

Gloucestershire Local Access Forum
DRAFT Minutes including Action Notes

Thursday 13th February 2025
Formal Meeting at Charlton Kings

Item	Minutes & notes of actions	Actions
		Who
1.	<p>Present – Alison Williamson (Chair); Alan Shelley; Charlie Morriss; Jacky German; Paul Lockley; Richard Holmes (Vice chair); Chas Townley; Cllr Robert Vines; Nicola Chidley (GCC); Anna Skidmore (GCC); Alan Bently (Visitor Connecting Parishes).</p> <p>Apologies for absence – Sue Ellis; Cllr Beki Hoyland; Cllr Chloe Turner</p> <p>Absent – Lucy Moriarty (GWT)</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest – AW – interest previously in Stowfield viaduct; CT – Some DMMO applications</p>	
3.	<p>Notes of meeting on 24 October 2024 accuracy and matters arising not covered in the agenda below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following the visit to Aston Rowant centre for accessibility – RH has pursued the use of the 'freestyle' gate in this area possibly on a Connecting Parishes site. It operates with nudge opening enabling easier use by those with mobility scooters. - CT raised the changes to Trinomes and numbers on the mapping without some reference to original reference. Its hard to translate the new numbers v the Def Map and statement. No change to the statements. Can we add to the October Meeting agenda please. 	RH to pursue the use of the freestyle gate on a site in Gloucestershire NC/KP – To note the changes on some paths.
4.	<p>Review of Notices and Consultations received by GLAF and Membership – Forestry sites referred to Area PROW Officers; Awre Salt marsh – location for next meeting?</p>	Request for transport (NC)
5.	<p>GLAF Annual Report – CT produced a thorough paper on GLAF Annual Report and his proposal to re-establish the GLAF Annual report. Its strategic importance was to report back to GCC Cllrs any concerns, eg the Forum reducing in numbers or for scrutiny to consider. It would be a high level report written by GLAF using the template from 2015 when the last one was produced. AW asked CT if he could draft a version for the June meeting. NC to send CT the 2015 template. Add to Agenda</p>	CT – Draft Annual Report NC – send CT 2015 AR and add to June Agenda
6.	<p>a) Don't Lose Your Way/Restoring the Record – updates from Stakeholder reps – CM confirmed he had resigned from Ramblers and would not be at GLAF in June. Leave on agenda.</p> <p>b) Review of Definitive Map statistics – Progress reported in DMMO update and increase in numbers progressed in all issues. There are 3 CROW Cttee for next year so interest from GLAF in the outcomes from the DMMO Team. Some delays to determinations was causing pressure on the Area Officers who GLAF thanked for their professionalism in dealing with issues. Thanks to the teams for the reports and the progress. Request whether officer time is covered by the PPOs recharges on October Agenda. Request that DMMOs be covered by delegation to help speed the process (confirmed that there are some delegated decisions in DMMOS). GLAF advise that perhaps delegation ought to be the default and only 'called in' if controversial. Slight concern that if left to only the local Member to call in it might be missed – it ought to be local or any member. GLAF appreciated that it is a quasi judicial and very complex process and that some progress is being made.</p> <p>Recommendations:- GLAF recommend that delegated powers be made the default for determination of DMMOs however where cases are controversial or subject to many valid</p>	NC request DMMO update at Next plus PROW update for next. NC to pass on

