



Minutes of meeting held on 20th April 2021 via Microsoft Teams commencing at 6:30pm

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Members present:	Apologies received:
Bob Wallace David Mitchel James Russell Nigel Jacobs – Chair of the meeting Ann Kennedy Barry Ingram	Steve Bumstead Cllr Royden
In attendance/Observers:	
Andrew Prigmore - Bedford Borough Council Michael Gibbons - Bedford Borough Council April Quinn – Bedford Borough Council	
Clerk: Georgina McDade	

1.	<p><u>Welcome by Chairman</u></p> <p>The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Previous minutes of the 12 January 2021 agreed and will be signed by Nigel Jacobs electronically.</p>
2.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>As above.</p>
3.	<p><u>Governance and Administration</u></p> <p><u>Elections</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair should be elected every 3 years. As such members agreed that an election should take place next year (2022) for the position of Chair and Vice.</p> <p>The BOBLAF guidance and handbook to be circulated amongst members. Completed</p>

	<p>Members agreed that steps should be taken to encourage new members. It was suggested that Yo Higton from Bedford Borough Council should be invited to a meeting prior to the next full BOBLAF meeting as a representative of the cycling community to discuss the Greenwheel and cycle routes and how the LAF can encourage members from the cycling community to join. Completed. Meeting has been arranged for 25th May 2021.</p> <p>AK to provide details of a contact who could potentially represent land owners. Completed. Contact has been made.</p> <p>Members agreed that contact should also be made with the Young Farmers to encourage membership from that organisation to expand representation. Completed. Contact made.</p>
4.	<p><u>Reports from Meetings Attended</u></p> <p>AP and AQ confirmed that they attended the A421 meeting and the Borough Council have submitted their views regarding this scheme. It was felt that the meeting was heavily centred around Cambridgeshire Council and as such a separate meeting has been requested with Highways England so that discussions can be had regarding the routes that are affecting Bedford Borough specifically.</p> <p>The minutes from the regional LAF meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A BOBLAF member will have to attend the next regional meeting organised for July 8th 2021. Ongoing.</p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes from this meeting will be circulated asap so that members are given the opportunity to add any items to the agenda for the regional meeting. Completed.</p>
5.	<p><u>Volunteering</u></p> <p>AP confirmed that the paint used for waymarkers is safe to use.</p> <p>The BOBLAF will try to encourage parishes to set up their own volunteering groups to assist with RoW matters so that volunteering work is completed on a parish basis. NJ confirmed he would liaise with Riseley Parish Council with regards to volunteering within that parish.</p> <p>BI raised the issue that some volunteering groups are limited with regards to what work they can carry out, ie some can only install waymarkers, some can only carry out clearance work, only some individuals are qualified to use power tools and then there is the issue with what power tools are actually available. BI further commented that training and supervision is also required especially for specific work such as bridge installations and step installations as these structures are required to meet certain legislative standards such as widths and measurements.</p> <p>AP highlighted that the main issue the Council has with individuals volunteering on behalf of the Council is insurance relating to injuries. JR suggested that funding should be requested by local authorities to assist with insurance issues and the above comments made by BI especially relating to the training of volunteers.</p> <p>AK confirmed she would encourage equestrian users to assist with RoW matters that affect bridleways as they would be covered by BHS insurance.</p>

	<p><u>Surveying</u></p> <p>AP confirmed that any potential volunteers for surveying just need to contact the Council to obtain details. He advised that the Council has electronic tablets that can be supplied, which would be a better method to use when surveying rather than pen and paper as details can be quickly uploaded and forwarded to the RoW team.</p> <p>Again it was agreed that volunteers should be encouraged to survey by Parish.</p> <p>Members suggested that parishes should be encouraged to have a specific highway representative so that parishes can look after the RoW network that affects their area.</p> <p>JR suggested that someone within each parish council should be appointed to coordinate surveying, which would make it more sustainable.</p> <p>It was agreed between members that each parish should be asked to set up a P3 group.</p> <p>Parish council involvement in RoW issues to be added to next agenda so that the LAF can draft ideas how to engage them.</p> <p>Country code to be emailed out to all parishes. Ongoing.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Consultations</u></p> <p>The Senior Planning Officer for the Borough Council (Sonia Gallagher) advised that it is unlikely that the LAF can be involved prior to the publication of neighbourhood plans as it is not known when each parish will publish the plans.</p> <p>Members agreed that a standard response to neighbourhood plans should be drafted and sent to Sonia to distribute to all parishes so that LAF comments can be taken in to consideration from the very beginning.</p> <p>NJ will amend the current NHP draft response and circulate to members for comments.</p> <p>The meeting on 25th May will be used to draft a LAF response for the East to West Rail consultation, which closes on the 9th June and to draft a response to the A428 consultation.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>RoW Matters</u></p> <p>The current public path order update was circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that an update for each PPO would be distributed to members prior to each meeting.</p> <p>25th May has been agreed as the meeting date to specifically discuss the East to West Rail consultation and A428 and to discuss how to encourage parish councils to set up volunteering groups to help maintain the RoW network and carry out surveying.</p>

	<p>AP advised that the Council is in discussion with the developers regarding the Greenwheel. The idea is to have a bridleway connecting Manton Lane and Brickhill.</p> <p>AP confirmed that there is funding available to create a link/route alongside the river linking Bromham and Kempston.</p> <p>AP advised Highways England have provided funding for a Stewartby/Bedford route.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Definitive Map</u></p> <p>The current consolidation of the definitive map is due to be completed by June. All public path orders that have been made and confirmed get consolidated in to the definitive map, which gets consolidated every 5 years.</p> <p>BW confirmed he would draft a document providing information regarding the definitive map for LetsGo! And would circulate to parish councils.</p> <p>AP confirmed that the RoW network is available digitally on the council website.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>ROWIP</u></p> <p>AP advised that this will be discussed and presented at the next BOBLAF Meeting, which will give LAF members the opportunity to advise on priorities for the ROWIP.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Future Agenda Items</u></p> <p>ROWIP Green Space Badgers</p> <p><u>Agenda Items for meeting on 25th May 2021</u></p> <p>Presentation by Yo Higton regarding cycling and sustainability Draft response for the East to West Railway consultation Draft response for the A428 consultation Parish Councils and volunteering/surveying</p>

11. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 20.40

Next Meeting dates:

25th May 2021

20th July 2021

26th October 2021

Signed:

Date: