

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllr P Smith (Chairman), Cllr R Claydon, Cllr John Cordwell, Cllr T Luker, Cllr N Pinnegar, Mrs J Deveney, Mr S Jarmuz, Mrs E Warren **IN ATTENDANCE:** Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

439. Election of Chairman

Cllr Smith took the Chair for this item due to the resignation from the Council of former Chairman, Mr Zimmer. Proposed by Mrs Warren, seconded by Cllr Claydon that Cllr Smith be elected as Chairman. Agreed all in favour.

440. Apologies: There were no apologies.

441. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd September 2015

Proposed by Cllr Claydon, seconded by Cllr Cordwell, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2015. Agreed in favour.

442. Walking Festival

The Chairman of the Dursley Walking Festival and his wife had attended the initial meeting of the Walking Festival Working Group in November to share their experiences and a lot of very useful advice. Topics included publicity, funding, Walkers are Welcome status, organisational set-up and many ideas for themed walks. The last Dursley Walking Festival took place over one weekend and attracted 293 walkers. It was noted that parking is a problem for people coming into Wotton for such an event and it was suggested that parking could be negotiated for the festival with, perhaps, the Royal Oak, the Auction Rooms, Bluecoat School, KLBS and possibly the Co-op for Sunday walks. The aim is for the festival to take place in spring 2017, to avoid clashing with the Dursley festival held in the Autumn. The next meeting of the Working Group will take place tomorrow, 20th January at 7pm in the Civic Centre.

443. Trees in Clump

It was noted that four new saplings had been purchased by the Town Council and planted in the Clump by the Cotswold Wardens, as recommended at the last meeting.

444. Footpaths in Wortley

An email had been received concerning problems experienced by walkers trying to follow the Town Council Circular Walk route number 3. It included reference to a footpath being blocked. Mrs Warren had investigated the paths and confirmed that all of the Public Rights of Way on the map were open, but that a track which had not been a Public Right of Way had been removed. She believes the walkers may have missed a turn on the route and so were not at the right point to follow the instructions. She noted that the area where path CWE73 joins CWE76 is slightly different than shown on the map but is not a problem; and that CWE75 is accessed from the road by a good stile but the bank immediately beyond the stile is so steep as to be virtually impassable and that steps were needed. The Clerk would report this latter path. Cllr Claydon offered to follow the route described in Circular Walk Number 3 to ascertain if it could be followed from the route description.

445. Parking Issues, Synwell Green

It was noted that a dispute had arisen because the owner of one of the houses adjacent to Synwell Green was claiming that two spaces used for parking there belonged to him. The area is that at

the bottom of The Chair on the slope outside of the Oliver Memorial Chapel and has been used by residents for parking for some time with no problems. Communication with Gloucestershire County Council has established that the area is part Public Right of Way and part Village Green, the latter being in the ownership of the Town Council. It was noted that it is illegal to park on a Public Right of Way. The Clerk would check whether or not the problem persisted and, if so, would contact Andrew Middlecote at County Highways for advice and for a copy of the register entry for Synwell Green to determine rights there. It was suggested that a white line painted on the tarmac demarcating the Footpath might be needed.

446. Holywell Leaze Land Agreement

The adjacent landowners at Holywell intended to forward comments on the latest draft of the Land Agreement but these had not yet been received so would be referred to a later meeting.

447. Marchesi Walk Stream Bank

The stream has undercut the bank alongside the path at one point on Marchesi Walk and there are concerns that the path itself could be at risk. The matter has been referred to County Public Rights of Way who consider that there is no danger at present. They are, however, getting further advice from the Land Drainage Officer at Stroud District Council. There is also an overhanging tree in the same area which is causing concern and both of these matters are being monitored.

448. Modification Order, Footpath in Coombe

A letter has been received to inform that the consultation period for the Modification Order for the addition of a footpath in Coombe has now ended. The application had been submitted by the Town Council approximately 7 years ago and had been delayed due to staff shortages at the County Council.

449. Footpaths Survey

The following reports were received:

CWE56 – adjacent to Leys Farm, two stiles are in urgent need of repair. The Clerk would report.

CWE100 – no problems

CWE101 – path is a bit obscure in the valley but no other problems.

450. Any Other Footpaths Matters

a) The footpath joining Court Orchard and Court Meadow – the hedge from an adjacent house has overgrown the handrail on the path, rendering it unusable. The Clerk would report.

b) An email had been received concerning weeds, dog fouling, surface and lighting problems on the Oatground and the Chair. The Clerk had already referred the issues to the County and District Councils.

451. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been arranged for 12th April 2016.

This completed the business of the Footpaths Committee

Signed:
Chairman of the Footpaths Committee

Dated: