

WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 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 Dilnott-Cooper - Minutes Secretary (KDC)
Mrs. Heather Emery - Marlborough Area Representative (HE)
Miss Barbara MacMullen - Filing Clerk (BM)
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser; (RP)

Apologies:

Mrs. Charlotte Curtis - Devizes Area Representative (CLC)
Mrs. Charlotte Hill-Baldwin - Web Master (CHB)
Mrs. Emma Hodgson - Lavington Area Representative (EH)
Mrs. Anneliese Meissner (AM)
Mr. Bill Riley - Historical and Legal Advisor (BillR)

1.01 Minutes of the last Meeting - following the circulation of the minutes one amendment had been made, NB had realized . NB signed an amended copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 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 no income had been received since the last meeting and that there had been outgoings of £148.25 (£56.00 and £56.25 to RP plus 2 x £18.00 to the Quaker Meeting Rooms). The Current Account's balance on the bank statement of 14th November 2023 had been £6,014.50 and there was an outstanding payment of £18.00 to the Quaker Meeting Rooms. The balance on 30th November had therefore been £5,996.50.

The Business Savings Account had had no income or outgoings since the last meeting and the balance on the bank statement of 14th November 2023 was £17,691.80.

2.02 (2.02) Membership

RP said that the membership stood at 137 of which 58 were life members.

2.03 (2.03) Newsletter

RP said that the newsletter was currently with the printers and should be with her by the end of the week.

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 due to the fact that there was a lot happening on Salisbury Plain at the moment it was unlikely to be possible to have the proposed ride in the spring from Everleigh. It was suggested that she should approach the Ministry of Defence to ask if there were any options.

2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm

1. Filing etc. - ongoing. BM reported that there were statements that needed renewing and there were parishes for which the WBA did not have parish centred maps and she said that she was making lists of both of these. NB undertook to discuss the situation with Chris Clarke (CC) of Wiltshire Council (WC).
2. External Maintenance - ongoing. NB said that there was no maintenance taking place at the moment. RP said that she had read the electricity meter and had asked the farm for an invoice for the cost of it.

2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting - this would take place from 6.30pm to 9.30pm on Thursday 21st March 2024. RC confirmed that Rushall Village Hall had been booked. NB said that it had been suggested to him that a member of the Planning Department could be asked to speak at the meeting as an alternative to Sally Madgwick (SM), the Definitive Map and Highway Records Manager at WC. However, the feeling of the meeting was that although the Committee would be very interested to hear a member of the Planning Department speak, SM would probably attract more attendees to the AGM.

2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (WSCAF) - NB said that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November had been distributed to the WBA Committee members on 14th November. Meetings in 2024 would take place on Wednesday 10th April, Wednesday 31st July and Wednesday 6th November.
2. Friends of Railway Path (FoRP) - NB said that he had still had no response from Dick Millard (DM), the FoRP Chair, and that he was waiting for an update from Stephen Leonard (SL) of WC as to whether or not bollards were in place on the cycle track at approaches to byway crossings. Ongoing.

