

WILTSHIRE BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (WBA)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

Present:

Mr. Norman Beardsley - Chairman; Sustrans Liaison; CAF Representative; Netheravon Area Representative; (NB)
Mrs. Kate Dilnott-Cooper - Minutes Secretary (KDC)
Mrs. Liz Keen - Treasurer (LK)
Miss Barbara MacMullen - Filing Clerk (BM)
Mrs. Rosie Pack - Membership Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Ride Organiser; (RP)

Apologies:

Mrs. Rosie Cunningham - Administration Secretary (RC)
Mrs. Charlotte Curtis - Devizes Area Representative (CLC)
Mrs. Heather Emery - Marlborough Area Representative (HE)
Mrs. Charlotte Hill-Baldwin - Web Master (CHB)
Mrs. Emma Hodgson - Lavington Area Representative (EH)
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 10th January 2024 as a true recording of proceedings and this was passed to BM for filing at Brail Farm.

1.02 KDC had suggested that, going forward, the items discussed under Matters Arising could be arranged by issue rather than by chronology. Where the comment is "no progress, ongoing", unless it is a PRow where the Committee member is involved, it is not clear to others what the actual problem is without including all details on every issue in every set of minutes which would mean those documents being considerably longer and definitely less appealing to read. After discussion, it was agreed that this system should be tried.

2.00 Matters Arising

2.01 (2.01) Treasurer's Financial Report

NB welcomed LK to the meeting, he proposed that she be appointed Treasurer, this was seconded by BM and agreed unanimously by those present.

NB reported that as at 12th January, the date of the last bank statement, £586.50 had been received (£571.50 for subscriptions and £15.00 for merchandise) and there had been outgoings of £114.14, the details of which had been included in the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January. The Current Account balance at 12th January was £6,486.86 and there were four outstanding cheques for a total of £274.60, leaving a balance of £6,212.26.

NB went on to say that the Business Savings Account had had no income or outgoings and that the balance as at 12th January was £17,753.41.

BM reported that she had put together a list of the items of WBA clothing that had been sold in 2023 and undertook to forward it to NB. She went on to say that she could no longer store the supply of WBA clothing and KDC agreed to store it in future.

2.02 (2.02) Membership

RP reported that the membership stood at 139 of which 110 were fully paid.

2.03 (2.03) Newsletter

RP said that the next newsletter would be written following the Annual General Meeting on 21st March. She went on to say that she had received an article for it from Carolyn Davis.

2.04 (2.04) Electronic Communications

NB said that all was up to date with information and posters for the forthcoming AGM plus other items. CHB had also added an opportunity for questions to be put forward for the AGM.

2.05 (2.05) Pleasure/Guided Rides

RP reported that she was not going to be able to organize a ride over the Easter period but that she hoped to reprise the Wilton ride, possibly in September.

2.06 (2.06) Brail Farm

1. Filing etc. - BM reported that the dehumidifier was back in the office and working well.
2. BM went on to say that she had completed the list of Statements/Parish Council maps which NB would take to his next meeting with Chris Clark (CC) at Wiltshire Council (WC).
3. External Maintenance - ongoing. RP undertook to talk to Joshua Hosier to ascertain whether or not the WBA was going to be able to stay at Brail Farm.

2.07 (2.07) Annual General Meeting - NB had produced a list of organizational requirements for the AGM as follows:

- Key availability: this would be dealt with by RC;
- Setting up: this would be the responsibility of the Committee;

Meet and greet: RP
Signing in: KDC undertook to provide a signing in sheet;
Merchandise: BM undertook to bring all merchandise to the meeting and KDC would then take it after the AGM;
Raffle tickets and prizes: NB said that the raffle prizes would be provided by members of the Committee;
Refreshments: BM would provide these;
Display Boards: NB would bring these;
Old maps/statements: NB would bring these;
Cash float: BM would provide this;
Minutes of 2023 AGM: BM would bring copies of this document.

BM went on to say that she had begun distribution of the posters for the AGM to local livery yards, vets surgeries and other suitable places.

2.08 (2.08) Other Organisations

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum (WSCAF) - NB said that no further correspondence had been received.
2. Open Spaces Society (OSS) - NB said that he had received a news update from the OSS on 26th January which had been circulated to all members of the Committee.

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)

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

NB said that there had been a very successful meeting with CC and five Countryside Access Officers on 30th January. The items discussed are detailed against the specific issue throughout the minutes. The next meeting with CC would take place on 15th May 2024.

Gates

2.11 (2.18) Broad Chalke BR13 - the issue of the 3 gates had been discussed at the WC meeting. Alex Howson (AH) had said that he was in contact with the landowner. NB had suggested the issue of documentation under Highways Act 1980 section 130a but AH had asked that this be held in abeyance. Ongoing.

