

## **WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)**

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 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)  
Miss Barbara MacMullen - Filing Clerk (BM)

Apologies:

Mrs. Charlotte Curtis - Devizes Area Representative (CLC)  
Mrs. Charlotte Hill-Baldwin - Web Master (CHB)  
Mrs. Anneliese Meissner (AM)  
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser; (RP)  
Mr. Bill Riley - Historical and Legal Advisor (BILLR)

**1.01** James Higgs - NB gave the Committee the sad news that James had passed away on 25th October. JH had attended the WBA AGM for a number of years prior to joining the Committee as the representative of the Trail Riders Fellowship in March 2018. NB said that JH had had a wealth of knowledge to impart on the subject of Rights of Way and that, although a motor cyclist at heart, had been a good friend to the WBA and others and had been a valued member of the Committee.

**1.01** Minutes of the last Meeting - following the circulation of the minutes one amendment had been made, the replacement of the word "council" with the word "centred" in the second line of paragraph 2.06.1. NB signed an amended copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 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**

NB reported that no income had been received since the last meeting and that the only outgoing had been £18.00 to the Quaker Meeting Rooms. The Current Account's balance on the bank statement of 13th October 2023 had been £6,162.75 and there were outstanding payments of £148.25 (£56.00 and £56.25 to RP plus 1 x £18.00 to Quaker Meeting Rooms). The balance on 31st October had therefore been £6,014.50.

The Business Savings Account had had no income or outgoings since the last meeting and the balance on the bank statement of 13th October 2023 was £17,691.80.

RC reported that Michelle Haley (MH) had removed herself from being the bank's contact and that she, RC, was now the contact as she had been a signatory on the account, as was BM. It had not been possible to make NB the bank's contact as he was not a signatory. This would have to be reorganized when a replacement Treasurer is officially appointed.

#### **2.02 (2.02) Membership**

RP had reported to NB that the membership stood at 137.

#### **2.03 (2.03) Newsletter**

RP had further reported that she had started the next newsletter which would be issued before Christmas and would contain a reminder that fees are due on 1st January 2024. She had asked for contributions from other members of the Committee.

#### **2.04 (2.04) Electronic Communications**

NB said that these were monitored and regularly updated by CHB.

#### **2.05 (2.05) Pleasure/Guided Rides**

RP had informed NB that she would start some investigations into a possible spring ride from Everleigh.

#### **2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm**

1. Filing etc. - ongoing. RP had suggested to NB that she could contact some other RoW groups to enquire how they control their filing.
2. External Maintenance - ongoing. RP had mentioned to NB that a small green car was parked very close to the office which made it difficult to access the door. The owner of the car had been asked to park a few feet further away from the office although it was understood that it was only there during working hours on weekdays. NB said that he had been there recently and that there was some muck that needed to be cleared.

**2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting** - this would take place from 6.30pm to 9.30pm on Thursday 21st March 2024. RC confirmed that Rushall Village Hall had been booked. EH suggested that Sally Madgwick (SM), the Definitive Map and Highway Records Manager at Wiltshire Council (WC), or a member of her team could be invited to speak.

## **2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations**

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (CAF) - NB reported that at the meeting held on 1st November in Salisbury there had been a briefing from Richard Broadhead on Cranborne Chase and a further briefing from Naomi Styles, the Woodland Officer at WC, on tree planting. As a result the items which had been submitted by WBA for the meeting had not been included but would be discussed separately with WC.
2. Friends of Railway Path (FoRP) - NB said that he had still had no response from Dick Millard (DM), the FoRP Chair, and that he was waiting to hear from Stephen Leonard (SL) whether or not bollards were in place on the cycle track at approaches to byway crossings. Ongoing.
3. Open Spaces Society - NB said that nothing further had been received.
4. National Federation of Bridleway Associations (NFoBA) - NB said that nothing further had been received.

## **2.09 (2.09) Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)**

1. West Lavington BR14 - no change, ongoing. (EH)
2. Easterton BR10 - no change, ongoing. (EH)
3. Kington Langley BR10 + BR11 (upgrade to BYs) - ongoing. (NB)

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

NB informed the Committee that the next meeting with CC would be at the end of January 2024. He went on to say that some of the members of CC's team were changing their role and once things had settled down, CC would update the WBA with all the contact details.

**2.11 (2.11) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5** - NB said that he was awaiting an update from WC on the signage issues. Ongoing.

