

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE FOOTPATH FORUM
HELD ON 7 APRIL 2015

Present: Councillors: M Mason
M Marsh

Mr G Teague – Public Rights of Way Officer VOGC
Mr M Lewis – NFU
Mrs A James - U3A Representative
Mr G Roberts - History Society
Mrs L Bebb - Glamorgan Heritage Coast
Mrs Tricia Cottnam – Coastal Access

Apologies: Councillor E Williams
Councillor D Foster
Mrs H March – Friends of the Heritage Coast
Mrs H Mills – Glamorgan Heritage Coast

The Chairman opened the meeting by announcing the sad loss of Mr G Ingram – Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales who recently passed away. Guy was a very active member of the Wildlife Trust his enthusiasm and ready sense of humour were evident to all. He was also a very conscientious Town Councillor and our thoughts are with his family and many friends.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Bebb who was representing Mrs Mills at this meeting.

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 6 January 2015. It was agreed that the report was a reasonably accurate account of the meeting.

Rural Footpaths Grants

Mrs Cottnam updated members with the progress on linking FP55 and FP3 – a proposed Creation Order has been raised to create a public footpath from the adopted highway at Boverton Mill Farm to the public footpath at Summerhouse Point which leads to the coast path. The aim is to improve access to the coast; the proposed route follows an informal path already used by the public.

The vegetation cut back along FP3 Summerhouse Point following the existing trench had been completed. This is a very popular route for walkers and runners. Mrs Cottnam advised that Rob Thomas of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales was planning to erect a memorial to Guy Ingram on the East side of Llantwit Beach.

Mrs Cottnam announced that this would be her last meeting as she was moving on to pastures new. The Chairman thanked Tricia for all her help and wished her well for the future.

Member's Reports

Mrs James stated that many of the walking visitors to Llantwit Major were asking for directions to the beach avoiding use of the road. The current series of walking maps do not cover the routes to the beach. Mr Teague agreed to discuss the issue with the Tourism Department to see if there is a solution.

Mr Teague announced that the Rural Footpath Grants programme closed in December however funding is still available at present.

Mr Teague distributed the current Maintenance Report and explained that funding had been reduced with the result that at present the Llantwit area has one project approved over the next 2 years. In response to the item brought up by Councillor Marsh at the last meeting concerning ownership of the Boverton Cemetery wall Mr Teague confirmed that the wall is owned by Llantwit Major Town council.

Mrs March had submitted a written observation and photographs concerning a stile on FP23 which is narrow and high. It is very difficult to cross and would be greatly improved with steps up on both sides. The photographs were handed to Mr Teague who was aware of the situation and had requested his Field Officer to see what could be done.

Mr Roberts advised that the stile on FP15 Sheeplays requires maintenance as the top keeps falling off.

Mr Lewis commented that whilst some of the stiles were becoming dangerous every effort should be made to retain the stone stiles. He then offered his personal thanks to the Chairman for a conscientious and productive year in Office with a 100% attendance. All members attending concurred with his remarks.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The provisional dates for the next 4 meetings were 7 July, 6 October 2015, 5 January and 5 April 2016 at 6.30pm in the Heritage Centre subject to the approval of the full Town Council at the Annual Meeting on 21 May 2015.