

WREXHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DRAFT MINUTES

Forty first meeting of the Forum held at the Community Centre, Froncysllte, Wrexham, on Friday 3rd June 2011.

01/11 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance:

SECRETARY:
Caroline Selby

CHAIR:
Mabyn Pickering (MP)

MEMBERS:
Gerald Moss (GM)
Tim Stratton (TS)
D Gwynfor Jones (DGJ)
John Cooper-Poole (JCP)
Janet Williams (JW)
Shelagh Roberts (SR)
Bill Stephens (BS)

NON-MEMBERS:
Sean Hanratty (SH) WCBC
Sion Roberts (SR) WCBC
Dave Smith (DS) WCBC
Catrin Owen (CO) CCW
Ken Mumford (KM) Observer

Apologies:

Sue Gittins
Edward Wardle
George Kinder
Martin Howarth
John Evans

Toni Proffitt (Denbighshire)
Alun Price (CCW)

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Caroline Selby as the new secretary and Bill Stephens as a new member.

02/11 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2011:

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

A card of thanks to Carla Hughes was sent.

- **Forum membership**

There are vacancies on the Forum due to resignations. Peter Cade had sent his resignation that morning. As advertising is expensive, it was suggested that the website and Connect magazine could be used to advertise for members.

The quorum for meetings as stated in the Countryside Access (Local Access Forum (Wales) Regulations 2001:

4 No business may be conducted by a forum unless the number of members present, excluding the person presiding, exceeds one third of the total membership.

- **WLAF Members Contact Details**

CS had updated and circulated a WLAF contact list.

- **Narrow Stiles**

Most are in quite good condition but some are narrow. Not high on the priority list.

- **Draft Annual Report**

The Report was available at the meeting and had been sent for translation. Once translated it will be included on the website.

ACTION:

CS to arrange for inclusion on website.

- **Local Development Plan**

TS has looked at this and it is in the final stages at WAG. The Welsh Government hope to have everything finalised by November 2011. LAF have asked to be consulted regarding any access issues in LDP. JW has written re carriage driving requirements and LDP.

It was noted that difficulties arise as there are many departments to liaise with re access.

MP is to ascertain if LAFs are statutory consultees.

ACTION:

MP to ascertain statutory consultee status.

- **4x4s in Countryside**

MP has tried to contact people in the relevant department and will keep trying,

It was reported that the Denbighshire end of the Wayfarers is open.

KM stated that TROs (Temporary Traffic Orders) are valid for up to eighteen months.

The classification of the Wayfarers needs to be ascertained along with the department it comes under.

ACTION:

Classification of Wayfarers and department to be ascertained.

- **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:**

Information re the next stage is awaited. Farmers in the Ceiriog Valley are not happy but many people living in the Ceiriog Valley are.

A meeting was held in Wrexham with presentations. AONB attracts £70,000 of funding which will not increase if there is an extension of AONB.

- **Glastir Scheme:**

This is still being discussed following the WAG elections in May. Further information is awaited.

- **Broughton Community Path Project:**

Hightown Communities First project.

ACTION:

SR to contact AW re Hightown Communities First project.

- **Access Rangers:**

SR reported that it is hoped to begin work to survey paths in the Ceiriog Valley in the summer. Landowners will be contacted regarding this survey.

WHS funding – SR will investigate this. Funding was not applied for at the same time as WHS designation.

- **Countryside Council for Wales**

CO has attended meeting in place of Alun Price. Her employment ends in July. It was hoped that a representative of CCW will attend future meetings.

- **Items for Next Agenda**

JW will contact Minera Quarry Trust re meeting with MP.

03/11 CHAIRS REPORT:

Many issues from the Chairs Report were raised under Matters Arising.

An issue has arisen re claiming expenses. The Secretary was asked to check the procedure for volunteers to claim expenses and inform members.

MP and CS will attend the Local Access Forums in Wales meeting in Builth Wells on 7th June. An update on ROWIP has been requested along with an account of LAF functioning with the local council.

