

WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 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)
Mrs. Liz Keen - Treasurer (LK)
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)
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 14th February 2024 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

LK presented a bank reconciliation document which showed that the Current Account had stood at £5,824.36 at 1st January 2024. Since that date, subscriptions of £607.50 had been received together with £15.00 for merchandise. Two cheques had been issued since 1st January, both for £18.00 for the Quaker Meeting Rooms, one of which had been banked and one of which was unrepresented. On that basis, the balance in the Current Account at 31st January 2024 was £6,446.86 with an unrepresented cheque of £18.00.

LK went on to say that the Business Savings Account had had no income or outgoings and that the balance as at 31st January was £17,753.41.

2.02 (2.02) Membership

139, one member had moved to Cheltenham. There were still 20 outstanding payments, a mixture of bank transfers and standing orders.

2.03 (2.03) Newsletter

No update.

2.04 (2.04) Electronic Communications

NB said that CHB continued to work on both the website and the Facebook page and updated them with new information as necessary. Advance notice of questions for the Annual General Meeting, as requested by Sally Madgwick (SM) of Wiltshire Council (WC), had also been published and a number of responses had been received which had been forwarded to SM. It was suggested that an advertisement for the WBA clothing should be added to both the website and the Facebook page. As KDC was going to provide storage for the supply of WBA clothing she agreed that, when this was being promoted, both her email address and landline number could be used as a point of contact.

2.05 (2.05) Pleasure/Guided Rides

No update.

2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm

1. Filing etc. - BM reported that she was continuing to do the essential bits.
2. External Maintenance - ongoing.

2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting

NB reminded the the Committee of the roles being undertaken by the members as under:

Key availability: RC

Set up: All members of the Committee from 6.30pm

Meet, greet and signing in: RP (KDC to produce signing in sheet)

Merchandise: BM (KDC will take over merchandise after AGM)

Raffle tickets: BM

Raffle prizes: Committee members

Refreshments: BM

Display boards and old maps/statements: NB

Cash float: BM

Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting: BM

Agenda for 2024 Annual General Meeting: NB

LK undertook to bring copies of the annual accounts to the AGM. It was agreed that there should be a bottle of wine as a "thank you" for each of the two Guest Speakers and BM undertook to organise this.

2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (WSCAF) - NB reported that the next meeting would take place in Swindon on Wednesday 10th April.
2. Open Spaces Society (OSS) - NB said that he had received 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, RC said that she had heard nothing, ongoing.
5. (2.69) Access for riders at Conock - people used to ride on the footpaths, a DMMO was put in to upgrade the footpath to a bridleway and then kissing gates were put in. No progress, ongoing. (NB)
6. (2.73) Winterslow BY94, Back Drove - application to record the width of the byway on Definitive Map and Statement. Awaiting decision of the Southern Area Planning Committee from its meeting on 11th January. Ongoing. (NB)

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

NB reported that the next meeting would take place at Kennet House in Devizes on Wednesday 15th May.

Gates

- 2.11 (2.11) Broad Chalke BR13 - issue regarding three gates, no progress, ongoing.
- 2.12 (2.12) Broad Town BR25 - no update, ongoing.
- 2.13 (2.13) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10 - NB said that there had been no progress. Ongoing.
- 2.14 (2.14) Bromham BR44 - broken heavy wooden field gate, NB said that there had been no progress, ongoing.
- 2.15 (2.15) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - two gates with weights attached. NB said that he was waiting to hear that Vicky Roscoe (VR) of WC had made a site visit and had produced an assessment. Ongoing.
- 2.16 (2.17) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - ongoing. (RP)
- 2.17 (2.19) Melksham BR87 - NB said that he had been informed by WC that this situation had been resolved.
- 2.18 (2.20) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - overgrown and gate problems, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.19 (2.21) Burbage BR14 - the gate closes too quickly, no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.20 (2.22) Berwick St John BR14 - very muddy, padlock and chain on the gate, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.21 (2.23) Huish BR14 - handle required on gate, ongoing. (NB + HE)

