

**NLAF**  
**Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 23 April 2015**

<p><b>Attendees:</b>                  David Knight           NLAF                  John Shenfield       NLAF                  Lisa Fell               NLAF                  Nicky Hyde-Pulley Northamptonshire Highways                  Cllr Michael Clarke Portfolio holder for Highways and Transport                  Chris Wragg Northamptonshire Highways                  Karen MacLeavy, Northamptonshire Highways</p>
<p><b>Apologies:</b>                  Sandra James                  Paul Bush                  Robert Martin</p>

No.	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Admin Items</b>                      Karen Macleavy introduced idea of an NLF online forum to support the regular in person meetings. LF offered to look into this to explore the possibilities and availability of suitable applications?</p>	LF
2	<p><b>Election of acting chair</b>                      JS volunteered to act as chair in the interim of a formal vote Other suggested nominees were Maurice Tebbit an Ramblers Association member. A discussion about increasing membership and representation at the forum followed. JS suggested asking parish councils Walking Groups such as the Sywell strollers and other ad Hoc groups. KML asked for group to put names forward and let her have contact details for the various groups so they could be invited to participate. MC asked that Rebecca Miller who has responsibility for communications in Northamptonshire Highways to be asked to produce recommendations to raise the profile of NLAF both internally and externally</p> <p>MC asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Roberts on behalf of the group for his time and work spent as chair and a member of NLAF.                      A discussion about the structure and functions of Northamptonshire Highways followed and whether it would raise possible financial and responsibility issues. It was explained that the new structure and joint venture was largely a cost saving exercise and would not affect services but actually provided better value for money. It was suggested that parish councils could be given more information on named responsibilities via the county council website. This will be investigated.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>KM and NHP</p> <p>Meeting</p>
3	<p><b>Improving access to PROW safety and Stiles- Lisa Fell</b>                      LF stated that Stiles are often high up and slippery when wet and made egress from</p>	

	<p>fields difficult. She suggested that ‘kissing’ gateway access such as Warwickshire County Council install would be a better option going forward. DK also suggested that access for people with disabilities needs to be improved and a discussion followed about various matters associated in improved access and getting local walking information in Parish noticeboards. LF will draft a letter to forward to KML for circulation to relevant parties. MC cited the Councillors’ Empowerment Fund ( total £7k) as a possible solution to some improvements and that NLAF members could approach local councillors if they had suggested improvements the money could help with.</p> <p><b>Make it law: mandatory use of signage to alert users to PROW to recently sprayed fields Lisa Fell</b></p> <p>LF raised that there is now evidence that some of the chemicals used to spray crops have been proven more harmful than first supposed and that some farmers were still spraying over the allowed margin to avoid human and pet contamination on ROW routes. LF will word a letter to be sent to the NFU to highlight these points</p> <p><b>HS2 Update- Chris Wragg</b></p> <p>CW circulated documents outlining proposed diversions of various parts of ROW along the planned HS2 route and explained in more detail what the issues were and how the HS2 planners intended to solve them.</p> <p>NHP proposed bringing the group up to date on whether there was any further movement on a ‘world class’ cycle path proposal that is to be sited largely adjacent to the HS2 route but also diverting slightly to take in heritage and other sites of interest for users. The feasibility work has been undertaken by ***** and NHP will request information from them.</p> <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>JS is going to pursue the issue with the parish council relating to traffic regulating order for the byways TB15 and TV15</p> <p>The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit should be contacted if it is witnessed that motorbikes are misusing ROW’s. The form for contacting the relevant location unit is on the Northamptonshire County Council website under anti-social behaviour alternatively ring the 101 number</p>	<p>KM/LF</p> <p>LF/ KM</p> <p>NHP</p>
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