**2.12 (2.12) Milton Lilbourne BR18A (signage)** - RP had reported to NB that there had been no change, ongoing.

**2.13 (2.13) Barbury Shooting School** - no progress, ongoing. (NB)

**2.14 (2.14) Ogbourne St George BR7** - no progress, ongoing. (NB)

**2.15 (2.15) Shalbourne BR50** - RP had reported to NB that there had been no change. Ongoing.

**2.16 (2.16) A303 underpass + diversions (Stonehenge)** - NB reported that there had been an article in the issue of the *Salisbury Journal* of 2nd November stating that objections to this development were expected to be heard in the High Court during December 2023. Ongoing.

**2.17 (2.17) Alton Barnes BR4** - NB said that the distance between the marked exit onto the road and the location of the definitive exit is approximately thirty metres. The marked route is on a level with the road having good visibility in both directions. The definitive access is up a bank from the field and will require considerable clearance. This also has good visibility of both directions but, given the requirement to surmount the earth bank at that point, it creates an additional hazard for horse, rider and any traffic on the road. The speed limit on this road is 50mph. The bridleway is seldom, if ever, used as the landowner permits riders to use the field edge to access the network of other PRoWs. Many of those who ride along the field edge are based at The White Horse Livery in Alton Barnes. On the basis of safety and the likely costings involved in rectifying the defect for which the authorities seem to have no interest, it was agreed that this project be placed on a separate Annex listing which will also record the date of transfer to that list. This will be checked and amended/updated as necessary.

**2.18 (2.18) Hullavington BY9 + BY32** - NB said that he was awaiting an update from WC, ongoing.

**2.19 (2.19) Broad Chalke BR13** - NB said that he was awaiting an update from WC regarding the gates on the bridleway, ongoing.

**2.20 (2.20) Zeals BR22** - NB informed the Committee that he was awaiting an update from WC concerning the cutting of the hedge which was currently causing serious safety problems. Ongoing.

**2.21 (2.22) Broad Town BR25** - RP had informed NB that there had been no change, ongoing.

**2.22 (2.23) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10** - NB said that there had been no change, ongoing.

**2.23 (2.24) Trowbridge FP8** - NB reported that a decision from the Secretary of State was still awaited. Ongoing.

**2.24 (2.25) Bromham BR44** - NB reported that there had been no progress with the heavy/broken gate. Ongoing.

**2.25 (2.27) Bromham BR59** - RP had told NB that there had been no change, ongoing.

**2.26 (2.28) Chapmanslade BY31** - NB said that there had been no progress on clearing the vegetation overgrowth, ongoing.

**2.27 (2.29) Baydon BR4** - requirement for a fingerpost, it has been reported on MyWilts (40593) and its status is In Progress, no updates, no notes. (HE)

**2.28 (2.30) Baydon BR5** - HE said that this was non-existent, it had been reported on MyWilts (54748) where its status is In Progress, no updates, no notes. She went on to say that she had served a notice to WC under the Highways Act 1980 s130a (Form 1) and had since received confirmation of intended action (Form 3).

- 2.29** (2.31) Baydon BR5 + BY17 - a fingerpost was needed, HE had reported it on MyWilts (54749) and its status is In Progress, no updates since 10th February 2022.
- 2.30** (2.32) Baydon BY19 - this is badly rutted, it had been reported on MyWilts (58323), its status is In Progress, no updates since 15th March 2022. (HE)
- 2.31** (2.33) Stert BR7 - NB said that the problem was a slippery bridge but there was also a problem with the gate and vegetation. The landowners are at Saddlepack Farm. This had been checked by CLC on 15th October and further reports had been submitted on MyWilts. Ongoing.
- 2.32** (2.34) Melksham Without BR25A - NB informed the Committee that he was awaiting a further update from WC concerning the application by the landowner for a diversion.
- 2.33** (2.35) Devizes BY58 + BY62 - overgrown with a badly rutted surface, NB said that he was waiting for the results of a site visit and assessment by a WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.
- 2.34** (2.36) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - two gates with weights attached, NB said that he was waiting for the results of a site visit and assessment by a WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.
- 2.35** (2.37) Melksham Without BR43 - unauthorized gate on the bridleway at Craysmarsh Farm. NB said that he was waiting for the results of a site visit by Vicky Roscoe (VR), a WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.
- 2.36** (2.38) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the bridleway. It was suggested that this should be reported to WC as fly tipping as that could get it sorted out sooner. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.37** (2.39) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - no change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.38** (2.40) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - EH said that there had been no progress on this, bollards that restrict carriage driving, ongoing.
- 2.39** (2.41) Seend - eight gates on the circular bridleway route, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.40** (2.42) Durnford BR11 and Winterbourne BR27 - no change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.41** (2.43) Stert FP11 - no change, ongoing. (RC)
- 2.42** (2.44) Melksham BR87 - no change, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.43** (2.45) Market Lavington BR24 - no change, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.44** (2.46) Nettleton BR36 - this was subject to Highways Act 1980 s130a action and was likely to go to enforcement in the New Year. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.45** (2.48) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.46** (2.49) Charlton St Peter FP6 + BR2 + Wilsford BR5 - upgrade to RBYS, awaiting decision from the Secretary of State, ongoing. (NB + RC)
- 2.47** (2.50) Pewsey BR6 - new surface required to replace the rotten walkway and bridge, SL had referred the issue to Natural England, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.48** (2.51) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - overgrown and gate problems, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.49** (2.52) Application to record a RBY at Ramsbury (Axford) and Mildenhall (Axford Lane), upgrade Ramsbury FP9B and FP44 and Mildenhall FP16 and add Ramsbury RBY71 and RBY72 - ongoing. (NB)
- 2.50** (2.53) Devizes Gateway Railway Station - no further information, being monitored, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.51** (2.54) Access for riders at Conock - ongoing. (NB)
- 2.52** (2.55) Junction of Collingbourne Kingston BY2A and Fair Mile - NB reported that he had visited the site on 7th November and that a new post and the relevant signage had been installed. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.53** (2.56) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - signage required, no change, ongoing. (NB + RP)
- 2.54** (2.57) Burbage BR14 - RP had told NB that she would re-report this, the gate is still closing too quickly, ongoing.
- 2.55** (2.58) North Newton BR8 - spoil on the track, no change, ongoing. (NB + RP)
- 2.56** (2.60) Berwick St John BR14 - very muddy and obstructed by a locked gate. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.57** (2.61) Christian Malford BR9 - NB reported that this still required signage, ongoing.
- 2.58** (2.62) Chute BY35 - width reduction of the route by large stones, no change, ongoing. (RP + NB)
- 2.59** (2.63) Buttermere BR1 + BR7 - no change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.60** (2.65) Huish BR14 - handle required, NB undertook to take action on this situation, ongoing. (NB + HE)
- 2.61** (2.66) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - EH had not been to look at this, ongoing.
- 2.62** (2.67) West Lavington BR4 - gate problem, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.63** (2.68) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation along the BRs, ongoing. (EH)