2.12 (2.20) Broad Town BR25 - RP said that she had not been over there and had not heard anything, ongoing.

2.13 (2.21) All Cannings BR20 + Stanton St Bernard BR10 - NB said that this had been discussed at the WC meeting, Stephen Leonard had reported that there had been no progress. Ongoing.

2.14 (2.22) Bromham BR44 - broken heavy wooden field gate, NB said that he would revisit this and check for progress, ongoing.

2.15 (2.31) Longbridge Deverill BR2 - two gates with weights attached. NB said that this had been discussed at the WC meeting and that Vicky Roscoe (VR) was to undertake a site visit. Ongoing.

2.16 (2.32) Melksham Without BR43 - unauthorized gate at Craysmarsh Farm. NB said that this had been discussed at the WC meeting at which Alison Rasey (AR) had reported that the gate was required for stock control and on that basis the matter was now resolved. TO BE CLOSED

2.17 (2.34) Collingbourne Kingston BR1B - RP said that the gates had been improved so they can now be opened but are still not ideal. Ongoing.

2.18 (2.36) Seend - eight unauthorized and broken gates on a BR circular route. NB said that this had been discussed at the WC meeting at which AR had reported that the gates are now usable and that she and VR had fitted chains (in line with BS5709:18) where required. The gates are required for stock control. TO BE CLOSED

2.19 (2.39) Melksham BR87 - NB said that this gate had been reported as being dangerous due to the presence of both barbed wire and electric fencing attached to the gate posts and it was not possible to open it when mounted. It was discussed at the WC meeting when NB was told that the situation was in hand and that Ben Braine (BB), a WC Countryside Access Officer will check on progress. Ongoing.

2.20 (2.44) Longbridge Deverill BR9 - overgrown and gate problems, no progress, NB undertook to revisit the location. Ongoing.

2.21 (2.47) Burbage BR14 - RP said that the spring on the gate needed attention and she undertook to photograph it. Ongoing.

2.22 (2.49) Berwick St John BR14 - very muddy and padlock and chain on the gate, no progress, ongoing. (NB)

2.23 (2.53) Huish BR14 - handle required on gate, ongoing. (NB + HE)

2.24 (2.55) Market Lavington BR4 - NB reported that he had visited the bridleway prior to the meeting with WC and the problems had been rectified. TO BE CLOSED

Signage

2.25 (2.11) Winterbourne Stoke BR5 + Shrewton BY4 + BY5 - NB said that action by WC was still awaited. Ongoing.

- 2.26** (2.12) Milton Lilbourne BR18A - no change, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.27** (2.13) Barbury Shooting School - no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.28** (2.23) Bromham BR59 - no progress, ongoing. RP said that this should be put to CC at the next meeting to get it sorted out.
- 2.29** (2.25) Baydon BR4 - HE had previously reported this on MyWilts (report number 40593), on that website the status of it is "In Progress, no updates, no notes". NB said that this had been discussed at the WC meeting and SL had reported no progress. Ongoing.
- 2.30** (2.27) Baydon BR5 and BY17 - HE had previously reported this on MyWilts (report number 54749), on that website the status of it is "In Progress, no updates since 10.02.2022". NB said that this had been discussed at the WC meeting and SL had reported no progress. Ongoing.
- 2.31** (2.40) Market Lavington BR24 - no update, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.32** (2.42) Chute BR4, BR36 + BR38 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.33** (2.46) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 + BR2 - no progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.34** (2.50) Christian Malford BR9 - signage still required, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.35** (2.65) Signage required at various points on the route from Westcourt. NB reported that this issue had been discussed at the WC meeting when he had been told that signage is largely undertaken when resources allow. The north area had had a blitz on three parishes during 2023, the south area is keeping on top of them as and when. People are asked to report them on MyWilts and clusters of signage defects are welcome as it is then worth putting a contractor on the task for a full day. If holes are to be dug and posts inserted, the ground needs to be scanned first to search for underground services. Ongoing.

Surface and Spoil on the Bridleway

- 2.36** (2.28) Baydon BY19 - badly rutted and HE had previously reported it on MyWilts (report number 58323), on that website the status of it is "In Progress, no updates since 15.03.2023". NB reported that this issue had been discussed at the WC meeting and SL had reported that work was in progress to reduce the depth of the rutting. Ongoing.
- 2.37** (2.30) Devizes BY58 + BY62 - overgrown and badly rutted. NB undertook to go and have a look at this. Ongoing.
- 2.38** (2.33) Poulshot BR8 - spoil from ditch clearance deposited on the bridleway. No update, NB undertook to revisit and assess the situation, ongoing.
- 2.39** (2.43) Pewsey BR6 - new surface required, there had been no further progress due to the prevailing weather conditions, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.40** (2.48) North Newton BR8 - spoil deposited on the bridleway during ditch clearance, very wet and muddy. NB will revisit. Ongoing.
- 2.41** (2.54) Seend BR55 + Rowde BR21 - no update, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.42** (2.61) Rowde BR19 - blocked by a fallen tree and unsuitable surface, no information, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.43** (2.72) 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)
- 2.44** (4.01) Sedgemoor and Semley BR28 - very wet, muddy, severely overgrown and not more than two foot six inches wide. Reported on MyWilts (report number 00141707). Ongoing. (NB)

