

WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

Present:

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)
Miss Barbara MacMullen - Filing Clerk (BM)
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser; (RP)

Apologies:

Mr. Norman Beardsley - Chairman; Sustrans Liaison; CAF Representative; Netheravon Area Representative; (NB)

1.01 In the absence of NB, it was suggested that KDC should chair the meeting on this one occasion.

1.02 KDC apologised and said that in printing the last set of minutes to bring to the meeting for signature she had noticed a typing error in paragraph 4.01 - paragraph 3.50 had been mentioned but it should have been 3.05.

1.03 Minutes of the last Meeting - it was agreed that, having taken account of the error described above, the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2024 were a true recording of proceedings, a copy was signed by BM and she undertook to file the document 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 March was £6,434.26 since when there had been income of £117.00 and expenditure of £84.95. The closing balance of the Current Account at the 31st March was therefore £6,466.31.

LK went on to say that the Business Savings Account had received interest of £66.39 and that the balance as at 31st March was £17,819.80.

2.02 (2.02) Membership

RP reported that there were now 141 members. There were still seven outstanding subscription payments but four of those were standing orders and there was one cheque in the post.

2.03 (2.03) Newsletter

RP reported that the new newsletter was basically finished, it was yet to be proof read and would then be circulated.

2.04 (2.04) Electronic Communications

CHB continued to work on both the website and the Facebook page and updated them with new information as necessary. The June ride (see 2.05 for details) had been added to both the website and Facebook in addition to the questions to and answers from Sally Madgwick (SM) of Wiltshire Council (WC) at the AGM.

2.05 (2.05) Pleasure/Guided Rides

RP informed the meeting that the next ride would take place on Sunday 2nd June at the same venue as the last ride, starting and finishing opposite the pond in Wilton (Marlborough NOT Salisbury). She went on to say that she currently had eight takers for this ride.

2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm

1. Filing etc. - BM reported that she was continuing very slowly.
2. External Maintenance - ongoing. RP said that she had messaged the owner concerning whether or not the WBA was going to be able to stay at Brail Farm but had not yet received a response.

2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting

BM said that although there had been two interesting speakers at the AGM, there had been a very disappointing number of people there (21 in 2024 as opposed to 32 in 2023). She informed the meeting that the raffle had made £49.00 and one fleece had been sold for £20.00 - this money had been passed to LK to be banked.

2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (WSCAF) - a meeting had taken place in Swindon on 10th April however NB had been unable to attend.
2. Open Spaces Society (OSS) - no new information.

2.09 (2.09) Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)

1. West Lavington BR14 - no update, ongoing.

(EH)

- 2. Easterton BR10 - no update, ongoing. (EH)
- 3. Kington Langley BR10 + BR11 (upgrade to BYs) - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 4. (2.68) Stert FP11 - application to upgrade the footpath to a bridleway, no update, ongoing. (RC)
- 5. (2.69) Access for riders at Conock - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 6. (2.73) Winterslow BY94, Back Drove - no update, ongoing. (NB)

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

The next meeting was due to take place at Kennet House in Devizes on Wednesday 15th May.

Gates

- 2.11 (2.11) Broad Chalke BR13 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.12 (2.12) Broad Town BR25 - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.13 (2.13) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.14 (2.14) Bromham BR44 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.15 (2.15) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.16 (2.16) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - RP said that there had been no movement, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.17 (2.17) Melksham BR87 - EH said WC had said that this had been completed but she had subsequently been to have a look and there is barbed wire on both sides of the gate.
- 2.18 (2.18) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.19 (2.19) Burbage BR14 - RP said that this had been cleared. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.20 (2.20) Berwick St John BR14 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.21 (2.21) Huish BR14 - handle required on gate, ongoing. (NB + HE)

Signage

- 2.22 (2.22) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.23 (2.23) Milton Lilbourne BR18A - RP said that this had not yet been done, ongoing.
- 2.24 (2.24) Barbury Shooting School - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.25 (2.25) Bromham BR59 - RP said that she had requested a site visit from WC but had had no response. She said that clarification was needed as to what signage should be there.
- 2.26 (2.26) Baydon BR4 - HE reported that the status on MyWilts for this (report number 40593) was In Progress, no updates, no notes. Ongoing.
- 2.27 (2.27) Baydon BR5 and BY17 - HE reported that the status on MyWilts for this (report number 54749) was In Progress, no updates since 10.02.22. Ongoing.
- 2.28 (2.28) Market Lavington BR24 - still missing a sign at the Easterton end, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.29 (2.29) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.30 (2.30) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.31 (2.31) Christian Malford BR9 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.32 (2.32) Signage required on the route from Westcourt - no progress, ongoing. (NB)

Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway

- 2.33 (2.33) Baydon BY19 - badly rutted, HE reported that the status on MyWilts for this (report number 58323) was In Progress, no updates since 15.03.2022. Ongoing.
- 2.34 (2.34) Devizes BY58 + BY62 - overgrown and badly rutted, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.35 (2.35) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the bridleway, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.36 (2.36) Pewsey BR6 - it was reported that Natural England was supposed to be undertaking some work on Pains Bridge where the approach is not suitable for horses. (NB)
- 2.37 (2.37) North Newton BR8 - ditch clearance spoil on the bridleway, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.38 (2.38) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - no progress, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.39 (2.39) Rowde BR19 - blocked by a fallen tree and now a dead end, very wet and muddy and an unsuitable surface, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.40 (2.40) Tilshead BY6 - reported as badly rutted and unsafe to ride, EH undertook to ride down there to have a look. (RP)
- 2.41 (2.41) Sedgehill and Semley BR28 - very wet, muddy and severely overgrown. No update, ongoing. (NB)

Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees

- 2.42** (2.42) Chapmanslade BY31 - vegetation overgrowth, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.43** (2.43) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.44** (2.44) Bridleways in the Salisbury and Durnford area - blocked by fallen trees and ingress of vegetation. Work progressing. No update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.45** (2.45) Melksham Without BR41 - serious vegetation overgrowth, very wet and muddy, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.46** (2.46) West Ashton BR4 - the bridleway and the gate are blocked by vegetation, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.47** (2.47) Cheverell Magna BR12, Witchcombe Lane - overgrown, LK said that it was also flooded, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.48** (2.48) Preshute BR2, Old Eagle - overgrown with bracken and brambles. HE reported that she had been to check this problem and that it had been cut back and cleared. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.49** (2.49) Ogbourne St George BY9 + Ogbourne St Andrew BY3 - width reduced/overgrown. HE reported that she had been to check this problem and that it had been cut back and cleared. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.50** (2.50) Tollard Royal BR6 + BR8 - blocked by hedge, brambles and low branches, no update, ongoing. (NB)

Planning Applications

- 2.51** (2.52) Chirton BR3 + Marden BR4 - PL/2023/08165 affecting the bridleways, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.52** (3.05) PL/2024/01824, an application to build a grain store at Manton just south of the stable yard and the possible problem with Preshute BY12, no update, ongoing. (NB)

Solar Farms

- 2.53** (2.53) Potterne - PL/2023/10332 proposed solar farm at Potterne Park Farm. KDC said that the decision was now to be taken by the WC Strategic Committee but that there was no date for that meeting. Ongoing.
- 2.54** (2.66) Proposed solar farm on One Tree Hill, Potterne - KDC reported that, to date, no planning application had been submitted for this project. (CLC)

Other

- 2.55** (2.56) Ogbourne St George BR7 - BM said that although WC said this bridleway did not exist, it is clearly shown on the Definitive Map for Ogbourne St Andrew (there is no Definitive Map for Ogbourne St George on file yet). (NB)
- 2.56** (2.57) Shalbourne BR50 - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.57** (2.59) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.58** (2.60) Stert BR7 - slippery bridge, gate and vegetation, no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.59** (2.61) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - bollards that restrict carriage driving. EH said that she had heard nothing on this subject.
- 2.60** (2.62) Durnford BR11 + Winterbourne BR27 - poor access on and off a main road, no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.61** (2.63) Chute BY35 - rocks on the byway - BM undertook to go and have a look at it. (RP and NB)
- 2.62** (2.64) Horse warning signs in the West Grafton/Burbage area - no information, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.63** (2.65) Easterton BR26 - being monitored for ploughing activity, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.64** (2.68) Proposed diversion of Ramsbury FP5 + FP8C + BR6 + Little Bedwyn FP20 - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.65** (2.69) PRoWs over Gypsy Lane/The Cloisters (Chippenham BR2A) - no update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.66** (2.70) Application to delete Ogbourne St George BY1, also known as Gypsy Lane, and add BOAT in the parish of Chiseldon. No update, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.67** (2.71) Devizes incident report (00145938) of delivery vehicles illegally using the bridleway to access a local housing estate, no update, ongoing. (NB)

3.00 Correspondence

- 3.01** 14th March - email from NB re Stonehenge Highways Event on 27th March
- 3.02** 20th March - email from NB re solar farm in the Malmesbury area affecting bridleways (Lime Down)
- 3.03** 22nd March - email from NB - responses from WC to questions posed at the AGM
- 3.04** 27th March - Planning Inspectorate, proposal to upgrade Trowbridge FP8 to bridleway, modifications required. Passed to BM to be filed.
- 3.05** 3rd April - email from NB concerning RoW at Giant's Grave, user evidence required. RP undertook to insert this in the newsletter and on Facebook.
- 3.06** 5th April - email from NB requesting someone to attend the WSCAF meeting on 10th April in Swindon

3.07 5th April - email from NB circulating Sally Madgwick's (SM) presentation to WSCAF on 10th April

4.00 Any Other Business

4.01 NB arrived at the meeting and updated the Committee on his personal circumstances. He said that although at the AGM he had undertaken to remain as Chairman for another year, he felt that this was not going to be possible for him and he asked that the members of the Committee looked for someone else to take on this role. The Committee thanked NB for the enormous contribution he had made, and continued to make, to the WBA and gave him their very best wishes.

4.02 BM said that it was important that all Parish Councils were fully aware of the definitions of *who* or *what* may travel on each particular type of PRow. It was agreed that CC and SM of WC should be approached by the WBA to suggest this.

4.03 BM said that as she had resigned from being the Filing Clerk on 31st March, it would also be necessary to find a replacement for her in that role for all the filing at both Brail Farm and her home.

5.00 Date of Next Meeting

5.01 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2055 hours.