

WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

Present:

Mr. Norman Beardsley - Chairman; Sustrans Liaison; CAF Representative; Netheravon Area Representative; (NB)
Mrs. Rosie Cunningham - Administration Secretary (RC)
Mrs. Kate Dilnott-Cooper - Minutes Secretary (KDC)
Mrs. Heather Emery - Marlborough Area Representative (HE)
Mrs. Emma Hodgson - Lavington Area Representative (EH)
Mrs. Liz Keen - Treasurer (LK)

Apologies:

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)

1.01 Minutes of the last Meeting - NB signed a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2024 as a true recording of proceedings and he took the document for filing at Brail Farm.

2.00 Matters Arising

2.01 (2.01) Treasurer's Financial Report

LK presented a bank reconciliation document which showed that the opening balance of the Current Account at the beginning of November was £6,352.66. The only income during the month had been the sale of a fleece at £25.00 (£20.00 for the item plus £5.00 for postage and packing). There had also been expenditure of £18.00, room hire for the November meeting. The closing balance on 30th November was £6,359.66.

There had been no transactions for the Business Savings Account during the month and the balance in that account on 30th November was £17,953.33.

2.02 (2.02) Membership

RP had reported to NB that there were 139 members of which 62 were life members.

2.03 (2.03) Newsletter

RP had reported to NB that she expected to receive the newsletter that day and would put it in the post on the same day. The next newsletter was due to go out in early March.

2.04 (2.04) Electronic Communications

NB said that CHB continued to keep all the electronic communications up to date.

2.05 (2.05) Pleasure/Guided Rides

RP had reported to NB that there would not be a ride until the spring, it was possible that there could be a local one in late April if the ground were dry at the time.

2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm

1. Filing etc. - NB said that he was now dealing with this.
2. External Maintenance - NB said that some initial tidying had been completed during late November.

2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

NB reported that he had written to Inspector Andy Lemon to formally request him to make a presentation to the meeting relative to Equine Safety on Public Roads.

2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (WSCAF) - NB said that the draft minutes for the meeting held on 6th November had been received and distributed to all WBA Committee members on 18th November. He asked that the Committee members consider the relevant correspondence from that meeting, particularly from Tim Lewis (TL) of Wiltshire Ramblers (WR) and Graham Bennett (GB) of the British Horse Society (BHS) relative to DMMO problems and let NB have their thoughts on the subject.
2. Open Spaces Society (OSS) - NB had received and circulated the November 2024 monthly update publication at the beginning of December. He went on to say that since the last WBA meeting he had received a letter from the OSS requesting a donation for its Legal Action Fund. Following discussion, it was agreed that, as in 2023, a donation of £100 should be made for this purpose.

2.09 (2.09) Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)

1. West Lavington BR14 - EH said that Stephen Leonard (SL) had closed this on the basis that it goes to a dead end. NB asked EH to let him have any paperwork that she had on the subject.
2. Easterton BR10 - no news, ongoing. (EH)
3. Kington Langley BR10 + BR11 (upgrade to BYs) - still pending, ongoing. (NB)

4. Access for riders at Conock - no progress, ongoing. (NB)
5. Winterslow BY94 - NB said that this was being dealt with by Wiltshire Council (WC) but that there was no information identified under DMMO or PPO online records. NB undertook to investigate further.
6. Seend BR40 (upgrade to RBY) - NB said that action was awaited from WC, ongoing.
7. Application to record bridleway rights over part of Drove Lane, Market Lavington - EH said that there had been no further correspondence.

2.10 (2.10) Contact with Chris Clark (CC) of WC

The next meeting had been planned for 29th January 2025 - NB asked members to let him know of any particular incidents to be included in the discussion.

Gates - North

2.11 (2.11) Broad Town BR25 - RP had reported to NB that the first gate had been rehung and could be opened but that she had rereported the second gate (going anticlockwise from Cotmarsh) as it was very hard to open and had six inches of water in front of it so getting off there was tricky (report number 00200111), ongoing.

2.12 (2.12) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10 - NB said that he was still waiting for an update from Stephen Leonard (SL). He went on to say that there was a pedestrian gate on the bridleway which should be taken down. Ongoing.

2.13 (2.13) Huish BR14 - site visit still awaited, ongoing. (NB)

Gates - South

2.14 (2.14) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - no update, ongoing. (RP)

2.15 (2.15) Berwick St John BR14 - site visit still awaited, ongoing. (NB)

Gates - West

2.16 (2.16) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - NB said that he had received no further update from WC. Ongoing.

