

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2017 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE



PRESENT: Cllr R Claydon (Chairman), Ms K Bailey, Cllr John Cordwell, Mr S Jarmuz, Ms P McGuinness, Cllr N Pinnegar, Cllr P Smith
In Attendance: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom; 1 Member of the Public

499. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr T Luker and Mrs E Warren. Mrs Warren was also resigning from the committee. She had been a long-term member of this committee as well as a former Town Councillor. The Chairman and members expressed their appreciation for her many years of commitment.

Mr S Jarmuz entered the meeting

500. Declarations of Interest – None

501. Public Forum

It was agreed by all members to bring forward item 8 on the agenda, correspondence regarding CWE45 at Ellerncroft, for consideration immediately after the Public Forum.

Mr M Woolfrey informed members of a recent incident whereby he had been prevented from cycling along CWE45. The status of the path is designated as a footpath only but it has been used for many years by cyclists and horse riders and provides a safer route to Bradley Green than via Bradley Road. Mr Woolfrey is therefore assembling evidence of uncontested usage of the path by horse riders and cyclists over the last 20 years in order to apply to upgrade the path to bridleway status. To this end he asked if the Council would be prepared to distribute a letter he had drafted to all Councillors as some may be able to provide such evidence.

502. Correspondence

Email correspondence was noted concerning path status of CWE45 at Ellerncroft as discussed in Public Forum. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should distribute the letter from Mr Woolfrey to Town Councillors and members of this committee. The Town Council would be consulted as part of the process if the application progresses.

Mr Woolfrey left the meeting

503. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17th January 2017

It was agreed in favour, with one abstention, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2017.

504. Footpaths Survey

Survey reports were given to the Deputy Clerk for processing. Mrs Warren's allotted paths were re-allocated. One landowner had discussed the possible installation of a stile or kissing gate next to the main roadside gate on CWE42 and Mr Jarmuz would investigate this in more detail. It was noted that an electric fence was blocking CWE43 near Corner Farm at Bradley Green and that this also prevented progress on to paths CWE44 and CWE47. It was also noted that the stile at the junction of paths CWE51 and 53 is completely unsafe, being too high and very dilapidated. The Deputy Clerk would report these issues to the County Council.

505. Community Action Plan

a) Footway Survey – Members had made some progress with the Footways Survey. A number of footways needed resurfacing. Particular problem areas identified so far were The Cloud and Potters Pond, plus overgrowth on the footway on Wortley Road beyond the shop. Members listed the footways already checked and the Deputy Clerk would distribute the list to members. It was agreed to continue with the reports on a casual basis.

b) Local Green Space Designation – Further investigation had shown that Green Space Designation has to be part of a District Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan and there are very specific rules as to what can qualify as such. There are currently no plans to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan in Wotton and no strong views about land in the town which could attract such a designation. Therefore this will not be pursued unless there is strong pressure from the community to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman would report these conclusions to the Town Regeneration Partnership.

c) Holywell Leaze – Communications with the Buildings Manager and one of the adjacent landowners had established that the stream and banks were satisfactory at present and no maintenance work was currently required. The landowner expressed some concerns about the height of the gate, which was lower than the adjacent fence, but this was not an issue at present. It was noted that the Annual meeting of the developer and residents of Britannia Mews was to take place shortly and that the Council has an interest in the maintenance of the streamside frontage there. Councillor Luker is to attend the meeting and will report back.

506. Walking Festival

The pamphlets of Festival walks were distributed to members. Arrangements were now in place and there were some interesting walks arranged for that weekend. There have already been a number of enquiries. It was hoped that this would become an annual event. The organisers were fortunate to have received advice from the organisers of Dursley Walking Festival.

507. Any Other Footpath Matters

An enquiry had been received from Cotswold Guided Walks, a commercial company who are planning to operate guided walks around the town and would like to meet with the Town Council very shortly to discuss their plans. Councillors John Cordwell and Roger Claydon agreed to meet the company's representative and would liaise for a suitable date.

508. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was arranged for 4th July 2017. Ms McGuinness gave apologies for this meeting.

This completed the business of the Public Rights of Way and Amenity Areas Committee

Signed:

Dated: