

## WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 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)  
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser; (RP)

Apologies:

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 12th February 2025 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 February was £6,730.46. During February £84.00 had been received from subscriptions and there had been no expenses. The closing balance on 28th February was £6,814.46.

There had been no transactions for the Business Savings Account during the month and the balance in that account on 28th February was £18,020.47.

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

RP reported that there were 140 members of which 116 were paid up.

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

RP reported that she had started working on the next newsletter and that it would go out in April.

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

NB said that update of the current map, the addition of both a link to the Swindon map and the facility to add photographs to the WBA Report Form as outlined in the minutes of meeting on 12th February had not happened. He went on to say that the reason for this was that he had not contacted CHB to discuss it but undertook to do so.

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

RP said that she was trying to arrange one from Wilton (Marlborough not Salisbury) on Sunday 27th April.

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

1. Filing etc. - NB said that this was ongoing and up to date.
2. External Maintenance - NB said that that this was ongoing.

#### **2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

This was to take place at Rushall Village Hall on Thursday 27th March with members attending from 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. NB informed the meeting that, as recorded at the last meeting, there was still no guest speaker.

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

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (WSCAF) - NB said that he had received a document from WSCAF relating to "Launch of Statutory Consultation on Proposal for Lime Down Solar Park which he had forwarded to KDC.
2. Open Spaces Society (OSS) - NB reported that he had received both a copy of the OSS quarterly newsletter and the monthly OSS update via email which he had distributed to the members of the Committee.

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

1. West Lavington BR14 - no information, ongoing. (EH)
2. Kington Langley BR10 + BR11 (upgrade to BYs) - still pending, ongoing. (NB)
3. Winterslow BY94 - no change, ongoing. (NB)
4. Application to record bridleway rights over part of Drove Lane, Market Lavington, ongoing. (EH)

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

NB said that the next meeting would take place at 10.00am on 14th May at County Hall, Trowbridge. It was suggested, and agreed that at this meeting WC should be asked to let us know when bridleway signs are put up and where they have been put up. NB undertook to ask for this information. NB also said that he had noticed a number of new footpath signs had been put up, one of which was in the wrong place.

## **Gates - North**

**2.11** (2.11) Broad Town BR25 - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.12** (2.12) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10 - NB said this also involved a bridge that didn't have any side rails. He went on to say that he had received no further update from WC.

**2.13** (2.13) Huish BR14 - no change, ongoing. (NB)

**2.14** (4.03) Numerous blocked/gated and locked/fenced bridleways in Purton/Greenhill area, WC report number 00172111. NB undertook to go and have a look.

**2.15** (4.04) Bremhill BR1 - various gate problems at the southern end of the bridleway (WC report number 00211140). KDC said that she had walked the southern half of the bridleway that morning and of the six gates on that half of the bridleway there was only one that could be a problem to open from a horse and it was open. TO BE CLOSED

## **Gates - South**

**2.16** (2.14) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.17** (2.15) Berwick St John BR14 - no change, ongoing. (NB)

## **Gates - Central**

**2.18** (2.16) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - NB said that he had received no further update from WC, ongoing.

**2.19** (2.17) Melksham Without BR87 - EH said that she had not had an opportunity to go and look at this.

**2.20** (2.18) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - NB said that he had received no further update from WC, ongoing.

**2.21** (2.19) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - NB said that he was awaiting action by WC, ongoing. (NB)

## **Gates - Swindon Borough Council (SBC)**

**2.22** (2.20) The Lane which runs from Hinton Parva in the parish of Bishopstone to Horpit in the parish of Wanborough. RP said that this had been rereported.

## **Signage - North**

**2.23** (2.21) Milton Lilbourne BR18A - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.24** (2.22) Barbury Shooting School - no update, ongoing. (NB)

**2.25** (2.23) Baydon BR4 - status on MyWilts was In Progress, no updates (report number 40593), ongoing. (HE)

**2.26** (2.24) Baydon BR5 + BY17 - HE reported that the status on MyWilts was In Progress, no updates (report number 54749), ongoing.

**2.27** (2.25) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.28** (2.27) Signage required around the area of Westcourt, Burbage, Easton Royal, Milton Lilbourne, Wootton Rivers and Ram Alley - awaiting action by WC, ongoing. (NB)

**2.29** (2.28) Grafton RBY15 - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.30** (2.29) Grafton RBY29 + RBY30 - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.31** (2.30) Fyfield BR25 - RP said that it was possible that this would require a diversion and she undertook to go and look at it.

**2.32** (2.33) Bromham BR59 - RP said that Ali Rasey (AR) was on the case and was trying to find an alternative route that would work.

