

## WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 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)  
Miss Barbara MacMullen - Filing Clerk (BM)

Apologies:

Mrs. Charlotte Curtis - Devizes Area Representative (CLC)  
Mrs. Charlotte Hill-Baldwin - Web Master (CHB)  
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser; (RP)  
Mrs. Anneliese Meissner (AM)  
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 December 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 said that in the email from AM sending her apologies for this meeting, she had tendered her resignation from the Committee on the basis that she had not yet been able to attend a meeting and felt that this situation was likely to continue. It was suggested that Keith Brotherhood could possibly be asked to be the Treasurer.

NB reported that he was unable to confirm any income received since the last meeting as he had not yet received the bank statement covering November and December 2023. There had been outgoings of £214.14 since 30th November as follows:

13th December - NB (key cut) £10.00  
13th December - RP (newsletter print) £67.87  
16th December - Open Spaces Society (donation) £100.00  
20th December - Future Antiques (electricity bill for portacabin at Brail Farm) £18.27  
30th December - Quaker Meeting Rooms (room hire for December meeting of WBA) £18.00

NB went on to say that the Current Account's balance as at 31st December 2023 was £5,782.36 plus any unknown income.

BM undertook to forward to NB the details of the items of WBA clothing that had been sold in 2023 for the end of year accounting.

The Business Savings Account had received interest of £61.61 for the period from 4th September to 3rd December and had had no outgoings during that period. The balance as at 31st December 2023 was £17,753.41.

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

RP had reported to NB that the membership stood at 138 and that Michelle Hayley had rejoined.

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

RP had reported to NB that the newsletter had been sent out and that the next one could be ready for early March. BM pointed out that this document had not contained any information about the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

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

NB said that CHB continued to monitor and update both the webpage and Facebook as necessary.

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

RP had reported to NB that she had been in touch with Gemma Poolman (GP) at Landmarc concerning a possible ride starting from Everleigh. GP had undertaken to be in touch again once she had some news.

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

1. Filing etc. - BM informed the Committee that the dehumidifier had been lent to the furniture makers in the adjoining property. She said that it would need cleaning before it was returned as the grill to the fan gets clogged with sawdust etc and she could no longer undertake this.
2. List of Statements/Parish Council maps - BM undertook to collect further evidence before forwarding these to NB.
3. External Maintenance - ongoing.

**2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting** - NB informed the Committee that Sally Madgwick (SM), the Definitive Map and Highway Records Manager at WC had confirmed that a speaker from her department would attend to give a presentation. The speaker would be happy to answer questions "on the hoof" but would appreciate notification of any

specific topics in case research was required. EH suggested that SM be asked to take the meeting through the process of one particular project so that we are aware how it all happens. NB undertook to ask CHB to produce a poster for the AGM.

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

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (WSCAF) - NB said that no further correspondence had been received.
2. Friends of Railway Path (FoRP) - NB said that he was still awaiting an update from Stephen Leonard (SL) of WC as to whether there were bollards in place on the cycle track at approaches to byway crossings - ongoing. NB went on to ask the Committee if this organisation should continue to be followed by the WBA bearing in mind the following:
  - (a) No AGM had been held since 2017.
  - (b) Volunteers from the WBA and other groups were no longer being used for path maintenance days. FoRP preferred to use 'team building' groups from various companies.
  - (c) The last correspondence had been received in July 2023 with pictures and a short report of a work day on the path.
  - (d) Dick Millard (DM), the Chairman, had failed to respond to any correspondence concerning safety signage on the path.
  - (e) FoRP's last Facebook update was in January 2022.
  - (f) FoRP's webpage had not had anything added since 2017 although it was marked as being updated.Following discussion it was agreed that the FoRP should be placed on the Annex List.

3. Open Spaces Society (OSS) - NB said that following the decision taken at the previous meeting of the WBA, a donation of £100.00 had been paid to the OSS for its fighting fund for legal action.
4. National Federation of Bridleway Associations (NFoBA) - NB asked the Committee if this organisation should continue to be followed by the WBA in the light of the following:
  - (a) There had been no communication since the distribution of minutes in September 2023.
  - (b) Its Facebook page has no information other than an activity by the Burnley Bridleways Association.
  - (c) Its Facebook page shows only nine members - eight individuals and the Burnley Bridleways Association.
  - (d) The Burnley Bridleways Association is the only Association shown.

Following discussion it was agreed that the NFoBA should be placed on the Annex List.

#### **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 said that the next meeting with CC was planned for the end of the month with the date, time and location still to be arranged. It was suggested that the subject of electric cycles being ridden on bridleways should be discussed at the meeting.

**2.11 (2.11) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5** - NB said that the action by WC was still outstanding. Ongoing.

