

WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

Present:

Mr. Norman Beardsley - Chairman; Sustrans Liaison; CAF Representative; Netheravon Area Representative; (NB)
Mrs. Kate Dilnott-Cooper - Minutes Secretary (KDC)
Mrs. Heather Emery - Marlborough Area Representative (HE)
Mrs. Emma Hodgson - Lavington Area Representative (EH)
Miss Barbara MacMullen - Filing Clerk (BM)

Apologies:

Mrs. Rosie Cunningham - Administration Secretary (RC)
Mrs. Charlotte Curtis - Devizes Area Rep (CLC)
Mr. James Higgs - TRF Representative; CAF Representative (JH)
Mrs. Charlotte Hill-Baldwin - Web Master (CHB)
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser (RP)
Mr. Bill Riley - Historical and Legal Advisor (BillR)

1.00 James Higgs - NB drew the Committee's attention to the email everyone had received from JH. He said that he had suggested to JH that he might remain on the Committee and come back when he felt it was the right time for him but JH had replied that this was not going to happen. He also requested that, in view of his current health, his name be removed from the WBA mailing list. The Committee all sent its best wishes to JH. EH asked if there was anyone who could take on the work that he had been doing.

1.01 Minutes of the last Meeting - NB signed a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2023 as a true recording of proceedings and this was passed to BM for filing at Brail Farm.

2.00 Matters Arising

2.01 (2.01) Treasurer's/Financial Report

In the absence of a Treasurer, NB reported to the Committee that since the last meeting £12.00 had been received for membership. During the same time, there had been no outgoings.

Balances on 31st August 2023: Current Account £6,195.75 Business Savings Account £17,644.52

2.02 (2.02) Membership

RP had emailed NB advising him that the WBA had one new member, Angie Beloe from Kingston Deverill, and the current membership total was therefore 137. Another member, Lavinia Mitchell had said to RP in August that she would continue to be a member and RP was currently chasing payment of her membership dues.

2.03 (2.03) Newsletter

The August issue of the newsletter had been circulated to all members. However, the *Essential Guide to Highway Terms* had not been included in the newsletter.

2.04 (2.04) Electronic Communications

These were monitored and regularly updated by CHB and NB congratulated CHB on the way this was done.

2.05 (2.05) Pleasure/Guided Rides

NB said that there was nothing more planned for the rest of the year.

2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm

1. Filing etc. - BM said that this continues slowly, ongoing.
2. External Maintenance - ongoing.

2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting - ongoing.

2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations

1. Wiltshire and Swindon CAF - The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th July had been circulated by NB. He said that the next meeting was to take place on 1st November but that as yet there was no venue for the meeting.
2. FoRP - There had still been no response from Dick Millard regarding the byway/cycle track crossings. NB said that he would raise the subject with Chris Clark at the next Wiltshire Council meeting.
3. Open Spaces Society - Nothing further had been received. NB said that CHB had published an article on path maintenance, Overgrown Paths, from the OSS on the WBA website.

2.09 (2.09) DMMOs

1. West Lavington BR14 - Ongoing (EH)
2. Easterton BR10 - Ongoing (EH)
3. Kington Langley BR10 + BR11 (upgrade to BYs) - Ongoing (NB)

2.10 (2.10) Contact with Chris Clark (CC)

NB reported that the meeting with CC that had been postponed from 5th July would now take place on 19th September with the venue yet to be arranged.

- 2.11** (2.11) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - NB reported that there was still no update from Wiltshire Council and that he would discuss the matter with CC at their September meeting.
- 2.12** (2.12) Milton Lilbourne BR18A (signage) - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.13** (2.13) Barbury Shooting School - NB reported that there was still no progress, ongoing.
- 2.14** (2.14) Ogbourne St George BR7 lost - NB reported that there was still no progress, ongoing.
- 2.15** (2.15) Shalbourne BR50 - NB reported that there was still no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.16** (2.16) A303 underpass + diversions (Stonehenge) - NB said that there had been no new information.
- 2.17** (2.17) Alton Barnes BR4 - NB reported no progress, ongoing.
- 2.18** (2.18) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - NB reported that there had been no update from Wiltshire Council about the discussions with the landowner and said that he would raise this at the meeting with CC later in the month.
- 2.19** (2.19) Kington Langley BY11 + BY13 - NB said that it had been confirmed on 1st September that the signage was complete. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.20** (2.20) Broad Chalke BR13, issues with three gates - NB was still waiting for an update from Wiltshire Council and he said that he would add this to the agenda for the meeting with CC on 19th September. Ongoing.
- 2.21** (2.21) Zeals BR22 - NB said that he was awaiting action by Wiltshire Council and/or the landowner concerning the cutting of the dangerous hedge. He undertook to visit this over the next few days and to add it to the list for the meeting with CC. Ongoing.
- 2.22** (2.22) Woodborough BR12 - NB reported that the HA1980 S130a notice had now been completed and handed to Stephen Leonard (SL) at Wiltshire Council on 1st September. Ongoing.
- 2.23** (2.23) Broad Town BR25 - RP had been to look at this. Ongoing.
- 2.24** (2.24) All Cannings BR20 (plus Stanton St Bernard BR10) - NB said that he was still awaiting a site visit, ongoing.
- 2.25** (2.25) Trowbridge FP8 - NB said that no decision had yet come from the Secretary of State. Ongoing.
- 2.26** (2.26) Bromham BR44 - heavy/broken gate, NB said that there had been no progress and he would chase Wiltshire Council on this one. Ongoing.
- 2.27** (2.27) Lyneham BR35 - NB met SL on 1st September and SL thought that he could get the Ramblers' Association to look at it.
- 2.28** (2.28) Bromham BR59 - this had been reported via MyWilts by RP.
- 2.29** (2.31) Chapmanslade BY31 - no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.30** (2.33) Baydon BR4 - a fingerpost was required, it was report number 40593 and was "in progress" with no updates and no notes. Ongoing. (HE)
- 2.31** (2.34) Baydon BR5 - HE said that this was non-existent. It was report number 54748, she had served a HA1980 S130a notice on Wiltshire Council and she had received a form 3 in respect of it. The status on MyWilts was "in progress" with no updates and no notes. Ongoing.
- 2.32** (2.35) Baydon BY17 - HE said that a fingerpost was required, it was report number 54749 and was "in progress" with no updates and no notes. Ongoing.
- 2.33** (2.36) Baydon BY19 - this was badly rutted, it was report number 58323 and was "in progress" with no updates since 15th March 2022. Ongoing.
- 2.34** (2.37) Stert BR7 - NB said that he was waiting for an update from Wiltshire Council on this bridge. CLC was going to go and have a look at it. Ongoing.
- 2.35** (2.38) Melksham Without BR25A - NB said that there had been no new information and that he was going to talk to Paul Millard about it. Ongoing.
- 2.36** (2.39) Devizes BY58 and BY62 - grass verges need cutting, they are very badly rutted and the byway surface is covered in large stone chippings. NB said that there had been no progress and he would put this on the list of things to be discussed with CC on 19th September. Ongoing.
- 2.37** (2.40) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - two gates with weights attached, NB said that there had been no change and this would be added to the list for discussion with CC. Ongoing.
- 2.38** (2.41) Melksham Without BR43 - unauthorised gate on the bridleway at Craysmarsh Farm. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.39** (2.42) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from the ditch clearance had been deposited on the bridleway. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.40** (2.43) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B had several gates that were not horse friendly. No change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.41** (2.44) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - bollards that restrict access for carriage drivers. No progress, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.42** (2.45) Seend - eight gates on a circular route, seven of which are defective and broken, only two of which are authorised, the only working one is unauthorised. NB said that this was slowly being worked through. Ongoing.
- 2.43** (2.46) Durnford BR11 and Winterbourne BR27 - poor access on/off a main road, unchanged, ongoing. (RP)

