



MINUTES
of a meeting held in Chapter House, Chelmsford
Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 2pm

Present: Members:

Jan Arthur (JA)	Katherine Evans (KE)	Martyn Towns (MT)
Bob Drane (BD)	Robert Johnstone (RJ)	John Victory (JV)
Adam Scott (AS)	Rick Gray (RG)	Ed Dixon (ED)
Louise Fuller (LF)		

Observers: Sue Dobson

The following Officers were present in support:

Shirley Anglin (SA) Essex Highways, Public Rights of Way and Localism Officer

Apologies: Giles Merritt (Natural England)

1	Welcome and introductions	Action
	<p>Shirley Anglin presided over the meeting due to the recent resignation of the Chairman, Ray Booty. His resignation letter was read out and the Essex County Council (ECC) thanked him for his hard work and valued support as both the LAF chairman and as a previous member.</p> <p>JV expressed that he thought the resignation was due to the reduction in secretarial support and the recent problems with the website and LAF email accounts. SA gave an explanation to why the secretarial support had been reduced and the reasons behind the IT problems. She went on to stress that there was now both a dedicated LAF email account and the website had been moved successfully into the ECC webpages.</p> <p>KE requested that the LAF web pages are brought up a level so that they are easier to identify.</p> <p>Discussion took place as to what the LAF do once the TRO's are circulated to them, resulting in the decision to monitor those orders that extend closures beyond the original order.</p> <p>ECC are asked to produce a list of all PROW that are subject to long term TRO or those that are rolling over. To confirm the process for extensions and whether Parishes are notified.</p> <p>The LAF Guidance 2009 was mentioned by SA as she requested it from Natural England when taking on the secretarial duties, none of the forum have this up to date document. SA to circulate.</p> <p>Nominations for chairman were invited. KE was nominated by RJ, and seconded by JV. KE accepted the nomination. No other names were put forward and so the nomination</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>SA</p> <p>SA</p>

	<p>passed to a vote and was unanimously passed by the present membership.</p> <p>SA welcomed the new chairman, who then took control of the meeting and moved to nominations to fill the position of Vice Chairman. RG was nominated by KE, seconded by LF, the nomination was accepted and passed to a vote that was unanimously passed by the present membership.</p> <p>SA invited the new Chairman and Vice Chairman to a meeting at County Hall for an informal discussion on the LAF. SA to organise.</p>	SA
2	Minutes of the last meeting	
	<p>The minutes were agreed as true and accurate.</p> <p>The LAF constitution remains as an outstanding issue. SA to chase with Essex Legal Service</p>	SA
3	ECC report, any matters arising	
	<p>Membership Membership is now very low and a decision was made to actively pursue more members. JV is going to write an article about the ELAF for publication. KE will draft up a list of publications that it should be entered into. SA to organize the publication where applicable. Other members to place article in their parish magazines. Sue Dobson registered her interest in becoming a member, SA to send her an application form. It was noted that the forum are keen to avoid over-representation from any one user group. AS noted that Natural England are not considering local restraints when applying a minimum number to the LAF member numbers. This could be included in the Annual Report.</p> <p>Network Rail KE and ED have written a letter in objection to the Network Rail crossing closures scheme. The letter contents was discussed and a few amendments were noted as required. SA to make adjustments and send the letter.</p> <p>Byways ECC advised that the recent opening of the byways subject to seasonal closure had not been without its problems but that the issues were being addressed, including the obstruction of one byway by the landowner. The current seasonal closures are to be reviews this summer following the results on an Ecological survey. ELAF were invited to be consulted during the review. This was welcomed by the LAF and will be an agenda item in July. SA to add to the agenda. KE requested that the LAF undertake their own surveys of byways and restricted byways in Essex in order to help form an independent view of their condition. SA to request a list of all byways and restricted byways in Essex. The list will then be circulated to the LAF to choose which ones they could survey.</p> <p>Development and PROW Rob Lee is to be invited to a meeting later in the year to talk about Development and PROW and the process now in place. SA to organize.</p>	JV KE SA SA SA SA
4	ROWIP Discussion	

	<p>Members of the forum had not been able to prepare anything prior to the meeting and due to time restraints KE requested that any comments are fed into her. SA reported that she will go ahead now with reviewing the statement of actions and that the LAF would be consulted in October. She agreed to consider incorporating any feedback from the LAF received by the July meeting.</p> <p>All LAF members were asked to look at the statement of actions and identify if there is anything that they would like to see included that the ROWIP does not currently seek to deliver.</p>	
5	Correspondence	
	<p>A letter had been received from Mr M Meadows regarding byways. The letter was circulated and a response was discussed. It was agreed that SA should write to Mr Meadows reflecting the summer review and the LAF's involvement in it, as well as the decision to undertake their own condition survey.</p> <p>SA is to write to Doug New to check he is alright and that the contact details we have are still up to date.</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>SA</p>
6	Public Questions	
	<p>There were no public questions. The meeting was closed.</p>	
7	Future meetings	
	<p>Date of next meetings:</p> <p>To be held at the Chelmsford Diocese.</p> <p>Tuesday July 11th 2017 at 2pm.</p> <p>Tuesday Nov 7th 2017 at 2pm.</p>	