**2.12 (2.12) Milton Lilbourne BR18A (signage)** - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**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** - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.16 (2.16) A303 underpass + diversions (Stonehenge)** - NB said that there was no further information, ongoing.

**2.17 (2.17) Hullavington BY9 + BY32** - no progress, ongoing. (NB)

**2.18 (2.18) Broad Chalke BR13** - no progress, ongoing. NB said that this was on the list to be discussed with CC.

**2.19 (2.19) Zeals BR22** - NB said that he was not aware of any progress, ongoing.

**2.20 (2.20) Broad Town BR25** - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.21 (2.21) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10** - NB said that there had been no change and that this was on the list to be discussed with CC. Ongoing.

**2.22 (2.23) Bromham BR44** - NB said that there had been no progress with the heavy/broken gate. Ongoing.

**2.23 (2.24) Bromham BR59** - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.24 (2.25) Chapmanslade BY31** - vegetation overgrowth, no progress, ongoing. (NB)

- 2.25** (2.26) Baydon BR4 - no progress, ongoing. It was suggested that this should be on the list for CC. (HE)
- 2.26** (2.27) Baydon BR5 - no progress, ongoing. To be added to the list for CC. (HE)
- 2.27** (2.28) Baydon BR5 + BY17 - no progress, ongoing. To be added to the list for CC. (HE)
- 2.28** (2.29) Baydon BY19 - no progress, ongoing. To be added to the list for CC. (HE)
- 2.29** (2.30) Stert BR7 - NB said that CLC was looking into this situation, the status on the report on the WC website has been changed but CLC had been unable to get onto the system to see what it had been changed to.
- 2.30** (2.32) Devizes BY58 + BY62 - overgrown and badly rutted. NB said that he was awaiting the result of a site visit and assessment by the WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.
- 2.31** (2.33) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - two gates with weights attached, NB said that he was awaiting the result of a site visit and assessment by the WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.
- 2.32** (2.34) Melksham Without BR43 - unauthorized gate at Craysmarsh Farm. No change, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.33** (2.35) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the BR. No change, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.34** (2.36) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.35** (2.37) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - EH reported that she had not heard anything about this.
- 2.36** (2.38) Seend - eight unauthorized and broken gates on a BR circular route. Action still awaited from WC. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.37** (2.39) Durnford BR11 and Winterbourne BR27 - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.38** (2.40) Stert FP11 - RC undertook to look this up. Ongoing.
- 2.39** (2.41) Melksham BR87 - gate with barbed wire on either side. To be added to the list for the CC meeting that contractors must not put barbed wire on bridleways. (EH)
- 2.40** (2.42) Market Lavington BR24 - no change, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.41** (2.43) Nettleton BR36 - NB said that this was subject to Highways Act 1980 s130 action and that he was awaiting enforcement by WC. Ongoing.
- 2.42** (2.44) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.43** (2.46) Pewsey BR6 - new surface required, SL of WC had referred to Natural England for confirmation of the materials to be used and the type of repair needed, ongoing. To be added to the list for the meeting with CC. (NB)
- 2.44** (2.47) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - overgrown and gate problems, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.45** (2.50) Access for riders at Conock - ongoing. (NB)
- 2.46** (2.51) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - no update, ongoing. To be on the list for the CC meeting. (RP)
- 2.47** (2.52) Burbage BR14 - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.48** (2.53) North Newton BR8 - spoil deposited on the BR, very wet and muddy and currently too wet to properly assess but no apparent progress. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.49** (2.54) Berwick St John BR14 - very muddy and obstructed by locked gate. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.50** (2.55) Christian Malford BR9 - signage still required, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.51** (2.56) Chute BY35 - RP had reported to NB that she had visited the byway and had sent him some photographs of it. These photographs are attached at Appendix I to these minutes.
- 2.52** (2.57) Buttermere BR1 + BR7 - the gates have been replaced. TO BE CLOSED (RP)
- 2.53** (2.58) Huish BR14 - handle required on gate, ongoing. (NB + HE)
- 2.54** (2.59) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - no progress, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.55** (2.60) Market Lavington BR4 (gate problem) - nothing, ongoing. NB undertook to discuss this with CC. (EH)
- 2.56** (2.61) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation on BRs, nothing changed, ongoing. To be added to the list of topics to be discussed with CC. (EH)
- 2.57** (2.62) Overgrown BRs in the Salisbury and Durnford area - no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.58** (2.63) Horse warning signs in the West Grafton/Burbage area - RP had reported to NB that she had attended a recent East Grafton Parish Council meeting and the situation will be discussed with the PC Financial Officer. RP had further reported that she had forwarded the information to Councillor Stuart Wheeler so that it could also be discussed by the Burbage PC.
- 2.59** (2.64) Easterton BR26 - sown with cereal crops and the route is blocked, being monitored for any ploughing activity. No change, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.60** (2.65) Melksham Without BR41 - seriously overgrown, no progress, ongoing. (NB)

