East Midlands Regional Chairs meeting has been added to this agenda. With regard to the charitable status the documents produced to National Conference last year where there was a lengthy piece from Norfolk. A link to this will be provided in the minutes. This has also been added on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting.

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City Local Access Forum – Several meetings ago Mr McWilliam noted some concerns regarding the future of the City LAF. Mr. McWilliam met with officers from the City Council to discuss the possibility of more joint working in the future. Mr. Faircliffe suggested there be a move to the consolidation of these type of meetings.

Mr. McWilliam advised that if a joint forum were considered at a future point, this would have to start as a new body and go its own way.

Ms Allen suggested that it wouldn't be a good fit with the city being very urban and the County being made up of countryside and it may be difficult to pick up City LAF issues.

The Chairman asked that the discussion be on hold until further information was available.

The Chairman advised for information that due to copywrite laws the Chronicles of Charnia HLF bid would now have to be renamed.

Page 3 fine

Page 4

An update was received from Ms Allen to replace the 4th paragraph on Page 4 of the minutes, these will be updated accordingly. The new paragraph will read "The National Forest staff's energies had been concentrated in recent months on leading on the lottery bid for the Charnwood Regional Park which is probably why there had been no progress on the leaflets".

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Ms Allen also asked if item 5a on page 5 be replaced with "The OS is the information source for off-road routes but first the routes need to be put onto the Definitive Map so that OS can apply the relevant symbol".

The Chairman updated that the East Midlands Local Access Forum (EMLAF) Chairs meeting minutes, a summary of the minutes will be distributed at the next meeting.

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Item 7, Ms Allen updated that the event in Cambridge was not a conference but a training day on conducting historic research and making claims. The "Brexit – National England" workshop was actually entitled "Opportunities for Public Access" and was led by Pippa Langford of Natural England, the other workshops were not led by NE staff. Ms Allen confirmed that during the course of the afternoon session she attended, it was stated that in relation to Brexit that Defra are looking for schemes with significant "public benefit" when replacing the CAP funding; payments for access, existing or additional, would therefore qualify.

Page 7 okay.

Page 8 okay.

These changes will be made and the revised minutes will be submitted.

4. Declarations of interest and any items which the Chairperson has agreed to take as urgent

There were no declarations of interest.

Mr. Hillier-Fry asked that the Membership quorate be added to the next agenda (January 2018).

Ms Allen asked if any decision to join with Leicester City will be agreed by January 2018. It was agreed that this will be discussed for 10 minutes at the end of the meeting to get some ideas.

5. Reports from outside bodies

- (a) Planning and Travel (RD) – The Chairman advised that there was nothing more than the paper submitted by Mr Denney, apart from the Charnwood Forest HLF bid, he advised that he will give an update on this at the next meeting (January 2018).

Mr Denney continues to organise the Committee by email.

- (b) Network Opportunities (JL) - Noted

Ms Allen made a point for record - 4 Hicks Lodge there is some concern that some of the tracks are multi users, bridleways, and wondered how this would fit with the disabled. There was also concern about the disabled parking next to horsebox parking and there are issues with this mix, she felt that this would limit use. Ms Allen wanted it recording that she was concerned with the mix of users and the Connectivity Group wanted this raising as an issue.

Mr Denney continues to organise the Committee by email.

- (c) Unrecorded Ways (SW) – Noted

The Chairman confirmed that there was a lot going on and lots of volunteers wanting to help with the lost ways.

Mr Gamble stated that he felt the funding had not been sorted and wanted to know how it was going to be held, was it to be subdivided.

Mr Gamble asked about expense payments for memory sticks. Mr McWilliam stated that this money would be reimbursed. He stated that this process needs to be practical for people.

6. Reports from outside bodies

- (a) Heart of the Forest, Access and Connectivity Group (VA)

Ms Allen advised that there were no minutes as yet from the meeting on 28th September 2017.

She gave an update on the Hicks Lodge to Moira Furnace link and advised that this was half way to completion with a year to get to Moira Furnace.

An update was given on the Millenium Mile Post which had gone missing and was now found, which needs putting up.

An alternative route for Ivanhoe Way which goes through Hicks Lodge – café very good.

Concern was expressed for Reservoir Hill underpass as it exists between 2 bits of claywork, this seems threatened due to the underpass that is due to go under the road.

An update was given on the Bridleway circuit and the concerns about the work currently being carried out on the open cast coal mine. There were concerns about the mix as this would be a long-term viability for the disabled.

Ms Allen advised that the 'Countryside For All' trains people to assess routes for the disabled. Mr Kirby added that some training is given by Dementia Awareness. It was stated that the Heart of the Forest Access and

Connectivity Group are aware of this and the Forestry Commission are in control of this site. It was agreed that this needs raising at the next meeting.

- (b) River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership (JL) – the meeting is to be held on 11th October.
- (c) National Forest Access & Recreation Group (RD) – the next meeting is to be held on 8th November.
- (d) East Midlands Local Access Form (EMLAF) Chairs meeting update (JH) – This meeting will be on 10th October, report to be sent by 20th October on behalf of our group. Ms Allen will be attending.
- (e) Charnwood Forest Regional Park Group (RD) – waiting the outcome of the first stage of the HLF bid, the result will be sometime this month, when we can move it to stage 2.
- (f) Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Partnership (VA) – Ms Allen stated that this group had not met due to lack of time. An email link will be sent round but officers don't attend due to lack of time.
- (g) Other meetings and groups – nothing to report.

7. Name and brief for Network Opportunities Committee

It was agreed that there will be 3 sub-committees, as follows:

- Planning – distributed by email
- Unrecorded Ways – gaining momentum
- Network Opportunities – Very focussed, may need direction – Mr Law drives this committee forward and is excellent at what he does. Mr Faircliffe advised that this committee had drifted and that it used to have a broader brief. Its primary focus now is for access for the disabled. It was agreed that this would be added to the agenda for the next meeting or a meeting when Mr Law is in attendance.
Ms Edwards met with Mr Law at Watermead Country Park working with him on disabled access.
It was agreed that this will be added to the next agenda.

8. Correspondence

- (a) Responses advices and comments sent by LLAF
Mr Faircliffe advised that of an excellent response that was received and this showed that people can come together.
Ms Allen mentioned the British Standard draft of Gates and Stiles – she will respond on behalf of the LLAF.
Mr Gamble asked if we had agreed to record what was achieved in the year.
The Chairman agreed to speak to Mr Denney.
- (b) Received (EM) – Mr McWilliam stated that everything received by LCC is logged, saved and circulated.
- (c) Circulation of minutes and agendas - The Chairman thanked Ms Dann and her team.

9. Funding and Monitoring of Unrecorded Ways third-party funds

The Chairman agreed to hold a meeting and produce a usable process for this. He agreed to circulate a paper advising members how this will be controlled.

10. Orders Update (EM)

Mr McWilliam went through the report and highlighted page 37 and asked for questions.

Mr Hillier-Fry asked if there was approved access for Frisby Lakes and asked regarding a replacement gate for a stile.. Mr McWilliam advised that he would ask the case officer to investigate.

Bridleway crossing at Barrow

Ms Allen raised Sproxtton and Garthorpe an application has been with LCC for a very long time. Mr McWilliam advised that the list is on-line which will give the details.

11. Mailing List for 6 November 2017 – training event

If you know of any interested parties that haven't already been contacted please let Mr Warren have the details.

Ms Allen suggested the parish councils and the History Society.

The Chairman stated that he was looking forward to a positive meeting on 6th November.

12. Future Meetings

Dates were noted.

13. Any other items which the Chairperson has decided to take as urgent

Mr Hillier-Fry asked for a discussion on new/more members and reasons why members are not turning up to meetings. Mr McWilliams stated that he wasn't sure of the reasons, there was very little feedback.

Mr Faircliffe suggested an exit interview.

Ms Edwards suggested that it could be the breadth of the brief, time commitments. She went onto say that it is very difficult to get younger volunteers. The Chairman agreed that all members have different reasons for getting involved.

The Chairman stated that at this meeting there was no-one from farming, landownership at today's meeting. Ms Edwards suggested identifying the gaps in knowledge and target these areas. Mr Hillier-Fry stated that reports are needed from different groups such as landowners, horse riders, walkers, cyclists which would then give us power and a different point of view. The Chairman advised that it is important to let everyone have a say. It was agreed that when someone suggest

something new to the group that this is put at the top of the agenda to encourage discussion and contribution.

It was agreed that the jTerms of Reference be sent out with these minutes.

Ms Allen asked if this meeting was quorate. The Chairman confirmed that members had all sent apologies and gave reasons for their absence.

It was agreed that this needed discussion when the whole group is in attendance. It will be added to the agenda as "LLAF – the way forward".

Mr Howells sent his apologies for the next meeting in January 2018.

End of meeting.