When Public Inquiries are held, following objections to Modification Orders, a huge amount of research is required. It has been suggested that LAF members could help with some of the archive work and pass on the information to the relevant person. It would be hoped that travel expenses could be paid to members for undertaking this work.

SH said that he would welcome help from members re archive research, including old maps and deeds. SH will email when information re paths is required and assured that all information provided would be checked. A sample of documents will be brought to the next meeting.

It was noted that the process of Modification Orders is very lengthy, time consuming, bureaucratic and costly.

ACTIONS:

CS to check procedure re claiming expenses and inform members.

SH to bring selection of sample documents to next meeting.

04/11 SECRETARYS REPORT:

There was no report due to the secretary being new in post. No correspondence had been received.

05/11 ACCESS RANGERS:

A report was circulated and questions invited. ROWIP explains the work undertaken during the last three years.

Windy Hill – confirmed that this is in Brymbo.

The Flash (Brymbo) – a green lane has been used for many years and forms were completed regarding use. It was stated that according to Planning Regulations, suitability is not taken into account. Also it is not recorded as a highway. In law, suitability, safety and common sense are not taken into account, only the evidence available. The Order has not yet been made as it is with the Legal Department and has been for 2 -3 months. Normally, this would take three weeks. Following discussion, JW requested a meeting with SH re the proposed new track and the processes involved.

Bettisfield Railway Line- not in report as a Creation Agreement. Neither Creation Orders nor Existing Orders are included in the Report.

Modification Orders – orders have been made and notice given to the public. There may be a lengthy process before being confirmed.

After discussion, it was agreed that SH would present a report at the next meeting including easy to follow process explanations. SH asked members to bring questions to the meeting.

The report states what has been achieved but not against the ROWIP targets. Therefore, it is not known what progress has been made or is being made against these targets.

SH has to make decisions on 5 Definitive Orders each year.
That target is being met.
SR has a target of 100 signs on paths per year.

ACTIONS:

JW and SH to arrange meeting.
Report to next meeting re The Flash (Brymbo).
SH to present a report at next LAF meeting.
SR to investigate WHS funding.

06/11 COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES:

AONB – information is awaited from the minister.
Open Country – 2012 will be reviewing and renewing maps, including forests.
Eisteddfod in Wrexham – walks will be taking place.
ROW Improvement Budgets – no further information available.
It was noted that ROW notices are taking a long time.

07/11 PLANNING UPDATE:

When information is received it will be sent to people either living in the specific area or with a specific interest.

08/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

i) Bronington 37 – the behaviour of the land owner has been raised by GM to the Clerk of the Council. WCBC and the police have also been contacted re this matter. SR has spoken to the landowner and will do so again re access and the footpath.

ACTION:

SR to contact landowner.

ii) Footpath upgrade to railway line near Froncysllte. There is a sign saying no riders or bike. The OS map indicates a Modification Order in the last decade or so. Creation Orders should be made for bridleways. Modification Orders have been made on some railway lines re bridleways or footpaths.
JW said that it would benefit many people if railway lines were made multi user, which excludes motorised vehicles. For this to occur the agreement would be needed of the landowner, or

if the landowner disagreed, a Creation Order would need to be made. In Flintshire, multi user is considered and JW would like WCBC to consider multi user as well.

A request was made for SH to bring a list of old railway lines owned by WCBC to the next meeting. These are indicated on the Terrier Map held by the Property Management Department. In addition the Definitive Map for Denbighshire would need to be looked at as there are some cross border railway lines.

ACTION:

SH to bring list of WCBC owned railway lines to next meeting.

09/11 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

SH presentation.

10/11 NEXT MEETING:

Friday, 30th September 2011 at the Guildhall, Wrexham beginning at 2pm.

It was suggested that more meetings could be held at venues other than the Guildhall. This could involve more members of local communities attending LAF meetings. When meetings take place in communities, the Secretary will contact the local community councils to promote LAF and encourage attendance.

Venues with parking were preferred and the following suggestions made: Alyn Waters, Plas Pentwyn in Coedpoeth and Resource Centre in Gwersyllt.