- 2.61** (2.66) Rowde BR19 - blocked by a fallen tree, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.62** (2.67) West Ashton BR4 - both the BR and the gate are blocked by vegetation, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.63** (2.69) Winterslow BY94, Back Drove - NB reported that there had been a DMMO application to record the width of the BY on the Definitive Map and Statement. He went on to say that this would be examined by the Southern Area Planning Committee on 11th January 2024. Ongoing.
- 2.64** (2.70) Cheverell Magna BR12 - Witchcombe Lane had been overgrown, EH said that she had not been down to look at it.
- 2.65** (2.71) Signage required on the routes around Westcourt - NB said that this would be discussed with CC. Ongoing.
- 2.66** (2.72) Alton Barnes BR2 - blocked with vicious/spiky woody vegetation. HE said that this now been dealt with. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.67** (2.73) Preshute BR2, Old Eagle - overgrown with bracken and brambles, no progress, ongoing. (HE)
- 2.68** (2.74) Ogbourne St George BY9 + Ogbourne St Andrew BY3 - width severely reduced and overgrown, no progress, ongoing. (HE)
- 2.69** (2.75) Grittleton BR3 - planning application PL/2023/07285 which affected twenty metres of BR, checked on 8th January and recorded as under consultation, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.70** (2.76) Chirton BR3 + Marden BR4 - planning application PL/2023/08165 affecting BR, checked on 8th January and recorded as under consultation, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.71** (2.77) Tollard Royal BR6 + BR8 - blocked by hedge, brambles and low branches, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.72** (2.78) Tilshead BY6 - badly rutted and unsafe to ride, ongoing. NB undertook to go and look at it. (RP)
- 2.73** (2.79) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 - metal barrier across the BR and not enough room to pass at the side. No update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.74** (2.81) Proposed addition of a new BR to the Definitive Map and Statement at Ogbourne St Andrew. Order confirmed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). TO BE CLOSED. (NB)
- 2.75** (2.83) Electric cables being extended across PRoW for the purpose of charging electrically powered vehicles, under discussion with WC, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.76** (3.08) DM and Statements for Tockenham FP7 from WC were passed to BM for filing at Brail Farm.
- 2.77** (3.09) Planning application PL/2023/10067 for new dwelling at West Dunley Farm, Grittleton affecting BRs. The WBA's objection had been submitted, checked on 8th January and recorded as under consultation. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.78** (4.01) Proposed solar farm on One Tree Hill, ongoing. (CLC)
- 2.79** (4.02) Proposed solar farm at Potterne Park Farm. KDC had drafted a letter to Stark Energy, the company behind the project, which NB signed. KDC said that a planning application had now been made for this project, PL/2023/10332, and she undertook to add the WBA's objection on the WC website.
- 2.80** (4.03) Community Liaison Group concerning work being done by the National Grid - NB said that he would attend the meeting later in the month.
- 2.81** (4.04) - see 2.76 above.
- 2.82** (4.05) Communication with South Somerset Bridleways Association (SSBA) concerning its filing. TO BE CLOSED (RP)

### **3.00 Correspondence**

- 3.01** 18th December from Craig Harlow (CH) at WC - proposed diversion of Rowde FP32, already written, no objections, to be shredded.
- 3.02** 29th December from CH at WC - application to record a BOAT (byway open to all traffic) at Morgans Vale Corner and Coundley Court, Redlynch had been refused by the Secretary of State. To be filed.
- 3.03** 4th January from CH at WC - application to record a BR in Ogbourne St Andrew, order confirmed by the Secretary of State. To be filed.
- 3.04** 6th January email from NB - proposed diversion of East Knoyle FP24, to be shredded.
- 3.05** 8th January from CH at WC - application to record widths for North Tidworth FP11. Objections received, will go before Eastern Area Planning Committee on 25th January. To be filed and removed from the Annex List.

### **4.00 Any Other Business**

- 4.01** NB said that he had received a report that Sedgehill and Semley BR28 had been blocked by the installation of electric fence tape. He had visited it on 1st January and said that it was very muddy and not wider than four foot. It had been reported via MyWilts (00141707) with a further report to the Parish Council.

**4.02** RP had reported that she had been in touch with someone from Sussex who was looking for advice on riding in this area. He had expressed an interest in a guided ride in the Rockley area and had said that he would send a donation to the WBA.

**5.00 Date of Next Meeting**

**5.01** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2135 hours.



Chute BY35 - NE of Gammons Farm



Chute BY35 - SW of Gammons Farm