3. Open Spaces Society (OSS) - NB said that the WBA had received a request for a financial contribution for a fighting fund for legal actions. Following discussion it was agreed that a donation of £100.00 should be made to the OSS for this purpose.
 4. National Federation of Bridleway Associations (NFoBA) - NB said that nothing further had been received.
- 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 would be at the end of January 2024. He would get the date, time and location of the meeting at the beginning of next month.
- 2.11 (2.11) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - NB said that the necessary action by WC was still outstanding. Ongoing.**
- 2.12 (2.12) Milton Lilbourne BR18A (signage) - RP said that this was still 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 said that she didn't believe that there would ever be any change on this one. She said that sometimes it was possible to get through and other times it was not. NB undertook to discuss the situation at the January meeting with CC. Ongoing.**
- 2.16 (2.16) A303 underpass + diversions (Stonehenge) - objections to the project commenced hearing in the High Court on Tuesday 12th December 2023 (information obtained from news reports), ongoing.**
- 2.17 (2.18) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - NB said that he was awaiting an update from WC, ongoing.**
- 2.18 (2.19) Broad Chalke BR13 - NB said that he was awaiting an update from Alex Howson (AH) of WC regarding the gates on the BR. He went on to say that he had written to the PRow Department at WC asking whether these gates are legally approved and recorded on the Definitive Statement. Ongoing.**
- 2.19 (2.20) Zeals BR22 - NB informed the Committee that he was awaiting an update from Carys Ford (CF) at WC concerning the cutting of the hedge which was currently causing serious safety problems. Ongoing.**
- 2.20 (2.21) Broad Town BR25 - RP said that nothing had happened there. Ongoing.**
- 2.21 (2.22) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10 - NB said that there had been no change, ongoing.**
- 2.22 (2.23) Trowbridge FP8 - NB reported that a decision from the Secretary of State on the proposed upgrade was still awaited. To be moved to the Annex List.**
- 2.23 (2.24) Bromham BR44 - NB reported that there had been no progress with the heavy/broken gate. Ongoing. He went on to say that the farm involved was owned by WC and tenanted.**
- 2.24 (2.25) Bromham BR59 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)**
- 2.25 (2.26) Chapmanslade BY31 - NB said that there had been no progress on clearing the vegetation overgrowth, ongoing.**
- 2.26 (2.27) Baydon BR4 - requirement for a fingerpost, it has been reported on MyWilts (40593) and its status is In Progress, no updates, no notes. (HE)**
- 2.27 (2.28) Baydon BR5 - HE said that this was non existent, it had been reported on MyWilts (54748) where its status is In Progress, no updates, no notes.**
- 2.28 (2.29) Baydon BR5 + BY17 - a fingerpost was needed, HE had reported it on MyWilts (54749) and its status is In Progress, no updates since 10th February 2022.**
- 2.29 (2.30) Baydon BY19 - this is badly rutted, it had been reported on MyWilts (58323), its status is In Progress, no updates since 15th March 2022. NB said that he would look into what can be done about the issues detailed in 2.26 to 2.29 in case it was a situation where the WBA could go to the magistrates. (HE)**
- 2.30 (2.31) Stert BR7 - CLC had reported to NB that she had received an email from WC saying that the status has been changed. However, as WC was having website problems, although CLC had been able to log into her account she had been unable to see what the status had changed to.**
- 2.31 (2.32) Melksham Without BR25A - NB reported that the landowner had made no further effort to submit an application for BR diversion. TO BE CLOSED**
- 2.32 (2.33) Devizes BY58 + BY62 - overgrown with a badly rutted surface, NB said that he was waiting for the results of a site visit and assessment by WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.**
- 2.33 (2.34) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - two gates with weights attached, NB said that he was waiting for the results of a site visit and assessment by a WC Countryside Access Officer. Ongoing.**

- 2.34** (2.35) Melksham Without BR43 - unauthorized gate on the BR at Craysmarsh Farm. NB said that there was no change, ongoing.
- 2.35** (2.36) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the BR. NB said that there was no change, ongoing.
- 2.36** (2.37) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - RP said that she had re-reported this. There are four gates, they all open quite easily and two of them can be done from a horse but two have extra small plates on them which should be removed if possible.
- 2.37** (2.38) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - no report as EH was not able to be at the meeting.
- 2.38** (2.39) Seend - eight unauthorized and broken gates on the BR circular route. This is the responsibility of the landowners but action is still awaited by WC, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.39** (2.40) Durnford BR11 and Winterbourne BR27 - nothing, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.40** (2.41) Stert FP11 - nothing, ongoing. (RC)
- 2.41** (2.42) Melksham BR87 - nothing, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.42** (2.43) Market Lavington BR24 - nothing, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.43** (2.44) Nettleton BR36 - subject to Highways Act 1980 s130a action. January marks four months and so after that date WBA can apply to the magistrates. WC to enforce, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.44** (2.45) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no change and no signage, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.45** (2.46) Charlton St Peter FP6 + BR2 + Wilsford BR5 - upgrade to RBYS, awaiting decision from the Secretary of State. To be moved to the Annex List. (NB + RC)
- 2.46** (2.47) 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, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.47** (2.48) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - overgrown and gate problems, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.48** (2.49) Application to record a RBY at Ramsbury (Axford) and Mildenhall (Axford Lane), upgrade Ramsbury FP9B and FP44 and Mildenhall FP16 and add Ramsbury RBY71 and RBY72. To be moved to the Annex List. (NB)
- 2.49** (2.50) Devizes Gateway Railway Station - being monitored but no further progress. To be moved to the Annex List. (NB)
- 2.50** (2.51) Access for riders at Conock - ongoing. (NB)
- 2.51** (2.53) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - signage required, nothing changed. (RP)
- 2.52** (2.54) Burbage BR14 - RP said that she had re-reported this, nothing has been done and the gate is still closing too quickly, ongoing.
- 2.53** (2.55) North Newton BR8 - spoil on the track, no change, NB undertook to go and have a look at it.
- 2.54** (2.56) Berwick St John BR14 - very muddy and obstructed by a locked gate. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.55** (2.57) Christian Malford BR9 - signage still required, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.56** (2.58) Chute BY35 - the condition is terrible. BM reported that in addition to large stones reducing the width along the length from Gammons Farm to Scot's Poor, there were now posts in the verge from Gammons Farm back towards Highlands. RP undertook to go and look at it. (RP)
- 2.57** (2.59) Buttermere BR1 + BR7 - the gates are down and there was a complete lack of signage and then a gate with a weight on it. The gates have been replaced. (RP)
- 2.58** (2.60) Huish BR14 - handle required, NB undertook to go and have a look, ongoing. (NB + HE)
- 2.59** (2.61) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - nothing changed, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.60** (2.62) Market Lavington BR4 - nothing, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.61** (2.63) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation on BRs, nothing changed, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.62** (2.64) Overgrown BRs in the Salisbury and Durnford area - no progress despite NB having been told that WC was in negotiation with a contractor. In addition there had been further reports from local riders of additional trees falling across PRowWs, notably Salisbury RBY3. NB reported that he was currently chasing WC for action, ongoing.
- 2.63** (2.66) Horse warning sign on A338 road to West Grafton - RP said that this was to be mentioned at the January meeting of the Grafton Parish Council which she would attend.
- 2.64** (2.67) Easterton BR26 cereal crops had been grown across this BR which had been harvested at the end of September. Awaiting confirmation that the ploughing of the ground had been commenced at which point WC would be notified, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.65** (2.68) Melksham Without BR41 - NB said that this was seriously overgrown and dangerous, no change and he said that he had received another report of fallen trees nearer to Clackers Brook, ongoing.

- 2.66** (2.69) Rowde BR19 - blocked by a fallen tree and an unsuitable surface for equines. (NB)
- 2.67** (2.70) West Ashton BR4 - both the BR and the gate are blocked by vegetation, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.68** (2.71) North Tidworth FP11 - DMMO application to upgrade to BY, awaiting decision from Secretary of State. To be moved to the Annex List. (NB)
- 2.69** (2.72) Winterslow BY94, Back Drove - order received, three duly made objections and unless withdrawn is scheduled to be put before the Southern Area Planning Committee on either 11th January 2024 or 8th February 2024, date to be confirmed. An email from SM at WC had been circulated to WBA Committee on 12th December. (NB)
- 2.70** (2.73) Cheverell Magna BR12 - Witchcombe Lane had been overgrown, nothing changed, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.71** (2.74) Signage required on the circular route from Westcourt, via Easton Clump, Easton Royal, Wootton Rivers, Ram Alley and back to Westcourt - NB said that this had been reported on MyWilts and that it would be discussed with CC of WC at the next meeting with him in January.
- 2.72** (2.75) Alton Barnes BR2 - blocked with vicious/spiky woody vegetation. HE said that nothing had been done so she had reported it again. HE undertook to go and look at it again. Ongoing.
- 2.73** (2.76) Preshute BR2, Old Eagle - overgrown with bracken and brambles. Report number 124278, status on MyWilts, In Progress, reported 5th September 2023, nothing has been done, ongoing. (HE)
- 2.74** (2.77) Ogbourne St George BY9 + Ogbourne St Andrew BY3 - width severely reduced and overgrown. Report number 124279, status on MyWilts, In Progress, reported 5th September 2023, nothing changed, ongoing. (HE)
- 2.75** (2.78) Grittleton BR3 - planning application PL/2023/07285 which affected twenty metres of BR, under consultation, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.76** (2.79) Chirton BR3 + Marden BR4 - planning application PL/2023/08165 for the demolition and rebuilding of a dwelling and a garage, under consultation, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.77** (2.80) Tollard Royal BR6 + BR8 - blocked by hedge, brambles and low branches, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.78** (2.82) Tilshead BY6 - badly rutted and unsafe to ride, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.79** (4.01) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 - metal barrier across the BR and not enough room to pass at the side. RP undertook to go and look at it, ongoing.
- 2.80** (4.02) Buttermere BR1 - two new gates with handles installed. TO BE CLOSED (RP)
- 2.81** (4.03) Proposed addition of a new BR to the Definitive Map and Statement at Ogbourne St Andrew, BY6 + BR29, Inspector's report awaited, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.82** (4.04) Temporary blockage of Alton BR2, Alton BR15, Stanton St Bernard BR17 and Stanton St Bernard FP4 by livestock gathering pens. To be moved to the Annex List. (HE)
- 2.83** (4.05) Electric cables being extended across PRoW for the purpose of charging electrically powered vehicles, NB said that this was currently under discussion with WC.
- 2.84** (4.06) PRoWs being ploughed over due to contract farming. TO BE CLOSED
- 3.00 Correspondence**
- 3.01** 14th November - email from NB with the revised minutes of the WSCAF meeting held on 1st November.
- 3.02** 23rd November - email from NB distributing information on the Cranbourne Chase Seminar on 5th December.
- 3.03** 24th November - email from NB with information on WC's new pages for Area Board Communications.
- 3.04** 27th November - from Craig Harlow (CH) at WC concerning proposed diversion of Tockenham FP7. Order confirmed, copy of order, order plan and Notice.
- 3.05** 27th November - email from NB concerning corrected Financial Report in minutes of WBA Committee's November meeting.
- 3.06** 28th November - email from NB concerning two applications for solar farms in Potterne at One Tree Hill and Potterne Park Farm.
- 3.07** 29th November - email from NB thanking KDC and CLC for taking on the two solar farm applications.
- 3.08** 5th December - from J Hughes at WC, DM and Statements for Tockenham FP7.
- 3.09** 7th December - email from NB concerning Planning Application PL/2023/10067 for West Dunley Farm, Grittleton
- 3.10** 10th December - email from NB with The Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM) 2023 report, *Calling Time on Off-Roading*.
- 3.11** 10th December - email from NB concerning request for financial contributions from OSS. See 2.08.3.
- 3.12** 11th December - from SM at WC concerning increased width of Winterslow BY94 Back Drove. Objections received, to go before Southern Area Planning Committee. See 2.69.

4.00 Any Other Business

4.01 NB informed the meeting of the proposed solar farm on One Tree Hill, Potterne which would possibly affect Potterne BR45 + BR46 + BY50 and which was being dealt with by CLC. CLC had reported to NB that she had attended the consultation meeting on this project at which she had talked to the company's Transport Manager who had told her that the access to the site would be along Sleight Lane, a single track road and then Potterne BY50 for approximately nine months. It was agreed that the WBA should object to this project, KDC undertook to draft a letter for NB to sign.

4.02 NB informed the meeting of the proposed solar farm at Potterne Park Farm which would affect various PRoWs and with which KDC was dealing. KDC informed the meeting that an Action Group against this project had been formed and had had its first meeting at the end of November. It was agreed that the WBA should object to this project, KDC undertook to draft a letter for NB to sign.

4.03 NB drew attention to work removing pylons and placing cables underground that was to be done by the National Grid in the North Wessex Downs AONB. He had received an invitation to be part of a new Community Liaison Group which would meet regularly throughout the project, the first meeting of which would take place on 17th January 2024.

4.04 Planning Application PL/2023/10067 for a rural workers dwelling at West Dunley Farm, Grittleton which was a resubmission of PL/2022/06123 and which would impact on Grittleton BR3 + BR4 + BR7. Following discussion during which it was stated that nothing in the new application had changed the impact on the BRs to which the WBA had previously objected, it was agreed that the WBA should object to this application.

4.05 RP reported that she had corresponded with the South Somerset Bridleways Association (SSBA) concerning how that organization controlled its filing but it seemed to have very similar issues to the WBA with its filing.

5.00 Date of Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 2140 hours.