

**Minutes of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum meeting
Tuesday 13 January 2026**

Present

Gail Johnson (GJ) (Chair)
Steve Taylor (ST) (Vice-Chair)
Sue Coles (SC)
Petronella Nattrass (PN)
Alan Marlow (AM)
Andy Whincup (AWh)
Aileen Wood (AW)
Chi Sharpe (CS) PCC

Officers

None present

Unable to provide online access via TEAMS at this meeting

Observers

Susie Corbett (SCT)

Apologies Cllr Mike Ford (CF); Jacqui England (JE); Anna Hammond (AH); Debbie Luff (DL); Alan Taylor (AT))

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes of the meeting 7 October 2025 accepted

3. Matter Arising

a) Outstanding action: JW to set up meeting with Stuart Giddings to discuss Volunteers to clear ORPAS. No progress reported. To be followed up and clarification to be sought about procedures

ACTION: Gail Johnson to contact Jonathan Woods

- **Action 1** – Manydown – bridleway v. restricted byway. Deferred to the next meeting.
- **Action 5** – Landowner Representative was advertised on HCAF website, Welcomed Susie Corbett to the meeting as an observer.

- **July Actions**

Page 4.

- No action on contacting Executive Members –changes to policies have been delayed. To be followed up with JW

ACTION: Gail Johnson to contact Jonathan Woods

- **Staff changes** Alison Hellyer has been appointed North West Hampshire Community Engagement Ranger. Thanks to Alison for her secretarial support.

- **Planning Team** No direct access to the Planning Team, but an email will be shared with HCAF members

ACTION Alan Marlow

- **Action 6 – Active Travel – on Agenda**
- **Page 5**
 - Noted that park furniture is marked on the Definitive online maps
- **Page 7**
 - Status of CAP annual delivery plan to be raised with Jonathan Woods
 - **ACTION: Gail Johnson to contact Jonathan Woods**
- **Item 9 Sub-groups**
 - MOD Liaison. No report. Alan Taylor to check with MOD
 - **ACTION: Alan Taylor**
 - Accessibility – No report

4. Meeting Venues

April 2026 Denning Room, County Hall
July 2026 Welborne – awaiting confirmation
September 2026 Denning Room, County Hall

5. Active Travel

- Paper circulated in advance of the meeting
- Do not know when the Active Rural Travel guidance will be published
- Funding likely to come from government; probably focussing on utility journeys and school routes
- Need to ensure horse-riding is included
- Creating new networks and taking into account all users (including those represented by HCAF members)
- Pg 1 Para 1 AWc mentioned that Frank Baxter would ask about funding. Suggested that wording “HCAF advises that Active Travel...” makes it more specific
- Paper / letter to be submitted by HCAF to all official bodies on what needs to be considered.
 - Minor amendments to be added to the paper S8.3 Guidance Forms
 - **Action Pertronella Natrass**
 - Amendment to be made stressing HCAF’s role
 - **ACTION: Gail Johnson**
- Paper to be circulated to HCAF members for approval before being sent to Frank Baxter
 - **ACTION: Gail Johnson**

6. Draft Joint Letter to Mayoral Candidates

- GJ met with chairs from the other LAFS in Hampshire
- Noted that HCC submission was for 4 new unitary areas North; South West; South East and Isle of Wight
- General discussion about future roles and scope of LAFs; and whether national parks will continue as separate entity. New Forest LAF (NFLAF) and South Downs LAF (SDLAF). GJ to contact the other LAFs regarding the timing and way forward
 - **ACTION: Gail Johnson**
- GJ to approach Natural England (NE) on the responsibility to set up LAFs in the new combined county authority and unitary areas
 - **ACTION: Gail Johnson**

- ST & SC to join GJ in drawing the letter and proposal together; shaping the final paper

ACTION: Gail Johnson, Steve Taylor & Sue Cole

- CS gave an update on Portsmouth City Council regarding devolution and reorganisation. He stressed that Portsmouth is an urban environment whereas large parts of Hampshire are rural; different issues and situations

7. Advice on Education the Public when using popular route (re Itchen corridor)

- Deferred to next meeting

8. Sub-groups

- Accessibility – no report
- Planning – invite Philip Millard to the April meeting to discuss how HCAF can remain engaged with strategic Planning.

ACTION: Gail Johnson

9. AOB

9.1 HCAF representative survey (ST)

- Draft Survey circulated.
 - A discussion was held on how to record numbers as some groups have more user data available than others,
 - Quantification of user numbers by user category will be the first phase of work and how we communicate with them is the second phase
 - User representatives to provide draft numbers and feedback to ST by the 31 January 2026

ACTION: All

- Volunteer hours – should HCAF be recording the hours given by members. Figures available for Footpath Warden volunteer hours. How do the Community Engagement Rangers remain engaged with Parish volunteer groups.
- Costings for HCAF and its work – allocation of £5,000 Budget paid by Portsmouth City Council to HCC and assume that £5,000 is also contributed by Southampton. What does this funding support? Portsmouth unaware that support to HCAF meetings had been reduced from four to two a year.
- Chi Sharpe has requested to present at the October 2026 meeting.

Minutes taken by Aileen Wood

Meeting closed 12.00