

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

Present: Councillors: Mrs PA Lancaster
M Marsh
Mr G Teague – Public Rights of Way Officer VOGC
Mr M Lewis – NFU
Mr G Roberts - History Society
Mrs H Mills - Glamorgan Heritage Coast
Mrs H March – Friends of the Heritage Coast

Apologies: Councillor E Williams
Councillor D Foster
Mrs A James - U3A Representative

Councillor Tricia Lancaster opened the meeting by introducing herself as the Chair of the Footpath Forum for her year as Town Mayor. As a keen walker she said she was looking forward to working with all members.

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 7 April 2015. It was agreed that the report was a reasonably accurate account of the meeting.

Rural Footpaths Grants

Mr Teague advised that a consultative document outlining the proposed Creation Order had been distributed to the known parties that could be affected. There had been a couple of objections/observations received which have been passed for advice to the Vale Legal Department. The Legal team are also checking that no other party could have a claim of loss of value on their property. Mr Teague confirmed that £15k had been allocated for compensation and admin charges; he hoped to have a positive response by the next meeting.

Member's Reports

Cllr Marsh commented that a few of the footpaths/highways were overgrown.

Mrs March advised that she had telephoned the Rights of Way department that FP 21 had become overgrown and that it was difficult to walk it. They had sent a team out and had cleared it, a job well done.

Mrs Mills confirmed that she had a new job title in that she was now an Area Ranger no longer a Heritage Coast Ranger with a larger area to cover. Manning levels were reduced but they would continue to do as much as possible.

Mr Teague distributed the current Maintenance Report which was considered by the members present. He stated that the footpath cutting contract for Llantwit Major had started at the end of May and that there would be 2 cuts this financial year.

Mrs March asked if the Vale of Glamorgan were taking any steps to highlight the dangers from falling rocks in light of the most recent tragic accident when a young lady had been killed on Llantwit Major beach. Mr Teague stated that signs were in place along stretches of the footpaths advising of the dangers and that the Vale had a scanner which they were using along the coastline to indicate potential areas of concern when considering the safety of footpath usage.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date of the next meetings was 6 October 2015 at 6.30pm in the Heritage Centre.