

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE FOOTPATH FORUM
HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2014

Present: Councillors: M Mason
M Marsh
D Foster
E Williams

Mr G Teague – Public Rights of Way Officer VOGC
Mr M Lewis – NFU
Mr G Roberts - History Society
Mr I Fraser – Ramblers Association
Mrs H Mills - Glamorgan Heritage Coast
Mr G Ingram – Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Apologies: Mrs H March – Friends of the Heritage Coast
Mrs A James - U3A Representative

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 July 2014. It was noted that Mrs H March had inadvertently been omitted from the list of attendees.

Rural Footpaths Grants

Mr Teague advised that Tricia Cottnam is continuing to advance the linking of the footpaths 55 and 33 in the Boverton Mill to Summerhouse Point area. She has met Mr Van Praag and discussed the issue with him as well as the roll-back of the coastal erosion. It would appear that he is very receptive although as yet she has not had sight of his deeds indicating the nature of a transferable right. There is indication within the land registry deeds that Crown Estates have retained transferable right of access for agricultural purposes and efforts are therefore being made to enquire as to whether additional rights are held by them.

Member's Reports

Mr Fraser reported that the Ramble with a Difference held on 21 September 2014 which followed the Llantwit Major Blue Plaque Trail had a good turnout with 24 members of the Ramblers taking part. He went on to advise that a number of stiles were in poor condition along FP26 and along the Cowbridge to Llantwit Major road; these had been reported to the Rights of Way office in the VOGC.

Mr G Roberts although very new in his appointment had started to walk the footpaths and would contribute more in the future.

Mr Lewis stated that the footpath clearances which had started in the previous 2 weeks was very good but was late in the season. Mr Teague accepted that the start was late but would be brought forward next year.

Mr Teague handed out the September Maintenance Report to all members which indicated that the majority of issues had been resolved. He advised that Tricia Cottnam from Coastal Access would be available at the next Footpath Forum to be held on 6 January 2015 to update members on the scheme at Boverton Mill and the effect of coastal erosion and Roll Back.

Mrs Mills advised that with reduced staffing much of the work they had hoped to achieve was not possible. They were involved in a large project within Dunraven Gardens.

Mr G Ingram passed photographs to members of a group of 60 volunteers who had cut and raked the top meadow by the Castle Ditches this was an ongoing project. The Wildlife Trust had a meeting with CADU and the Rights of Way Department of the VOGC to explore the possibility of diverting the Welsh Coastal Footpath to enable the existing pathway to be reinstated.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was 6 January 2015 at 6.30pm in the Heritage Centre.