	<p><i>objections that they then should be reported to CROW Cttee for determination. This is a similar process to that used within planning applications. “</i></p> <p>c) PROW report – Included in the minute above.</p>	and feedback at next meeting
7.	<p>A417 Project update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Update on A417 Missing link, Air Balloon Construction – Link here Works are progressing and expected completion is spring 2027. b) Designated Funds Project – Connecting Parishes Project. AB reported that Connecting Parishes was a project initiated by GLAF. Funding was sought from National Highways Designated Funds pot to facilitate 18 projects within 5/6 miles of the A417 missing link works and at Feb 2025 17 of the 18 had been completed. The final project at National Star was being started the following week. The GLAF Site visit this morning was to a project that provided a link from urban centre of Charlton Kings to the Cotswold Way, Ravensgate Hill and the access land. It involved the installation of a wider bridge with GRP decking and surface and drainage works, plus improving any limitations such as gates on this section of path. – concern re the green colour of the decking- NC advised that it would weather in with use. - CM raised that at last week CP stakeholders Project 9 with the options report on Old Pates/Pilley Bridge AB had produced a paper with some ideas for funding for the preferred option. The PROW bridge had been closed for 9.5 years with the current temporary closure extended to September 2026. The enormous amount that was needed to repair the 30 m bridge would be difficult to find. (£300k). Need to pressure Chelt BC who own the bridge as well as GCC and the Parish Council to pursue the reopening of this important link and not let it stagnate. - GLAF wished to record grateful thanks to AB for his work in designing and delivering the schemes - a good example of GLAF and partners working together to achieve on the ground improvements. Carry forward to next Agenda Pilley Bridge. Circulate the information on the schemes. - The GLAF Page on GCC website was to have some wording on the explanation of the connecting parishes project. Currently waiting for the wording. PL asked about the contractors used ie Josh Williams, Springhill contractors and Dean Martin. - The Walking cycling Horseriding group had recently met and attended the site where there was a viewing platform to see the construction of the Green Gloucestershire Way bridge. Perhaps a good place for October meeting? - Barrow Wake Car park was closed for works GLAF asked if there was a long term management plan for the site when Kier go off site. There are plans for a handover of various parts of the site with National Highways retaining some areas for ongoing management and monitoring. 	<p>NC to advise of progress</p> <p>NC to draft email to AB for his works</p> <p>PROW team</p> <p>NC Check with CF if possible</p>
8.	<p>Other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cotswold Trails and Access Partnership (Last Meeting 27th Nov, next May 2025) Some concern re funding for National Trails. How was Defra going to deliver its vision of everyone within 15 minutes of a green open space? Collating and reporting on people counters via Cotswold NL. Broadway counter was 340,000 people movements, in a year (nov 23 – Nov 24); Coaley reported 30k. b) Eleven Rivers Group - 3 ChoirsWay /Wysis Way & Gloucestershire Way – AGM 27/1/25 with focus on road crossings, looking at a Gerry Stewart Memorial gate so looking for sites. Herefordshire section of 3 Choirs Way adopted by Leadon Vale Ramblers. Other issues included a new housing development asked to provide a route and the Mitcheldean section being on a narrow road was of concern. Cicerone are going to republish the Gloucestershire Way booklet. 	

	<p>c) Tetbury to Kemble Railway Path- PL reported that the surface was a stoned hard surface for first bit but that thereafter the bridleway was muddy and needed some surface and drainage works. Funding has been raised to deliver the improvement and PL is working with PROW Area Officer (Frank) to deliver the scheme subject to landowner consent.</p> <p>d) Kemble to Cirencester Railway Update - A meeting was due to happen in February regarding the active travel route proposed.</p> <p>e) Llanthony Swing Bridge – the devegetation was due by June but access was a problem with some encroachment on GCC land at one end. Ownership needed to be sorted by Property services prior to any further progress. Ask for update as GLAF priority. On Agenda for June</p>	PL Update at next meeting
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stowfield Bridge – Principal Ecologist now in post so discussions resumed on the site and proposed repairs, needs the scaffolding platform to be able to reopen. Hoping that scaffolding can be replaced and bridge reopnedwhilst longer tem options are considered. Please seek update for June - CM asked about the river erosion below weir at Maisemore – advised efforts to seek a path order ongoing. - Whats happening to Nailsworth to Stroud Railway Path – the objections to make it a PROW of bridleway status prevented further progress. Is a DMMO possible. - The Cotswold Way Association have commissioned a feasibility study for accessibility on the north end of the CW. Expected next month. RH to advise in June. 	NC to seek update for June meeting NC update in June NC to check RH to advise
10.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Next formal meeting Thursday 12th June 2025 – Site visit Awre looking at proposals for the salt marsh scheme.</p>	
11.	<p>2025 Meeting dates:- 12th June 2025; Thurs 16th Oct 2025</p>	

GLAF Agreed Minuted notes on

Signed ;.....