Signage

- 2.22 (2.25) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - NB said that action by WC was still awaited. Ongoing.
- 2.23 (2.26) Milton Lilbourne BR18A - no change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.24 (2.27) Barbury Shooting School - signage and illegal diversion of PRowS. No progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.25 (2.28) Bromham BR59 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.26 (2.29) Baydon BR4 - HE reported that the status on MyWilts for this (report number 40593) was In Progress, no updates, no notes. Ongoing.
- 2.27 (2.30) 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 (2.31) Market Lavington BR24 - still needs signage, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.29 (2.32) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.30 (2.33) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.31 (2.34) Christian Malford BR9 - signage still required, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.32 (2.35) Signage required at various points on the route around Westcourt, Easton Royal, Wootton Rivers and Ram Alley. No progress, ongoing.

Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway

- 2.33 (2.36) Baydon BY19 - badly rutted, HE reported that the status on MyWilts for this (report number 58323) was In Progress, no updates since 15.03.2023. Ongoing.

2.34 (2.37) Devizes BY58 + BY62 - overgrown and badly rutted. NB reported that a site visit was still awaited. Ongoing.

2.35 (2.38) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the bridleway. NB reported that a site visit was still awaited. Ongoing.

2.36 (2.39) Pewsey BR6 - new surface required, no progress due to prevailing weather conditions, ongoing. (NB)

2.37 (2.40) North Newnton BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the bridleway, very wet and muddy. Ongoing. (NB)

2.38 (2.41) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - EH reported that the landowner had been driving on the side of the bridleways. She undertook to report it to WC.

2.39 (2.42) Rowde BR19 - blocked by a fallen tree and now a dead end, very wet and muddy and an unsuitable surface, no progress, ongoing. (NB)

2.40 (2.43) Tilshead BY6 - reported as badly rutted and unsafe to ride, site visit still awaited and NB undertook to go and have a look at it. Ongoing. (RP)

2.41 (2.44) Sedgehill and Semley BR28 - very wet, muddy and severely overgrown. No progress, ongoing. (NB)

Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees

2.42 (2.46) Chapmanslade BY31 - vegetation overgrowth, no response from WC, further site visit still awaited. Ongoing. (NB)

2.43 (2.48) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation, ongoing. (EH)

2.44 (2.49) Bridleways in the Salisbury and Durnford area - blocked by fallen trees and ingress of vegetation. Work progressing. NB informed the Committee that he had written to CC and Paul Millard (PM), both of WC, on 28th February requesting a quote for the surfacing work on Salisbury RBY3 and that he was waiting for a response. Ongoing.

2.45 (2.50) Melksham Without BR41 - serious vegetation overgrowth, very wet and muddy, no information and a further site visit by NB was still awaited. Ongoing.

2.46 (2.51) West Ashton BR4 - the bridleway and the gate are blocked by vegetation, no progress, ongoing. (NB)

2.47 (2.52) Cheverell Magna BR12, Witchcombe Lane - overgrown, no information, ongoing. (EH)

2.48 (2.53) Preshute BR2, Old Eagle - overgrown with bracken and brambles. HE reported that the status on MyWilts for this (report number 124278) was In Progress, reported 05.09.2023. Ongoing.

2.49 (2.54) Ogbourne St George BY9 + Ogbourne St Andrew BY3 - width reduced/overgrown. HE reported that the status on MyWilts for this (report number 124279) was In Progress, reported 05.09.2023. Ongoing.

2.50 (2.55) Tollard Royal BR6 + BR8 - blocked by hedge, brambles and low branches, no progress, ongoing. (NB)

Planning Applications

2.51 (2.56) Grittleton BR3 - PL/2023/07285 which affected twenty metres of BR, checked by NB on 13th March and recorded as Closed by WC, Application granted with recommendations dated 31st January. TO BE CLOSED

2.52 (2.57) Chirton BR3 + Marden BR4 - PL/2023/08165 affecting the bridleways, checked on 13th March and recorded as under consultation, ongoing. (NB)

2.53 (2.59) Potterne - PL/2023/10332 proposed solar farm at Potterne Park Farm. KDC said that the consultation period had been extended to 20th March. Ongoing.

2.54 (4.02) PL/2023/10902 - NB said that the applicant had installed stiles and electric fence on the PRowS but this only affected footpaths. TO BE CLOSED

2.55 (4.03) Planning application relative to Standen House at Chute Standen - NB said that the PRowS did not appear to be affected. TO BE CLOSED

Other

2.56 (2.60) Ogbourne St George BR7 - blocked bridleway, no progress, ongoing. NB further said that on the map for Ogbourne St George this bridleway was clearly marked.

2.57 (2.61) Shalbourne BR50 - no update, ongoing. BM said that she had passed this place a few days earlier and noticed that the gate was locked and the sign had been taken down. (RP)

2.58 (2.62) A303 underpass + diversions (Stonehenge) - NB said that no direct information had been received but that it had been reported by news media that the campaign group Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site had lost its High Court challenge. No further details known. TO BE MOVED TO THE ANNEX LIST

2.59 (2.63) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - no update from WC, ongoing. (NB)

2.60 (2.65) Stert BR7 - slippery bridge, gate and vegetation. NB said that CLC had written to VR and Ben Braine (BB) of WC but had not had any response.

2.61 (2.66) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - bollards that restrict carriage driving. EH said that this had been reported and rereported and that a question on this subject had been submitted to SM of WC for the AGM.

2.62 (2.67) Durnford BR11 + Winterbourne BR27 - poor access on and off a main road, no information, ongoing. (RP)

2.63 (2.70) Chute BY35 - NB said he had received no further information but that he understood that WC had a meeting arranged with the landowner. Ongoing.

2.64 (2.71) Horse warning signs in the West Grafton/Burbage area - no information, ongoing. (RP)

2.65 (2.72) Easterton BR26 - being monitored for ploughing activity, ongoing. (NB)

2.66 (2.76) Proposed solar farm on One Tree Hill, Potterne - KDC reported that, to date, no planning application had been submitted for this project. (CLC)

2.67 (2.77) Work undertaken by the National Grid to remove overhead cables and pylons and place the cables underground. NB said that no PRowS were affected at this stage and that a further update was due in September or October 2024. It was agreed that this was to be monitored. TO BE MOVED TO THE ANNEX LIST

2.68 (3.01) Proposed diversion of Ramsbury FP5 + FP8C, Little Bedwyn FP20 + Ramsbury BR6 - NB reported that he had sent a letter of support to WC.

2.69 (3.03) PRowS over Gypsy Lane/The Cloisters (Chippenham BR2A) - following discussion, it was agreed that there was no need for Chippenham BR2A to be a bridleway.

2.70 (3.05) Application to delete Ogbourne St George BY1, also known as Gypsy Lane, and add BOAT in the parish of Chiseldon. NB informed the meeting that all responses needed to be with WC by 15th March and he undertook to write to Janice Green (JG), Senior Definitive Map Officer at WC, to ask for an extension.

2.71 (4.01) Devizes incident report (00145938) of delivery vehicles illegally using the bridleway to access a local housing estate, ongoing. (NB)

3.00 Correspondence

3.01 21st February - email from NB with list of Committee members for AGM.

3.02 27th February - email from NB re Safer Drivers, Riders and Horses event at Westbury on 15th March.

3.03 2nd March - email from NB informing Committee of speakers at the AGM, SM and Craig Harlow (CH) of WC.

3.04 6th March - email from NB re The Prince of Wales Award, the deadline for applicants being 22nd March.

3.05 7th March - email from NB re 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.

3.06 11th March - email from NB concerning 3.05, comments from BR, NB to the Planning Officer and response.

3.07 11th March - email from NB concerning questions for SM and CH at the AGM.

4.00 Any Other Business

4.01 The items have been covered under 2.70 and 3.50 above.

5.00 Date of Next Meeting

5.01 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2120 hours.