

WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 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 Dillnott-Cooper - Minutes Secretary (KDC)
Mrs. Heather Emery - Marlborough Area Representative (HE)
Mrs. Emma Hodgson - Lavington Area Representative (EH)
Miss Barbara MacMullen - Filing Clerk (BM)
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser; (RP)

Apologies:

Mrs. Charlotte Curtis - Devizes Area Representative (CLC)
Mr. James Higgs - TRF Representative; CAF Representative: (JH)
Mrs. Charlotte Hill-Baldwin - Web Master (CHB)
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 6th September 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 Mrs. Anneliese Meissner (AM) had agreed to take on the role of Treasurer but had been unable to attend this meeting. He reported to the Committee that since the last meeting £39.00 had been received in respect of two memberships of £12.00 and £15.00 for a guided ride. During the same period there had been outgoings of £130.25 being £18.00 to the Quaker Meeting Rooms and two payments to RP, one of £56.00 and one of £56.25. The Business Savings Account had received £47.28 in interest but there had been no outgoings.

The balance of the Current Account on 30th September 2023 was £6,050.50 and the balance of the Business Savings Account on 14th September 2023 was £17,691.80.

2.02 (2.02) Membership

RP said that she thought that there were currently 137 members but that she had been unable to get onto her computer to confirm this. She undertook to confirm this figure when she was able to. (RP emailed KDC on 12th October and confirmed the figure of 137)

2.03 (2.03) Newsletter

RP informed the Committee that the next newsletter would be circulated in December.

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 said that there was nothing planned at the moment.

2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm

1. Filing etc. - BM said that she was continuing to do this. She went on to say that many of the statements needed renewing along with the relevant parish council maps; this was further complicated by the loss of, or change to, parish boundaries. RP suggested that the WBA should contact other bridleway associations to see how they dealt with their filing. The question was whether it should be digitized and, if it was decided that it should be, how should this happen. There had been no update on the need for the WBA to relocate from Brail Farm.
2. External Maintenance - ongoing.

2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting - it was agreed that the 2024 meeting should take place on Thursday 21st March in the Rushall Village Hall. RC undertook to check with the Village Hall that this date was available and to book it.

2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (CAF) - NB suggested two items to be added to the agenda for the next meeting which was due to be held on 1st November. The first was that WBA should be notified when problems on bridleways had been sorted. The second was for some training to take place.
2. FoRP - NB informed the Committee that there still had been no response from Dick Millard (DM), the FoRP Chair. The situation had been discussed at the WBA meeting with Wiltshire Council (WC) on 19th September. Stephen Leonard (SL) of WC had said that he believed that bollards may be in place at cycle track junctions and he undertook to check this.
3. Open Spaces Society - NB said that nothing further had been received.
4. National Federation of Bridleway Associations (NFoBA) - NB reported that the initial meeting of this organization had taken place on Zoom on 21st September 2023 and that the minutes of that meeting had been distributed.

2.09 (2.09) Definitive Map Modification Orders (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) of WC

NB informed the Committee that although CC had not been at the meeting on 19th September due to other Council business, it had been chaired by Paul Millard (PM) and all the Countryside Access Officers had attended. The items discussed had been taken from the WBA monthly meetings and any updates are included in the appropriate place in this document. The next meeting would take place during January 2024.

2.11 (2.11) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - NB said that this had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting and that Alex Howson (AH) of WC would look into it. NB went on to say that WC considers signage to be a low priority. Ongoing.

2.12 (2.12) Milton Lilbourne BR18A (signage) - RP said that nothing had changed, 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 reported that she had asked a friend to ride this bridleway at the end of September but had not received an update. Ongoing.

2.16 (2.16) A303 underpass + diversions (Stonehenge) - no new information, ongoing. (NB)

2.17 (2.17) Alton Barnes BR4 - no new information, ongoing. (NB)

2.18 (2.18) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - NB said that this situation was discussed at the WC/WBA meeting. At that meeting SL had said that he had been having difficulty in getting a response to the messages he had left from the landowner, Dyson. He will keep on trying. Ongoing.

2.19 (2.20) Broad Chalke BR13 - NB said that this had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting. AH had approached the landowner but would now chase again. Ongoing. (NB)

2.20 (2.21) Zeals BR22 - NB informed the Committee that he had revisited the location on 10th September and had seen that the problems with the hedge still exist. Access from the bridleway onto Bonham Lane through the gap in the hedge is very dangerous. Photographs and an additional report had been presented to AH at the WC/WBA meeting and AH had undertaken to arrange clearance. Ongoing.