- 2.44** (2.57) Stert FP11- DMMO application to upgrade this footpath to a bridleway. No progress, Ongoing. (RC)
- 2.45** (2.48) Melksham BR87 - barbed wire on the gates which is illegal. EH suggested putting hose pipe over the barbed wire. It was mentioned that CC had new contractors who were putting barbed wire on things. Ongoing.
- 2.46** (2.49) Market Lavington BR24 - signage, EH said that a fingerpost was required at the Easterton end of the bridleway. Ongoing.
- 2.47** (2.50) Nettleton BR36 - NB reported that the HA1980 S130a documentation had been completed and handed to SL on 1st September. It is understood that the farmer does not want to move his fence back. Ongoing. (NB & BillR)
- 2.48** (2.51) Collingbourne Ducis BR34 - RP said that there had been partial clearance of the three fallen trees and that it was now passable on horseback, riders had made a track round the biggest tree trunk. Ongoing.
- 2.49** (2.52) Chute BR4, BR36 and BR38 - fingerpost signage required, no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.50** (2.53) Application to upgrade Charlton St Peter FP6, Charlton St Peter BR2 and Wilsford BR5 to restricted byways. The application had been to the Eastern Area Planning Committee and WC does not support it. It will go to the Secretary of State and the WBA will be able to support the application at the Inquiry. Ongoing. (NB & RC)
- 2.51** (2.54) Pewsey BR6 - new surface was required to replace the rotten wooden walkway/bridge. (SL) had referred it to Natural England. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.52** (2.55) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - overgrown and gate problems, NB undertook to go and look at it. Ongoing.
- 2.53** (2.62) Application to record a restricted byway between Smallbrook Lane and Smallbrook Road (part currently Warminster FP46 and part unrecorded) has been confirmed. TO BE CLOSED (RC)
- 2.54** (2.57) Application to record a restricted byway at Ramsbury (Axford) and Mildenhall (Axford Lane), upgrade Ramsbury FP9B and FP44 and Mildenhall FP16 and add Ramsbury RBY71 and RBY72 - this is still in abeyance with Wiltshire Council. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.55** (2.58) Devizes Gateway Rail Station - NB reported that this was being monitored and was listed for debate in Parliament earlier today. Ongoing.
- 2.56** (2.59) Access for riders at Conock. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.57** (2.61) The junction of Collingbourne Kingston BY2A and Fair Mile required signage. NB said that he would discuss this with CC at the meeting on 19th September.
- 2.58** (2.62) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 and BR2 - fingerpost and signage required and NB said that he would discuss this with CC at the meeting on 19th September. Ongoing. (RP)
- 2.59** (2.63) Burbage BR14 had a gate that closed much too quickly. No progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.60** (2.64) North Newnton BR8 had spoil deposited on the bridleway from the ditch clearing. No change, NB undertook to go and have a look at it, ongoing. (NB & RP)
- 2.61** (2.65) Shrewton RBY7 and a ford through the River Till. Ongoing. (NB & BillR)
- 2.62** (2.66) Berwick St John BR14 - the bridleway was very muddy and obstructed by a gate which was secured by a chain and padlock. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.63** (2.67) Christian Malford BR9 - NB visited this bridleway on 1st September and said that it is in two halves, dissected by the M4. Both halves are visible on the ground and both connect to a footpath, signage is required. NB spoke to the farmer at the southern end who said it had not been ridden for sixty years. NB undertook to discuss the situation with CC. Ongoing.
- 2.64** (2.68) Chute BY35 - RP had emailed Alex Howson and Carys Ford a number of times, most recently on 1st September, and had never received more than an out of office response. NB suggested that this was another subject to be discussed with CC. Ongoing.
- 2.65** (2.69) Buttermere BR1, FP6 and BR7 - lack of signage and gate problems, no change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.66** (2.70) Shrewton BY32 - the byway is an extension of the road (Nett Road), the contractor that has done it has an agreement with the Parish Council that he will maintain it but it had been reported that the surfacing material was unsafe. NB was waiting for a meeting with the Chairman of the Shrewton Parish Council. Ongoing.
- 2.67** (2.71) Huish BR14 - the gate needs a handle and NB will sort it out with the landowner. (NB & HE)
- 2.68** (2.72) Seend BR55 and Rowde BR21 - damage to the surface due to the new owner of the land using the bridleways to access the adjacent fields in his vehicles. Ongoing. (EH)
- 2.69** (2.73) Market Lavington BR4 - gate problem. EH said that she had not checked this one recently.
- 2.70** (2.74) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation along the bridleways, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.71** (2.75) Salisbury and Durnford area - overgrown bridleways, NB said that he was working on this one. Ongoing.
- 2.72** (2.76) Potterne BR20 blocked by fallen trees - cleared all the way through. TO BE CLOSED (CLC)
EH suggested to NB that he asked CC to inform the WBA when work had been done so that it can be appreciated.
- 2.73** (2.77) Easterton FP1 and BY5 which may be affected by a proposed development, ongoing. (KDC)

2.74 (2.78) Need for horse warning sign on A338 between West Grafton and East Grafton - NB said that this would probably need to go through the Parish Council. (RP)

2.75 (3.02) Application to upgrade Royal Wootton Bassett FP64 to BOAT (byway open to all traffic) TO BE CLOSED

2.76 (4.01) Easterton BR26 sown with cereal crops and the route is blocked. NB visited on 13th August and reported on MyWilts. NB to discuss with CC at the meeting on 19th September. Ongoing.