2.17 (2.17) Melksham Without BR87 - EH said that she had not looked to see if the barbed wire had been removed.

2.18 (2.18) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - NB said that he had received no further update from WC. Ongoing.

2.19 (2.19) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - EH said that she had heard nothing on this subject.

Gates - Swindon Borough Council (SBC)

2.20 (2.20) The Lane which runs from Hinton Parva in the parish of Bishopstone to Horpit in the parish of Wanborough. NB said that there had been no change, ongoing. (RP)

Signage - North

2.21 (2.21) Milton Lilbourne BR18A - no update, ongoing. (RP)

2.22 (2.22) Barbury Shooting School - ongoing. (NB)

2.23 (2.23) Baydon BR4 - status on MyWilts was In Progress, no updates (report number 40593), ongoing. (HE)

2.24 (2.24) Baydon BR5 + BY17 - HE reported that the status on MyWilts was In Progress, no updates (report number 54749), ongoing.

2.25 (2.25) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - no change, ongoing. (RP)

2.26 (2.26) Christian Malford BR9 - awaiting action by WC, ongoing. (NB)

2.27 (2.27) Signage required around the area of Westcourt, Burbage, Easton Royal, Milton Lilbourne, Wootton Rivers and Ram Alley - no change, ongoing. (NB)

2.28 (2.28) Grafton RBY15 - no change, ongoing. (RP)

2.29 (2.29) Grafton RBY29 + RBY30 - no change, ongoing. (RP)

2.30 (2.30) Fyfield BR25 - no change, ongoing. (RP)

Signage - South

2.31 (2.31) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - no change, ongoing. (NB)

2.32 (2.32) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no change, ongoing. (RP)

Signage - West

2.33 (2.33) Bromham BR59 - no change, ongoing. (RP)

2.34 (2.34) Market Lavington BR24 - no change but NB has the signs required. (EH)

Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway - North

2.35 (2.35 and 5.03) Pewsey BR6 - NB said that he had made a further visit to the site on 1st December and had submitted a further MyWilts report with photographs on 8th December (report number 00199699). He went on to say that this had been closed by SL first thing the following morning, the reason for the closure having been "this is all in

hand". NB undertook to pursue this. He further said that he had submitted a full report to Pewsey PC from whom a response was awaited. The report had been placed on file and the entry had been submitted for posting on Facebook.

2.36 (2.36) North Newnton BR8 - flytipping clearance of tyres still awaited, ongoing. (NB)

Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway - South

2.37 (2.37) Sedgehill and Semley BR28 - NB said that he was awaiting an update from WC, ongoing.

Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway - West

2.38 (2.38) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - EH said that there was no news, ongoing.

Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees - North

2.39 (2.39) Pewsey BR69 - severely overgrown, no change, ongoing. (RP)

2.40 (2.40) West Overton BR20 - HE reported that the work had been done. TO BE CLOSED

2.41 (2.41) Fallen tree across Wilcot BR41 and Alton BR1 - HE said that this had been cleared. TO BE CLOSED

Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees - West

2.42 (2.42) Rowde BR19 - cul de sac blocked by a fallen tree, NB site visit awaited, ongoing.

2.43 (2.43) Chapmanslade BY31 - ongoing. (NB)

2.44 (2.44) Melksham Without BR41 - overgrown vegetation. NB said that he was waiting for a further update from WC. Ben Braine (BB) had previously said that he was going to check what was happening as it had been given to the contractor. Ongoing.

2.45 (2.45) West Ashton BR4 - bridleway and gate are reported as overgrown, NB said there had been no further update from WC, ongoing.

2.46 (2.46) Cheverell Magna BR12, Witchcombe Lane - EH said that she had ridden it and would rereport it.

2.47 (5.02) Zeals BR22 - dangerous access onto Bonham Lane caused by the high overgrown hedge. NB said that a copy of the report had been forwarded to Zeals PC and details had also been posted on Facebook. Awaiting action by WC, ongoing.

Solar Farms

2.48 (2.50) Proposed solar farm in the Malmesbury area (Lime Down) - no news, ongoing. (NB)

2.49 (2.51) Proposed 160 acre solar farm which may affect Marden BR6, Wilsford BR6 + BR10 + BY7 - RC said that she had no new information, ongoing.

2.50 (2.52) Proposed solar farm at Potterne Park Farm - KDC reported that the third consultation period had closed on 6th December and that, following the last meeting, she had posted the agreed objection on WC's website. She drew the Committee's attention to the work of the Potterne Solar Action Group including the launch of its website, stoppotternesolar.com. She went on to say that the Solar Action Group was working against both the proposed solar farms in Potterne, the one at Potterne Park Farm and the one by Blounts Court Farm on One Tree Hill.

