

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JULY 2017 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE



PRESENT: Cllr R Claydon (Chairman), Cllr John Cordwell, Mr S Jarmuz, Cllr T Luker, Cllr N Pinnegar, Cllr P Smith In Attendance: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

509. Election of Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Cordwell, that Cllr R Claydon be elected as Chairman. There were no other nominations. Agreed all in favour that Cllr Claydon continue as Chairman.

510. Apologies – Apologies were received from Ms P McGuinness

511. Declarations of Interest – None

512. Public Forum – No public present

513. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25th April 2017

Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Cordwell that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2017 be approved as a correct record. Agreed all in favour.

514. Footpaths Survey

To date, 68 paths had been surveyed with 32 remaining, as follows: 8, 16, 26-30, 33, 35-39, 44-46, 47-49, 53, 65-66, 70-76, 90, 99-100. Several further reports were given to the Clerk. Once these had been collated the Deputy Clerk would email the numbers of the unchecked paths to members. The aim was to complete the survey by the September meeting.

515. Footways Survey

Footways 18, 43 and 55 had now been checked. The footway on the Cotswold Gardens side of Symn Lane was breaking up badly. Concerns were expressed about the works being carried out throughout the town by Virgin, who were digging up many of the footways to install cables. It was noted that Virgin had not discussed their plans with the Town Council. The standard of patching following these works may affect the survey results and it would be a further year before permanent reinstatement of the affected footways would be implemented. However, it was considered worthwhile to continue with the survey in the meantime.

516. Walking Festival

The festival had been very successful and was attended by over 250 people over the weekend, averaging 20 per walk. The dawn walk proved particularly popular with an extra one added to accommodate the numbers. A total of £350 had been received in donations from participants. The Town Council had given a grant of £850 and the Chamber of Trade had donated £150. The festival will be repeated next year and, now that the infrastructure is in place, the focus can move to increased publicity. Now that the Walking Festival group is established, Cllrs Claydon, Luker and Smith were standing down from the committee. Cllr Pinnegar would remain on the committee and it would be decided at the July Town Council meeting whether this would be in a private capacity or as a representative of the Town Council.

517. Any Other Footpaths or Amenity Areas Matters

a) There is a cracked manhole cover (sewer access) on the Cotswold Way up from Bradley Road, not far from the road. This would be reported to Wessex Water.

b) CWE42 – An electric fence on Bradley Green is blocking the path. Although it is possible to crawl under it, there is a substantial electric fence around the next field towards Bushford, the higher path along the edge of the farm. This second fence is impassable. An obstruction notice has been sent to County PROW. It was suggested that the electric fence on the Green should be reported to Stroud District Council as they are responsible for the common land.

c) The Deputy Clerk had approached the Cotswold AONB organisation regarding publicising the Town Council circular walks on their website, which they are willing to do. The organisation also mentioned a funding bid which they are working on to RDPE Growth Fund, to create a series of 'gateway sites' across the AONB to promote walking and cycling routes. If successful, this would fund an interpretation board, way-marking and the development of new routes. They asked if Wotton was interested in becoming one of the gateway sites. A meeting would be set up to discuss the proposal. The Deputy Clerk was asked to forward the email to members of this committee.

d) A member of the public had asked why an application to add a length of footpath along the bank of the Little Avon near to Renishaw Newmills had not yet been finalised. The order had been made in 1999 based on user evidence, although there had been several objections. It is unclear why it has not yet moved to the next stage of the process, which is to be submitted to the Secretary of State. Cllr Cordwell would query this with the County Council.

e) Holywell – The Cotswold Wardens were hoping to do the wall works this summer.

f) Cllr Smith had concerns that several plants growing along Marchesi Walk might be Japanese Knotweed. He would email some photographs of them to the Town Clerk.

518. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 26th September 2017.

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

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Public Rights of Way and Amenity Areas Committee