2.77 (4.02) Melksham Without BR41 - seriously overgrown and dangerous. NB visited on 4th August and reported on MyWilts. Ongoing.

2.78 (4.03) Rowde BR19 - blocked by fallen trees and unsuitable surface for horses, site visit awaited. Ongoing. (NB)

2.79 (4.04) West Ashton BR4 - bridleway and gate blocked by vegetation, awaiting a site visit. (NB)

2.80 (4.05) Wilsford BR10 - maintenance required on the section of this bridleway that is north of A342. (NB)

2.81 (4.06) Vacancy of post of Treasurer. Ongoing. (All)

3.00 Correspondence

3.01 10th August from C Harlow at Wiltshire Council - new application to record widths for North Tidworth FP11 as the previous application was incorrect. Any objection must be in by 15th September, it was agreed that a new objection should be put in by NB.

3.02 10th August from C Harlow at Wiltshire Council - proposed diversion of Tockenham FP7. No objections, NB to pass this on.

3.03 14th August email from NB - draft minutes of WSCAF (Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum) meeting, plus GLASS (Green Lane Association) paper - local cycling/walking. To be filed.

3.04 15th August from C Harlow at Wiltshire Council - application to record a restricted byway between Smallbrook Lane and Smallbrook Road (part currently Warminster FP46 and part unrecorded) as Warminster RBY93. Order confirmed, copy of order, order plan and notice. To be filed.

3.05 17th August email from NB - retrospective planning application for Charlton Cat, public house to café. Comments relating to integrity of PROWs across this property submitted by WBA and Wiltshire Council Rights of Way. To be filed.

3.06 22nd August email from NB - map request for the parish of Buttermere which had not yet been received by RC. Map received and to be filed by BM at Brail Farm. EH suggested that someone from the Map Department at Wiltshire Council should be invited to speak at the next WBA Annual General Meeting.

3.07 23rd August email from NB - distance required between gaps/gates and barbed wire is 1 metre. To be filed.

3.08 31st August email from NB - Wiltshire Local Plan, dates for informal "drop in sessions". (All)

3.09 31st August email from NB - information from Open Spaces Society regarding overgrown paths.

3.10 2nd September email from NB - increased width of Winterslow BY94, Back Drove, order made. Ongoing.

4.00 Any Other Business

4.01 Maiden Bradley BR6 blocked by the installation of new gates, secured by a chain and padlock. This was dealt with by the informant, Angie Beloe, and the matter was resolved. TO BE CLOSED

4.02 Cheverell Magna BR12, Witchcombe Lane, is overgrown by brambles, nettles and bushes. (EH)

4.03 Offer of help from new supporter, Angie Beloe - RP is corresponding. TO BE CLOSED

4.04 It was suggested that Nigel Linge, a previous Chair of WSCAF, should be asked to look at the Shrewton problems. (NB)

4.05 BM informed the Committee that signage was required on the circular route from Westcourt via Easton Clump, Easton Royal (Harris Lane), Wootton Rivers and Ram Alley before returning to Westcourt. The vegetation at the bridleway gate between Ram Alley and Westcourt (Bowden Farm) has been cleared and is now easily usable. NB to submit documentation to Wiltshire Council.

4.06 HE informed the Committee that Alton Barnes BR2, Workway Drove, was blocked with vicious spiky/woody vegetation. She said that this had been reported (number 00124275) on 5th September.

4.07 HE informed the Committee that Preshute BR2, Old Eagle, was overgrown underfoot with bracken and brambles. She said that this had been reported (number 00124278) on 5th September.

4.08 HE informed the Committee that the width of Ogbourne St George BY9 had been severely reduced by bushes growing in from both sides, it was just passable with a horse but would be impossible with a carriage. She said that this had been reported (number 00124279).

5.00 Date of Next Meeting

5.01 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm in The Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2140 hrs.