- 2.64** (2.69) Overgrown BRs in the Salisbury and Durnford area - NB reported that he had discussed the situation with Carys Ford (CF), a WC Countryside Access Officer, who had informed him that as the work required would involve the cutting of some fairly large trees in a conservation area, the matter needed to be referred to the Planning Department for permission. Ongoing.
- 2.65** (2.70) Proposed development in Easterton which may affect Easterton FP1 and Easterton BY5 - no more news. To be moved to Annex list. (KDC)
- 2.66** (2.71) Horse warning sign on A338 on road to West Grafton, no change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.67** (2.72) Easterton BR26 cereal crops had been grown across this BR which had been harvested at the end of September and WC had asked to be informed when the field was being ploughed. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.68** (2.73) Melksham Without BR41 - NB said that this was seriously overgrown and dangerous, no change, ongoing.
- 2.69** (2.74) Rowde BR19 - blocked by a fallen tree and an unsuitable surface for horses, waiting for a site visit. (NB)
- 2.70** (2.75) West Ashton BR4 - both the BR and the gate are blocked by vegetation, waiting for a site visit. (NB)
- 2.71** (2.78) North Tidworth FP11 - application to upgrade to BY, awaiting decision from Secretary of State. (NB)
- 2.72** (2.79) Winterslow BY94, Back Drove - increased width being dealt with by SM. (NB)
- 2.73** (2.80) Cheverell Magna BR12 - Witchcombe Lane had been overgrown, EH said that she had not heard that it had been sorted and that she would go and have a look.
- 2.74** (2.82) Signage required on the circular route around Westcourt, Easton Royal, Wootton Rivers and Ram Alley - NB said that all routes had now been checked and that he was putting together a report to submit to WC.
- 2.75** (2.83) Alton Barnes BR2 - blocked with vicious/spiky woody vegetation. HE said that WC had reported that this had been sorted and that it had therefore been closed. However she said that although WC had cleared some vegetation from the bottom bit of the BR, which hadn't been too bad as it had been cleared in 2022, she understood that the top bit (which was the bit that HE had reported) had not had anything done to it. She said that she would ride it again and that, if the top bit still hadn't had any work done on it, she would report it again. Ongoing.
- 2.76** (2.84) Preshute BR2, Old Eagle - overgrown with bracken and brambles. Report number 124278, status on MyWilts, In Progress, reported 5th September 2023, ongoing. (HE)
- 2.77** (2.85) Ogbourne St George BY9 + Ogbourne St Andrew BY3 - width severely reduced and overgrown. Report number 124279, status on MyWilts, In Progress, reported 5th September 2023, ongoing. (HE)
- 2.78** (4.01) Grittleton BR3 - planning application PL/2023/07285 which affected twenty metres of BR, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.79** (4.02) Chirton BR3 + Marden BR4 - planning application PL/2023/08165 for the demolition and rebuilding of a dwelling and a garage. NB said that there was no objection from WBA and the consultation period had now closed and that it was now a case of waiting for the decision from WC. Ongoing.
- 2.80** (4.03) Tollard Royal BR6 + BR8 - blocked by hedge, brambles and low branches. NB said that a site visit was awaited, ongoing.
- 2.81** (4.04) Charlton BR7 - RP had informed NB that although a new gate had been erected there were no problems with it. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.82** (4.05) Tilshead BY6 - badly rutted and unsafe to ride. RP had informed NB that there was a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on this BY and that she had attempted to walk it but there were flags flying although she had checked the situation beforehand. She had gone on to say that there was a large sign "No access along this road" on the road from the Bustard Inn to Rolleston and had asked NB to investigate this.
- 2.83** (4.06) Various signage issues reported by BM and submitted via MyWilts by NB, ongoing.
- 2.84** (4.08) Dates of meetings in 2024 - BM reported that these would be as under and that they had been booked into the Quaker Meeting Rooms:
- Wednesday 10th January
  - Wednesday 14th February
  - Wednesday 13th March
  - Wednesday 10th April
  - Wednesday 8th May
  - Wednesday 12th June
  - Wednesday 10th July
  - Wednesday 14th August
  - Wednesday 11th September
  - Wednesday 9th October
  - Wednesday 13th November
  - Wednesday 11th December

### **3.00 Correspondence**

- 3.01** 12th October from Craig Harlow (CH), a Definitive Map Officer at WC, concerning the proposed diversion of Tockenham FP6 - order made, copy of order, order plan and notice - to be shredded.

**3.02** 19th October from CH concerning the proposed diversion of Rowde FP32 - no objections, to be shredded.

**3.03** 19th October from J Hughes of WC concerning the Definitive Map (DM) and Statement for Purton FP94, Melksham FP107 and Melksham Without FP151. Handed to BM for filing at Brail Farm.

#### **4.00 Any Other Business**

**4.01** RP had informed NB that Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 had a metal barrier across it and there was not enough room to pass at the side. She had spoken to SL and had reported it on MyWilts (case reference 0131166).

**4.02** RP had also informed NB of two new gates with handles that had been installed on Buttermere BR1.

**4.03** NB reported that he had attended a Public Inquiry on 31st October concerning the addition of a new bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement at Ogbourne St Andrew, BY6 + BR29, Planning Inspectorate reference ROW/3281954. There had been an objection from the landowner, Suzanne O'Brien. Inspector's report awaited.

**4.04** HE reported that there had been a temporary blockage of Alton BR2, Alton BR15, Stanton St Bernard BR17 and Stanton St Bernard FP4 by livestock gathering pens.

**4.05** HE brought up the subject of electric cables being extended across PRow for the purpose of charging electrically powered vehicles. Following discussion, NB undertook to discuss this with CC.

**4.06** There was a discussion about PRowS being ploughed over and it was explained that very often this happened due to contract farming and those that were doing the work not being aware of the existence of the PRowS. It had always been hoped that the landowners would pass on this information but had not always been the case.

#### **5.00 Date of Next Meeting**

**5.01** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2125 hours.