2.51 It was reported that there was a solar farm being built at Folly Lane, Lacock and KDC undertook to look to see if any Public Rights of Way were affected by it.

Other

2.52 (2.53) Ogbourne St George BR7 - ongoing. (NB)

2.53 (2.54) Shalbourne BR50 - no update, ongoing. (RP)

2.54 (2.55) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - NB said that he had received no information from WC, ongoing.

2.55 (2.56) Durnford BR11 + Winterbourne BR27 - no information, ongoing. (RP)

2.56 (2.57) Chute BY35 - no update, ongoing. (RP and NB)

2.57 (2.58) Horse warning signs in the West Grafton/Burbage area - no change, ongoing. It was suggested that CC of WC should be asked what the cost of such a sign would be. (RP)

2.58 (2.59) Ramsbury FP5 + FP8C + BR6 + Little Bedwyn FP20 - no change, ongoing. (RC)

2.59 (2.60) Application to delete Ogbourne St George BY1, also known as Gypsy Lane, and add BOAT in the parish of Chiseldon - no change, ongoing. (NB)

2.60 (2.62) Search for new Chairman of the WBA - ongoing. (All)

2.61 (2.63) Search for new Filing Clerk for the WBA - ongoing. (All)

2.62 (2.64) Twenty-eight PRoW defect reports submitted by Clare Brixey - NB said that these were minor defects only and that he was still working his way through the list. Ongoing.

2.63 (2.66) Collingbourne Ducis BR35 - no change, ongoing. (RP)

2.64 (2.69) Proposed new sites for gypsy and travelling community - ongoing. (NB)

2.65 (5.04) Preshute BR31 - blocked by the extension of a garden of a local residence, NB undertook to get the details from RP. (RP)

2.66 (5.05) Following the discussion at the last meeting about finding something for BM to mark her long and much valued service to the WBA, KDC showed the Committee a page from *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News* from the issue of 28th September 1912, headed *Cub-Hunting on Salisbury Plain with the Tedworth*, which she had bought for £15.00 as a potential gift. The entire page was taken up with two drawings by Lionel Edwards. The Committee agreed that this was a suitable gift for BM and KDC undertook to ascertain the cost of framing it with the addition of a small plaque.

3.00 Correspondence

3.01 14th November - email from Craig Harlow (CH) at WC - application to upgrade Grafton FP13 and Tidcombe and Fosbury FP11 to restricted byways. Order made, copy of order, order plan and notice.

3.02 18th November - email from NB, latest information on MyWilts format

3.03 18th November - email from NB - draft minutes and associated documentation from WSCAF meeting on 6th November.

3.04 19th November - hard copy from CH at WC - application to upgrade Grafton FP13 and Tidcombe and Fosbury FP11 to restricted byways. Order made, copy of order, order plan and notice.

3.05 20th November - email from CH at WC - proposed diversions of Brixton Deverill BR1, BR2 and BR16 at Woodcombe Farm. Order made, copy of order, order plan and notice.

3.06 3rd December - email from NB, November 2024 copy of OSS updates.

3.07 3rd December - email from NB - BHS annual Access and Safety Conference held on 16th November

3.08 3rd December - email from NB - WC local plan submitted to Secretary of State for examination

3.09 3rd December - email from NB - various roads in Wedhampton and Urchfont, 20mph and prohibition of entry

3.10 5th December - Planning Inspectorate - upgrade of Ramsbury FP9B and FP44 and Mildenhall FP16 to restricted byways plus creation of two new restricted byways, Ramsbury RB71 and RB72, decided by exchange of statements only.

3.11 5th December - email from NB - creation of Market Lavington RB56 along Drove Lane. Order made, copy of order, order plan and notice (also received by RC by email on 5th December)

3.12 7th December - hard copy from CH at WC - creation of Market Lavington RB56 along Drove Lane.

3.13 10th December - Jane Hughes at WC - DM and statements for Malmesbury Without BR86. To NB for filing.

4.00 Any Other Business

4.01 Stanton St Bernard BR17 and Alton BR2 - cattle handling pens causing obstruction. HE informed the Committee that she had reported this issue (report number 00196653).

4.02 Chute BR4 - RP had notified NB that there were a number of trees down which made this impassable (report number 00200161).

4.03 Wootton Bassett BR26A - RP had notified NB that there were three small trees causing an obstruction (report number 00200107).

5.00 Date of Next Meeting

5.01 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2125 hours.