**2.33** (2.38) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - EH said although the surface was now fine, there was no signage which needed to be dealt with, ongoing.

## **Signage - South**

**2.34** (2.31) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - awaiting action by WC, ongoing. (NB)

**2.35** (2.32) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no update, ongoing. (RP)

## **Signage - Central**

**2.36** (2.26) Christian Malford BR9 - awaiting action by WC, ongoing. (NB)

**2.37** (4.01) Melksham Without BR25 + BR25A - no information, ongoing. (RP)

## **Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway - North**

**2.38** (2.35) Pewsey BR6 - NB said that on 20th February he had heard from RP that she had been to look at this and that contractors had commenced work and removed the wooden causeway. He went on to say that he had heard from HE a week later that the causeway section of the path had been completed but that a length of the approach route had been left as a quagmire. Comments on this had been posted on the Pewsey Facebook page. No update had been received from WC, ongoing.

**2.39** (2.38) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - EH said that the surface was now fine. TO BE CLOSED

## **Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway - South**

**2.40** (2.37) Sedgehill and Semley BR28 - NB said that he was awaiting action by WC, ongoing.

## **Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees - North**

**2.41** (2.40) Rowde BR19 - cul de sac blocked by a fallen tree. No progress, awaiting action by WC, ongoing. (NB)

## **Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees - South**

**2.42** (2.45) Zeals BR22 - dangerous access onto Bonham Lane caused by the high overgrown hedge. NB said that he was awaiting action and an update from WC. Ongoing.

**2.43** (2.46) Chute BR4 - RP said that she had not heard that any work had been done to clear the fallen trees.

## **Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees - Central**

**2.44** (2.41) Chapmanslade BY31 - awaiting action by WC, ongoing. (NB)

**2.45** (2.42) Melksham Without BR41 - overgrown vegetation. NB said that he was awaiting an update from Vicky Roscoe (VR) following which he would revisit it, ongoing.

**2.46** (2.43) West Ashton BR4 - bridleway and gate are reported as overgrown, NB said he was awaiting an update from WC, ongoing.

## **Solar Farms**

**2.47** (2.48) Proposed solar farm in the Malmesbury area (Lime Down) - KDC said that she had attended a meeting of the Stop Lime Down Solar Park group at which she had learnt a number of things. The project had been designated a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) which meant that it won't follow the normal planning route by WC but will go straight to the Secretary of State. It was expected that the application would be submitted sometime between July and September this year. The developer for the project was Island Green Power and it was holding a consultation process which would close on 19th March. KDC undertook to write an objection to the project on behalf of WBA. It was proposed that the solar panels would be 4.5 metre tracking panels which move to track the sun and make a noise doing so, however, these panels have not been used before. 30% of the land involved in the project is designated BMV (Best and Most Versatile).

**2.48** (2.49) Proposed 160 acre solar farm which may affect Marden BR6, Wilsford BR6 + BR10 + BY7 - RC said that this project would no longer take place. The developer, Ampyr Solar Europe, was now involved in a different solar project, Byde Mill Solar Farm south west of Poulshot. KDC said that the Construction Traffic Management Plan stated that the site was bounded to the north by a BOAT, however it was actually Poulshot BR4 and that document detailed that the connection cabling was to be laid underground and, from its map, it was planned that it would run along part of Poulshot BR2 and cross Poulshot BR8.

**2.49** (2.50) Proposed solar farm at Potterne Park Farm - KDC reported that, to date, no decision had been taken on this project. She understood that although Potterne Park Farm and One Tree Hill were very close to each other, the WC ecology officer had posted a strong objection to the One Tree Hill application whereas the ecology officer overseeing the Potterne Park Farm application accepted the mitigations put forward by the applicant. The Stop Potterne Solar group had pushed back strongly as to why the officers had come to different conclusions for developments in the same valley.

**2.50** (2.51) Solar farm being built at Folly Lane, Lacock - no bridleways directly affected by this. TO BE CLOSED

## **Other**

**2.51** (2.52) Ogbourne St George BR7 - ongoing. (NB)

**2.52** (2.53) Shalbourne BR50 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)

**2.53** (2.54) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - awaiting update from WC, ongoing. (NB)

**2.54** (2.55) Durnford BR11 + Winterbourne BR27 - no information, ongoing. (RP)

**2.55** (2.56) Chute BY35 - no update, ongoing. (RP and NB)

**2.56** (2.57) Horse warning signs in the West Grafton/Burbage area - RP said that she had been in touch with Stuart Wheeler who had contacted Burbage Parish Council but to her knowledge had not received a response.

**2.57** (2.58) Ramsbury FP5 + FP8C + BR6 + Little Bedwyn FP20 - no change, ongoing. (RC)

**2.58** (2.59) Application to delete Ogbourne St George BY1, also known as Gypsy Lane, and add BOAT in the parish of Chiseldon - NB informed the Committee that the application had been refused by WC.

**2.59** (2.60) Search for new Chairman of WBA - ongoing. (All)

**2.60** (2.62) Twenty-eight ProW defect reports submitted by Clare Brixey - NB said that he had worked his way through these and was just looking at the last one. Ongoing.

**2.61** (2.63) Collingbourne Ducis BR35 - no update, ongoing. (RP)

**2.62** (2.64) Proposed new sites for gypsy and travelling community - ongoing. (NB)

**2.63** (2.66) KDC showed those at the meeting the now mounted and framed page which was the gift for BM and it was agreed that this should be given to BM at a convenient time for her.

**2.64** (4.02) Melksham Without BR40 - dangerous exit onto A3102. RP said that she had walked this bridleway going south from the A3102 and that the exit is on a bend with traffic coming at 50mph. There are no verges, footpaths or horse crossing signs and she said that it was difficult to see how it could ever be improved even with signs. Ongoing.

**2.65** (4.05) Idmiston BR12 - electric fence across the bridleway, NB undertook to go and have a look.

### **3.00 Correspondence**

13th February - Craig Harlow (CH) at WC, proposed diversion of Longbridge Deverill FP5. Order made, copy of order, order plan and Notice, distributed on 7th March.

15th February - email from NB stating that he had cancelled Wiltshire Police as guest speakers at WBA AGM. KDC, CHB, RP and LK responded.

17th February - email from Michelle Haley concerning Seend BR40 at Broad Lane Farm, site visit of which WBA was not aware.

17th February - email from NB, ideas for the AGM - endurance riding, SPTA/Marlborough Downs, GLASS, vets, equine dentist, WC.

18th February - email from NB re Natural England, consultation on Ashcombe Estate and Gurston Down.

19th February - J Green at WC, application to amend DM and Statement, Ogbourne St George, application refused by WC, distributed on 7th March.

19th February - A Roberts at WC, proposed diversion of Sutton Mandeville FP13.

20th February - email from KDC, extract from email from Potterne Solar Action Group - solar farm at Wilsford withdrawn but the company has now submitted a proposal at Townsend

21st February - email from NB re email from Paul Millard (PM) re Townsend Solar Farm - KDC to respond on behalf of WBA.

21st February - email from NB re the above, PM sent it to RP rather than RC, RP responded to NB re Poulshot BR4.

26th February - email from NB, HE sent information concerning dangerous bridges.

5th March - A Roberts at WC, proposed diversion of Pitton and Farley FP33 and upgrade to a bridleway. Order made, copy of order, order plan and Notice, distributed on 7th March.

9th March - email from NB with copy of WC Highways and Transport newsletter.

9th March - email from NB re Seend BR40 at Broad Lane Farm, NB had corresponded but was unaware of the site meeting.

9th March - email from NB re note relating to the Lime Down Solar Park from Don Kent.

9th March - email from NB re article on Lime Down Solar Park in *Wiltshire News*.

10th March - Sally Madgwick (SM) at WC, proposal to upgrade Ramsbury BR9A and FP9B (part) to a restricted byway, order confirmed, copy of order, order plan and Notice.

### **4.00 Any Other Business**

**4.01** Annex List - NB said that the Friends of Railway Path (FoRP) should be removed from the list. He also said that the National Federation of Bridleway Associations (NFoBA) was defunct and so should also be removed from the list.

**4.02** NB said that he had received a request from Ben Braine (BB) of WC for WBA to survey and report on Corsley BR20 and he undertook to visit it.

**4.03** NB said that HE had drawn attention to a fallen tree on Pewsey BR69 which she had reported on MyWilts (00217625).

**4.04** NB said that HE had drawn attention to a fallen tree on West Overton BR32 which she had reported on MyWilts (00217627).

**4.05** NB said that HE had drawn attention to a fallen tree on Ramsbury BR1 which she had reported on MyWilts (00217628).

**4.06** RC drew attention to the site visit of the Inspector to view Charlton St Peter BR2 and FP6 which she had mentioned at the last meeting but this had not been recorded in the minutes of that meeting. She now understood that the visit had been purely for the Inspector to look at historical rights and no organisations had been invited to meet the Inspector although some people had seen him there and had therefore gone to talk to him.

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

**5.01** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2115 hours.