

**LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF THE FOOTPATH FORUM**  
**HELD ON 1 JULY 2014**

Present: Councillors: M Mason  
M Marsh  
D Foster

Mr M Lewis – NFU  
Mrs B Richards – History Society  
Mr G Roberts - History Society  
Mrs A James – U3A Representative  
Mr I Fraser – Ramblers Association  
Mrs H Mills - Glamorgan Heritage Coast

Apologies: Councillor E Williams  
Mr G Ingram - Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Councillor M Mason opened the meeting by announcing the sad passing of Mrs Belinda Greenfield from the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. Belinda had supported the Footpath Forum for years and her professional can do attitude will be missed by all members.

The Chairman then introduced himself to members present and stated that he was looking forward to his year in the Chair.

### **Report**

Footpath Forum members had previously been circulated with a copy of the report of the meeting of the Footpath Forum which had been held on 1 April 2014. It was agreed that the report was an accurate recording of the meeting.

### **Rural Footpaths Grants**

Mr Teague advised that Emma Harding had replaced Mark Cottray and that due to additional funding available from Coastal Access the scheme at Boverton Mill would be progressed under Coastal Access only. This would cover the total cost without the requirement of match funding from the Town Council or an RDP grant bid.

As to progress, Mr Teague advised that the discussions with the land owners had not progressed and had become protracted and with a time limit of March 2015 on the availability of funding it was decided to proceed with a Creation Order. He agreed to keep members updated with progress.

### **Member's Reports**

Mr Fraser reported that he had no reports of any blockages to footpaths. He then went on to announce a Ramble with a Difference: on 21 September 2014 there was to be a treasure hunt when groups would be sent off around Llantwit Major based on the Blue Plaque Trail with the inclusion of Llanmaes. More details to follow.

Mrs March commented that some of the footpaths were in the worst condition she can remember. She had been in contact with Mr Lock reporting her concerns with FP22 Purlon Farm and Church Lane.

Mrs Richards advised that FP15 was overgrown and required attention. She then went on to introduce her successor as representative from the History Society, Mr Gareth Roberts. The Chairman welcomed Mr Roberts and thanked Mrs Richards for all her hard work over many years.

Mr Teague handed copies of the Maintenance Report update to all members. He went on to advise that this year's maintenance contract had a start date of 1 July which could be a factor in the condition of some of the footpaths this linked with the weather conditions experienced over the past months. The VOGC would look to an earlier start to the contract for next year. He expected most of the paths to be cleared within the next few weeks.

He suggested that he invites Tricia Cottnam from Coastal Access to attend the next meeting and update on the scheme at Boverton Mill. This suggestion was supported by all present.

Mrs Mills said that they have been inundated with school visits to the Heritage Coast but that they hoped to begin work on the footpaths soon. She did advise that with a reduced staff level they would not be able to achieve as much as in the past.

Mr Lewis was complemented for his most accurate forecast at the last meeting, there had been heavy growth on all the footpaths following such a mild winter. His current concern was with Church Lane which had become severely overgrown and would become extremely dangerous if we were to experience any heavy rain. He went on to state that over the past 2 years the Vale had done a very good job of keeping the Lane open but the issue of part of Church Lane being footpath (covered in the maintenance programme) and the rest Highways (not covered in the maintenance programme) should be resolved as soon as possible.

#### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting was 7 October 2014 at 6.30pm in the Heritage Centre.