2.21 (2.22) Woodborough BR12 - NB said that a Highways Act 1980 section 130(6)(a) Form 3 had been received from SL dated 14th September 2023. On 3rd October 2023 SL reported that a new gate had been installed. This was checked by NB on 5th October 2023 who confirmed that the new gate conforms to BS5709/18 and that access was now available. TO BE CLOSED

2.22 (2.23) Broad Town BR25 - RP said that she had heard nothing and had had no response to emails. Ongoing.

2.23 (2.24) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10 - NB said that this had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting. SL had reported that there had been no progress and had suggested that the gate be resited. Ongoing.

2.24 (2.25) Trowbridge FP8 - NB reported that there had still been no decision from the Secretary of State. Ongoing.

2.25 (2.26) Bromham BR44 - NB reported that there had been no progress with the heavy/broken gate. Ongoing.

2.26 (2.27) Lyneham BR35 - NB said that he had received a report from SL on 29th September 2023 that the bridge had been repaired (five deck boards had been replaced) and the vegetation had been cleared. TO BE CLOSED

2.27 (2.28) Bromham BR59 - RP said that she had had no response to her report and that her next move would be to ask for a site meeting. Ongoing.

2.28 (2.29) Chapmanslade BY31 - NB said that there was no progress, ongoing.

2.29 (2.30) Baydon BR4 - there is a requirement for a fingerpost, it has been reported on MyWilts and its status is In Progress, no updates, no notes. (HE)

2.30 (2.31) Baydon BR5 - HE reported that she had served notice to WC under the Highways Act 1980 s130a (Form 1) and had since received confirmation of intended action (Form 3). Its status on MyWilts is In Progress, no updates, no notes.

2.31 (2.32) Baydon BY5 + BY17 - HE said that a fingerpost was needed, it had been reported on MyWilts and its status is In Progress, no updates, no notes.

2.32 (2.33) Baydon BY19 - HE said that this is badly rutted, it had been reported on MyWilts, its status is In Progress and there had been no updates since 15th March 2022.

2.33 (2.34) Stert BR7 - NB said that he was awaiting an update from WC. CLC had undertaken to check the bridge. Ongoing.

- 2.34** (2.35) Melksham Without BR25A - NB informed the Committee that PM was in discussion with the landowner who is contemplating the feasibility of diversion. Ongoing.
- 2.35** (2.36) Devizes BY58 + BY62 - NB said that this was to be visited and assessed by the relevant WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.
- 2.36** (2.37) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - two gates with weights attached. NB informed the Committee that this had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting and that Vicky Roscoe (VR), a WC Countryside Access Officer, will undertake a site visit. Ongoing.
- 2.37** (2.38) Melksham Without BR43 - unauthorized gate on the bridleway at Craysmarsh Farm. NB said that VR had made a site visit and that this was being dealt with. Ongoing.
- 2.38** (2.39) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the bridleway. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.39** (2.40) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - RP said that she had not been up to check it but would chase.
- 2.40** (2.41) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - EH said that there had been no news on this, bollards that restrict carriage driving, ongoing.
- 2.41** (2.42) Seend - at the WC/WBA meeting, VR had said that all eight gates on this circular route were necessary for stock control and that she had already commenced site visits and was dealing with the situation. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.42** (2.43) Durnford BR11 + Winterbourne BR27 - RP said that she had not heard anything about this. Ongoing.
- 2.43** (2.44) Stert FP11 - RC said that there was no update on this one. Ongoing.
- 2.44** (2.45) Melksham BR87 - gate with barbed wire on it. EH said that she had not been to check it. RP said that she understood that barbed wire was being added by contractors and that this should be taken up with CC or the CAF. (EH)
- 2.45** (2.46) Market Lavington BR24 - EH said that the bollard was still there and that there was the requirement for either a fingerpost or a sign on the lamppost.
- 2.46** (2.47) Nettleton BR36 - NB reported that he had received confirmation under the Highways Act 1980 s130a (Form 3) dated 14th September from SL. This situation was discussed at the WC/WBA meeting at which SL had said that he believed that the matter may require enforcement action. SL undertook to contact Highways England and to request assistance with funding. NB went on to say that once there was an estimate of the cost involved, WBA could consider whether or not it could contribute to the cost.
- 2.47** (2.48) Collingbourne Ducis BR34 - RP said that this is just about passable, some branches have been lopped off and it is now rideable as people have made a track round the biggest tree trunk. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.48** (2.49) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - signage is still required, nothing has happened there. (RP)
- 2.49** (2.50) Application to upgrade Charlton St Peter FP6 + BR2 + Wilsford BR5 to RBYs - this is to be determined by the Secretary of State and nothing has happened, ongoing. (NB + RC)
- 2.50** (2.51) Pewsey BR6 - a new surface was required to replace the rotten walkway and bridge and this had been referred to Natural England by SL, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.51** (2.52) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - overgrown and gate problems, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.52** (2.54) Ramsbury FP9B + FP44 + Mildenhall FP16 - application to upgrade to restricted byways, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.53** (2.55) Devizes Gateway Rail Station - NB reported that this was being monitored, ongoing.
- 2.54** (2.56) Access for riders at Conock - RP asked if this could be discussed with CAF. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.55** (2.57) Junction of Collingbourne Kingston BY2A and Fair Mile - NB said that this was still awaited, ongoing.
- 2.56** (2.58) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2, signage required - RP said that nothing has happened and that it is ongoing. (NB + RP)
- 2.57** (2.59) Burbage BR14 - RP said that she had checked this and it was open and had had the nettles around it cropped. Ongoing.
- 2.58** (2.60) North Newnton BR8 - spoil from the ditch on the bridleway, nothing has happened, ongoing. (NB + RP)
- 2.59** (2.61) Shrewton RBY7 - this had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting. Permission had been granted by the relevant authorities and the repairs/rebuilding work had now commenced. TO BE CLOSED (NB + BillIR)
- 2.60** (2.62) Berwick St John BR14 - NB said that this was very muddy and obstructed by a locked gate. Ongoing.
- 2.61** (2.63) Christian Malford BR9 - NB reported that this still required signage, ongoing.
- 2.62** (2.64) Chute BY35, width reduction of the route by large stones, this had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting. AH and Carys Ford (CF) have conducted a site visit and written to the landowner requiring removal of the obstruction. This may require enforcement action, ongoing. EH suggested that enforcement action should also be applied to Steeple Ashton RBY30 (see paragraph 2.40). (RP + NB)
- 2.63** (2.65) Buttermere BR1 + BR7 - RP had asked SL about having closed it and SL said that this would happen.

2.64 (2.66) Shrewton BY32 - NB reported that he had visited this on 15th September and had noted that the surface had begun to settle and road shavings had been introduced. He had met a couple walking who were also horse riders, they suggested that the surface was settling, although a little rough in parts, and thus was fit for equine use. It was discussed at the WC/WBA meeting at which AH had stated that WC now considered the surface as fit for purpose. TO BE CLOSED

2.65 (2.67) Huish BR14 - handle required on the gate, ongoing. (NB + HE)

2.66 (2.68) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - Michelle Haley (MH) had looked at it and said that there was not a problem, EH will check it. Ongoing.

2.67 (2.69) Market Lavington BR4 - gate problem, EH said that some of the vegetation had been trimmed but that there was still barbed wire there. Ongoing.

2.68 (2.70) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation along the bridleways, EH said that nothing had been done, ongoing.

2.69 (2.71) Salisbury and Durnford area, overgrown bridleways - NB said that he was still working on this situation. It had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting at which AH said that he had got a contractor to go through Salisbury RBY3 and cut it back hard. It had been suggested that WBA might make a contribution to the cost although he was still waiting for the final estimate. Ongoing.

2.70 (2.73) Proposed development in Easterton (Easterton FP1 + BY5) - no more news, ongoing. (KDC)

2.71 (2.74) Horse warning sign on A338 on road to West Grafton, nothing has happened, ongoing. (RP)

2.72 (2.76) Easterton BR26 - EH said that the cereal crops that had been blocking this route had been harvested during the last three weeks. It had been discussed at the WC/WBA meeting when NB had given a brief history of events from 2011 onwards and VR had emailed the landowner explaining his responsibilities. NB had agreed to inform WC when it had been harvested and ploughed. Enforcement action may be needed. Ongoing. (NB)

2.73 (2.77) Melksham Without BR41 - NB said that this was seriously overgrown and dangerous. It was discussed at the WC/WBA meeting and one of the WC team will go and have a look. PM said that where it goes through Clackers Brook there is a bridge. Ongoing.

2.74 (2.78) Rowde BR19 - NB said that this had been blocked by a fallen tree and had an unsuitable surface for horses but he had not been to look at it, ongoing.

2.75 (2.79) West Ashton BR4 - NB said that the bridleway and the gate were blocked by vegetation but he had not been to look at it, ongoing.

2.76 (2.80) Wilsford BR10 - NB said that maintenance was required on the bridleway north of the A342. He had walked the route on 17th September and there was evidence that vegetation had been cut during the previous few weeks. Subsequently he had received information that the section south of the A342 had also been cut recently although blackthorn growth would require further attention when the growing season commences again. TO BE CLOSED

2.77 (2.81) Treasurer - see 2.01 above. TO BE CLOSED

2.78 (3.01) North Tidworth FP11 - NB had resubmitted the application to record widths of this footpath as the previous application was incorrect. Ongoing.

2.79 (3.10) Winterslow BY94, Back Drove - NB said that an order had been made for an increase in recorded width. During discussion it was stated that as it is an old road, this should be fine. There are houses on one side and some property owners have put up garages opposite their houses. It was agreed that NB would support this. Ongoing.

2.80 (4.02) Cheverell Magna BR12 - EH said that Witchcombe Lane was overgrown and she agreed to email NB with further information. Ongoing.

2.81 (4.04) Shrewton - the previous problems have now been rectified. TO BE CLOSED (NB)

2.82 (4.05) Signage required on the circular route around Westcourt, Easton Royal, Wootton Rivers and Ram Alley. BM has been round this route and NB will send all the information to WC. Ongoing. (NB)

2.83 (4.06) Alton Barnes BR2 blocked with vicious spiky/woody vegetation - HE said that this had been reported on MyWilts on 5th September (number 124275) and its status is In Progress. Ongoing.

2.84 (4.07) Preshute BR2, Old Eagle, overgrown with bracken and brambles - HE said that this had been reported on MyWilts on 5th September (number 124278) and its status is Received. Ongoing.

2.85 (4.08) Ogbourne St George BY9 + Ogbourne St Andrew BY3, width reduced by overgrown bushes - HE said that this had been reported on MyWilts on 5th September (number 124279) and its status is Received. Ongoing.

3.00 Correspondence

3.01 7th September from S Madgwick at WC, see 2.79 above.

3.02 17th September email from NB, see 2.08.4 above.

3.03 20th September email from CLC concerning confusion over name abbreviations and reply from NB.

3.04 22nd September from J Hughes at WC - Definitive Map and Statements for Calne Without BR89 + 89A + 89B + Warminster FP9 + FP10 + RBY93.

3.05 29th September email from NB with latest news from Open Spaces.

3.06 5th October from C Harlow at WC concerning proposed diversion of Purton FP94 at Sparswell Farm. Order confirmed, copy of order, order plan and notice - to be shredded.

3.07 7th October from S Madgwick at WC concerning the addition of Melksham FP107 and Melksham Without FP151. Order confirmed, copy of order, order plan and notice - to be shredded.

3.08 9th October email from NB with a copy of the minutes of the NFoBA meeting held on 21st September. See 2.08.4 and 3.02 above.

4.00 Any Other Business

4.01 Planning application PL/2023/07285 affecting about twenty metres of Grittleton BR3 which involved new access to a dwelling. WC had said that it may be difficult to decline this application. WC Highways Department had already asked for more information. Parking on the bridleway would also be a problem. NB will respond.

4.02 Planning application PL/2023/08165 affecting Chirton BR3 and Marden BR4 which involves the demolition and rebuild of a dwelling plus a garage. This would cause an issue with the use of the bridleways during the works and the property owner would be responsible for ensuring that the bridleways were not blocked and that the condition of the affected parts were in a similar condition at the end of the process to that at the beginning. NB to comment.

4.03 Tollard Royal BR6 + BR8 blocked by hedge, brambles and low branches. NB to investigate.

4.04 Charlton BR7 has had a new gate erected, thus blocking access. RP to investigate.

4.05 Tilshead BY6 badly rutted and unsafe to ride. RP to investigate.

4.06 Various signage issues reported by BM which NB is submitting via MyWilts. See 2.82 above.

4.07 Following discussion it was agreed that in correspondence and minutes the first time that an individual or organisation was mentioned their name would appear in full followed by their abbreviation in brackets and for the rest of the document the abbreviation would be used. Where an individual was a representative of WC, that would be made clear the first time that individual was mentioned.

4.08 BM undertook to create a list of proposed meeting dates and forward it to the Hirings Manager of the Devizes Quakers, Jacky Thomas. As in previous years, the dates would be the second Wednesday of each month.

5.00 Date of Next Meeting

5.01 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2140 hours.