



MINUTES

Meeting held Tuesday, 27 April, 2021

Virtual Meeting, via MS Teams



Present: Mrs A Clish-Green; Mr J Daymond; Mr P French; Mr J Hayes;
Mr J Howell; Mr G Kelly; Mrs A Lovell; Mrs L Martin; Miss D Moyse;
Ms S Viccars; Mrs P Warren; Mr M Walker; Mrs Julia Lewis

Officers: Mr Andrew Watson (Head of Recreation Access & Estates)
Mr T Russell (Recreation and Access Projects Officer)
Ms J Manning (Recreation Strategy Development Officer)

Apologies: Mr G Kelly; Miss H Jenny

542) Membership

Due to technical difficulties Mr Walker was unable to join via video call, the meeting was therefore chaired by Mrs Clish-Green. Mrs Clish-Green asked the two new members to introduce themselves.

(i) Election of Chairman

Mr Walker stated that he would be willing to stand as Chairman, and was voted in unanimously.

RESOLVED:

Mark Walker was duly elected to serve as Chairman for the next 12 months

(ii) Election of Vice Chair

Mrs Clish-Green stated that she would be willing to stand as Vice Chair and was voted in unanimously.

RESOLVED:

Alison Clish-Green was duly elected to serve as Vice Chair for the next 12 months.

549) Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2019

The Minutes of the meeting, held on 03 March 2020, were duly agreed and signed by the Vice Chairman as correct record.

550) Recreation and Access Update:

Andrew Watson, Tim Russell and Jen Manning provided an update

Andrew Watson gave a presentation on the Asset Management Plan for PROW (AMP). The aims of developing the AMP are to establish a baseline condition for assets on the network (i.e. gates, stiles, sign posts, bridges, stepping stones, signage etc), to assist with future work programming and identify the level of investment needed.

The total value of assets is estimated at £1.8million with a backlog of maintenance required now standing at £140k, with an annual ongoing cost of £109k. It should be noted that works including annual vegetation cutting, surfacing and drainage work are not included in these figures. The data will be used as evidence to support future funding bids and likely investment needed to support delivery of Glover Review recommendations.

Diana Moyse raised questions on gates for horse riders. Agreed that discussion on infrastructure for riders to be picked up outside of the meetings.

Andrew Watson and Tim Russell explained that a review of signage for promoted routes such as the Two Moors Way and Mariners Way will be undertaken by DNPA as part of a separate review on promoted routes.

Andrew Watson confirmed that the management of the public rights of way network is carried out through DNPA's Pathways approach.

Andrew Watson gave an update on the Visitor Management Plans for 2021. Updates included lessons learned from 2020 and preparations for 2021 visitor season. Andrew Watson informed the meeting of the work of DNPAs Communications Team in monitoring social media. An update was also given on popup campsites and the information provided on DNPAs website

A presentation on social was requested by members who aren't familiar with the use of social media. It was agreed that Julia Lewis would liaise with Andrew Watson to include on a future agenda.

Tim Russell gave a presentation/resume on some of the projects undertaken since March 2020:

Further Eylesbarrow Bridleway Improvements, through additional funding from DCC an extra section of public bridleway leading up from the Scout Hut near Gutter Tor car park has recently been repaired.

Miles without Stiles:

Princetown to Nun's Cross surface repairs: Vital surface repair work has been carried out for 300m along the bridleway leading south from The Plume of Feathers up onto the open moor.

Bellever Forest Mobility Scooter route: Work has also just been carried out to improve and finish off the Mobility Scooter (Tramper) Route through Bellever Forest which was delayed due to a very wet autumn

New Footbridge for Cornwood: Work is now completed to improve public access in Cornwood. A permissive path allows people to safely access the countryside to the west of the village by taking them off the rather dangerous narrow road and through adjacent fields and woodland. The original footbridge provided by the National Park under a previous access arrangement was falling into disrepair and has now been replaced with a new bridge

Jen Manning provided an overview of the A38 Area of Opportunity Project and projects being developed to improve recreation and access opportunities along the A38 corridor. Detail was shared on a proposed Recreation Routes Consultation and Development project. It was agreed that Jen Manning would write a project plan to share with members and potential form a subgroup to develop the project.

Jen Manning gave an update on Recreational Events within the National Park. In line with the government road map and guidance recreation events may now take place. DNPA has an updated position statement for event organisers on their website.

Alison Clish-Green thanked all DNPA staff for their work over what has been a difficult year.

551) Dartmoor Way

Update from Michael Owen, Project Manager, Dartmoor Way

At the previous meeting Michael Owen gave a presentation on the development of the Dartmoor Way Walking Route. Michael Owen explained that due to Covid promotion of the route had been delayed. A listings pages for local businesses that are on or near the Dartmoor Way is being created.

The Dartmoor Way was awarded funding from Sport England's This Girl Can campaign. The Dartmoor Way will be used to introduce women to walking and navigation and encourage them to have more confidence when walking.

Sections of the Dartmoor Way are being looked at for limited mobility users and they are also working on amendments to the route to include the Wray Valley Trail.

552) Training Day

It was agreed that a date after the 21 will be looked at for the training day. Andrew Watson will agree a date with Mark Walker and Alison Clish-Green. Suggestion put forward for the training day is to meet at Postbridge and visit the new Visitor Centre and Miles Without Stiles Work. David Leach, Project Officer for the Peatland Restoration Project will be invited to give a talk. A discussion on the Byelaw review will also be included.

Andrew Watson and team will confirm date and agenda for training day.

Andrew Watson asked for a subgroup to look at the byelaw review that would be ready to receive information in the next 2-3 weeks. Subgroup confirmed as Mark Walker, Gillian Branfield, Penny Warren and Diana Moyse.

Diana Moyse raised the National Landscape Service and providing a response on this. Confirmed that this should be an agenda item for the training day.

Julia Lewis raised that the Duke of Edinburgh expedition process had changed, with details being held centrally. It is unclear who will hold the details and how they will be viewed locally. Andrew Watson to discuss with Rob Steemson.

553) Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 12 October 2021

April 2021 Meeting to be bought forward a week to avoid Easter holidays. Date to be confirmed

Alison Clish-Green thanked those viewing the meeting and forum members. Thanks were also passed onto Ali Bright for providing IT support for the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4:55pm