Overgrown Vegetation and Fallen Trees

- 2.45** (2.19) Zeals BR22 - dangerous hedge height at the junction of the bridleway with Bonham Lane. This had been discussed at the WC meeting at which AH had reported that the hedge had been cut affording clear vision of the road. However further checking may be needed as the growing season progressed. TO BE CLOSED (NB)
- 2.46** (2.24) Chapmanslade BY31 - vegetation overgrowth, no response from WC, NB undertook to revisit the site and check for progress.
- 2.47** (2.41) Nettleton BR36 - blocked by vegetation, fence and gates. This had been discussed at the WC meeting at which SL had reported that although the fence is still in situ, new bridle gates have been installed to give access along the field edge for all users and the barbed wire has been removed. TO BE CLOSED (NR and BillIR)
- 2.48** (2.56) Market Lavington and West Lavington - overgrown vegetation, no update, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.49** (2.57) Bridleways in the Salisbury and Durnford area - blocked by fallen trees and ingress of vegetation. This had been discussed at the WC meeting at which AH reported that some heavy clearance had been undertaken on Salisbury RBY3 by the Ramblers and a couple of large trees had been removed by a contractor. Some drainage investigation had been undertaken and further works were planned in this respect. Local riders seemed to be grateful for the work that had taken place and grant money to assist with the surface would be appreciated. Following discussion, NB undertook to ask for a quote as to how much money is likely to be spent and with that information the Committee will then be able to take a decision on a potential donation.
- 2.50** (2.60) Melksham Without BR41 - seriously overgrown, no information, NB undertook to revisit the site to check progress. Ongoing.

- 2.51** (2.62) West Ashton BR4 - the bridleway and the gate are blocked by vegetation, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.52** (2.64) Cheverell Magna BR12, Witchcombe Lane - overgrown, no update, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.53** (2.67) Preshute BR2, Old Eagle - overgrown with bracken and brambles. HE had previously reported it on MyWilts (report number 124278), on that website the status of it is "In Progress, reported 05.09.2023". Ongoing.
- 2.54** (2.68) Ogbourne St George BY9 + Ogbourne St Andrew BY3 - width reduced/overgrown. HE had previously reported it on MyWilts (report number 124279), on that website the status of it is "In Progress, reported 05.09.2023".
- 2.55** (2.71) Tollard Royal BR6 + BR8 - blocked by hedge, brambles and low branches, ongoing. (NB)

Planning Applications

- 2.56** (2.69) Grittleton BR3 - PL/2023/07285 which affected twenty metres of BR, checked on 13th February and recorded as under consultation, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.57** (2.70) Chirton BR3 + Marden BR4 - PL/2023/08165 affecting the bridleways, checked on 13th February and recorded as under consultation, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.58** (2.77) Grittleton - PL/2023/10067 for new dwelling at West Dunley Farm, Grittleton affecting various bridleways. NB checked on 13th February, the application had been closed as it had been withdrawn by the applicant. TO BE CLOSED (NB)
- 2.59** (2.79) Potterne - PL/2023/10332 proposed solar farm at Potterne Park Farm. KDC said that she had added the WBA's objection to the project on the WC website and that there had been over 200 objections added with far fewer comments in favour of the project. The consultation period was to close on 15th February.

