



Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, CM1 1LN

MINUTES

7th July 2009
2pm – 5pm

Present

Members:

Hazel Jarrold (Chairman)	David Corke	Norman Hunt
Alan Adcock	Edward Dixon	Robert Johnstone
Kevin Ascott	Bob Drane	John Victory

Observers: Mags Hobby

Apologies: Christine Allman, David Anderson, Mick Brash, David Eagle, Richard Tattersall

The following Officers were present in support:

Michelle Gardiner – Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)
Garry White – ECC Definitive Map Manager

		ACTION
1	Welcome and introductions	
	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.	
2	Minutes of previous meeting	
	The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting held on 5 th May 2009. All agreed.	
	<i>Matters arising</i> Michelle Gardiner reported that ELAF's recommendations for Sadlers Farm had been submitted to the Inspector.	
3	Public questions	
	There were no public questions.	
4	Shoreline Management Plan event	
	Michelle Gardiner had previously circulated details of the Essex	

	Shoreline Management Plan stakeholder event to be held on 15 th July. Kevin Ascott had agreed to attend the event on behalf of ELAF. John Victory offered to stand-in for Kevin if necessary. Garry White will also be attending the event. LAF members agreed to e-mail Kevin if they had any comments to feed in to the event.	
5	Managing verges for biodiversity	
	<p>Following her attendance at the last ELAF meeting, Mary Atkins from ECC had invited LAF members to attend sessions on managing verges for biodiversity. Details of the sessions had previously been circulated.</p> <p>Mick Brash had circulated an e-mail outlining his views on this topic and encouraging members to attend the sessions to ensure that ELAF is represented at each workshop. Members generally agreed with the comments in Mick's e-mail.</p> <p>Members discussed the problems of upgrowth, overgrown hedgerows, scrub encroachment and inadequate cutting regimes. It was felt that there is a need to balance biodiversity and access considerations.</p> <p>The following members agreed to attend the sessions to feed in the comments from Mick's e-mail and today's discussion. West Area Office – David Corke South Area Office – Hazel Jarrold Mid Area Office – John Victory or Alan Adcock (tbc) East Area Office – Michelle Gardiner and Robert Johnstone Michelle will book places for LAF members.</p> <p>David Corke offered to compile a summary report of the issues if required.</p>	MG
6	Mitigation of longstanding obstruction problems by Public Path Diversion Order	
	<p>A detailed briefing note from Garry White had previously been circulated. Garry is aiming to introduce a policy to deal with longstanding obstruction problems. Garry talked about the issues that had been discussed within his team to develop the business case for this work.</p> <p>Garry invited comments from members to feed in to the report he will be producing for the Head of Service/Cabinet Member.</p>	All
7	Roadside margins	
	<p>(i) Barleylands John Victory reported that a meeting had been held between Mr Philpot, ELAF and Great Burstead and South Green Parish Council to discuss the Barleylands linkage idea. Mr Philpot indicated that he would support bridleway status, but although he farms part of the land, he is not the landowner. The Parish Council have agreed to approach the landowner, Mr Kingston, to discuss the proposal. John is waiting for an update from</p>	

	<p>the Parish Council.</p> <p>(ii) A133 Little Clacton bypass Nothing to report.</p>	
8	Commons and village greens	
	<p>David Corke reported that the commons and village greens training course that he attended on behalf of ELAF was useful. The course is run by the Society of Local Council Clerks and David recommended that other members attend if the opportunity arises. He has hard copy of the delegate notes from the course if anyone is interested.</p> <p>David explained that he has attempted to contact Defra to apply for the creation of a commons management council for common land near Saffron Walden, but has been unable to find the relevant person within Defra to assist him. It was suggested that David contact Nicky Rowbottom to ask for her advice in the first instance and then send a letter to Defra from ELAF if no progress is made.</p>	
9	Sustainable Communities Act	
	<p>Details of ECC's consultation and comments from Mick Brash had previously been circulated. Members felt that it was not relevant for ELAF to comment on the specific proposals - landfill tax, local benefit entitlement, performance standards for local partners, local referendums, non-emergency patient transport and youth activities. It was agreed to submit the general comments from Mick about the benefits of a good ROW network in response to the consultation.</p>	MG
10	Logo options	
	<p>Three alternative logo options had previously been circulated. Members agreed that logo 2 was the preferred option.</p>	
11	Correspondence	
	<p>Michelle Gardiner reported that Nicky Rowbottom has circulated details of an East of England LAFs chairman or vice-chairman event to be held on July 29th in Cambridge. Michelle explained that neither Mick Brash nor Hazel Jarrold were able to attend the event and asked if anyone else was available to represent ELAF at the event. Michelle will forward the details to all members so that those absent today also have the opportunity to attend.</p> <p>Michelle circulated hard copies of invitations to the PROW User Group day to be held on 31st July at Fyfield Village Hall. The ROWIP will be launched at this event. Michelle will forward details to all members by e-mail.</p>	MG MG
12	Any other business	
	<p>Members had received notification by e-mail that the latest copy of ECC's Access Essex publication was available electronically. Members briefly discussed the effectiveness of having an electronic publication.</p>	

	<p>Michelle Gardiner will find out how many people are downloading the publication.</p> <p>Ed Dixon reported that he had spoken to a Planning Officer regarding the Dedham Vale planning application that ELAF had commented. The main contention is regarding traffic considerations but there are no recommendations at present.</p>	MG
13	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 1 st September 2009	