Other

- 2.60** (2.14) Ogbourne St George BR7 - missing bridleway, no progress, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.61** (2.15) Shalbourne BR50 - no update, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.62** (2.16) A303 underpass + diversions (Stonehenge) - no further information, ongoing. (NB)
- 2.63** (2.17) Hullavington BY9 + BY32 - NB said that this situation had been discussed at the WC meeting when SL had said that he was still attempting to contact the Dyson farm managers. Ongoing.
- 2.64** (2.26) Baydon BR5 - not apparent on the ground. HE had previously reported it on MyWilts (report number 54748), on that website the status of it is "In Progress, no updates, no notes". This was discussed at the WC meeting where SL reported that the fences had been removed but that crops could be an issue in the future. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.65** (2.29) Stert BR7 - slippery bridge, gate and vegetation. NB said that he didn't know what was happening. Ongoing. (CLC)
- 2.66** (2.35) Steeple Ashton RBY30 - bollards that restrict carriage driving, no update, ongoing. (EH)
- 2.67** (2.37) Durnford BR11 and Winterbourne BR27 - poor access on and off a main road, in progress, ongoing. (RP)
- 2.68** (2.38) Stert FP11 - DMMO application to upgrade the footpath to a bridleway, no update, ongoing. (RC)
- 2.69** (2.45) Access for riders at Conock - the meeting was informed that 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)
- 2.70** (2.51) Chute BY35 - NB said that the landowner had reduced the width of the byway using large rocks and fencing posts. The situation was discussed at the meeting with WC at which AH reported that he had been in contact with the landowner but will chase to get the matter resolved. NB had given AH photographs provided by RP and suggested the issue of documentation under the Highways Act 1980 section 130 but was asked to hold that in abeyance. NB went on to say that notification had been received from Carys Ford (CF) on 13th February that she had arranged to meet the landowner early in March. Ongoing.
- 2.71** (2.58) Horse warning signs in the West Grafton/Burbage area - ongoing. (RP)
- 2.72** (2.59) Easterton BR26 - being monitored for any ploughing activity. NB reported that the last time he checked he noted that there was a large pile of farmyard manure in the field so ploughing could be imminent. He appraised WC of the current situation at the meeting. Ongoing.
- 2.73** (2.63) Winterslow BY94, Back Drove - DMMO application to record the width of the byway on the Definitive Map and Statement. Awaiting result of the Southern Area Planning Committee meeting on 11th January. Ongoing. (NB)
- 2.74** (2.73) Tidcombe and Fosbury BR1 - RP said that she had not heard anything. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.75** (2.75) Electric cables extended across PRowS for the purpose of charging electrically powered vehicles. NB said that this had been discussed at the WC meeting and CC had explained that it is a tricky issue but that any ruling issued by HM Government will need to be enforced locally. Leads trailing across a PRow would be classed as an obstruction. For the time being it is considered as a problem which will have to be dealt with on a case by case basis. Electric vehicles are still a relatively new concept and the issues around the charging of them are still evolving. TO BE CLOSED
- 2.76** (2.78) Proposed solar farm on One Tree Hill, Potterne - KDC reported that, to date, no planning application had gone in for this project. (CLC)

2.77 (2.80) Community Liaison Group concerning work being undertaken by the National Grid. NB reported that he had attended a presentation at Devizes Town Hall on 17th January where those present were briefed that pylons carrying National Grid cables were being dismantled and the cables were being routed underground. The depth may vary but the cables are protected by a "blanket", the depth of which is set at a standard 0.9 metres (3 feet). The current phase affects the Roundway area of Devizes and it was reported that there were no PRowWs affected in this phase. There would be an update in September or October.

3.00 Correspondence

3.01 11th January from Craig Harlow (CH) at WC - proposed diversion of Ramsbury FP5 + FP8C, Little Bedwyn FP20 + Ramsbury BR6. NB agreed to write to CH to say that WBA continues to support these diversions.

3.02 16th January from Jane Hughes (JH) at WC - DM and Statements on Cricklade FP24 and Ogbourne St Andrew BR38. BM to file in Portacabin at Brail Farm.

3.03 18th January from CH at WC - investigation of public rights over Gypsy Lane/The Cloisters (Chippenham BR2A). NB undertook to circulate the Committee with the information so that a decision can be taken.

3.04 18th January - NB email, good news of the volunteer Treasurer, Mrs Liz Keen.

3.05 25th January - J Green (JG) at WC - application to delete Ogbourne St George BOAT1 (Gypsy Lane) part and add BOAT in the parish of Chiseldon. Distributed. NB undertook to look into this, ongoing.

3.06 1st February - NB email, BHS insurance for March 2024 to February 2025 at a cost of £138.60, dealt with.

3.07 13th February from CH at WC - diversion of Rowde FP32, order confirmed, copy of order, order plan and notice distributed, shredded.

4.00 Any Other Business

4.01 NB reported that he was dealing with a Devizes incident report (00145938) of delivery vehicles illegally using the bridleway to access a local housing estate.

4.02 NB reported that at the end of January he had received a request for urgent WBA attention in connection with planning application PL/2023/10902 for temporary rural workers' accommodation. The applicant had installed stiles and electric fence wire on PRowWs but there was no WC report number. NB said that he had replied that the PRowW concerned was in fact a footpath and as such did not come within the WBA's remit.

4.03 BM had given NB twenty planning applications but nineteen of them had no PRowWs around them although one had bridleways around it (Standen House at Chute Standen) but it did not appear as though there will be any effect on the bridleways. NB undertook to look into it.

5.00 Date of Next Meeting

5.01 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Marsden Room at the Quaker Meeting Rooms, Sussex Wharf, Devizes.

The meeting closed at 2140 hours.