

## **MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllr M Zimmer (Chairman), Cllr R Claydon, Cllr John Cordwell, Mrs J Deveney, Mr S Jarmuz, Cllr T Luker, Cllr P Smith, Mrs E Warren

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom; 5 members of the public

### **429. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Smith took the Chair for this item. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Luker, to elect Cllr Zimmer as Chairman. Agreed all in favour. Cllr Zimmer took the Chair.

### **430. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence. However, co-opted member Mr B Rodman had resigned from the committee. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mr Rodman. The Clerk was further asked to approach Mr and Mrs Galbraith again to ask if they would be willing to be co-opted to this committee.

### **431. Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Proposed by Mrs Warren, seconded by Cllr Smith, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Agreed in favour.

### **432. Walking Festival**

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves, as follows: Dr S Robinson, Mrs A Parry, Mr G Smith, Mr S Studd and Mrs R Studd. Dr Robinson informed the Committee that there were a number of walking groups in the town, both formal and informal, and she would ask members of these groups to get in touch with the Clerk. It was suggested that, after the Dursley Walking Festival is over, the Chairman of the organising group could be contacted for advice. Mr Smith would forward contact details to the Clerk. It was further suggested that Wotton should become a town which 'Welcomes Walkers', such as had been done at Dursley before they began to organise their walking festivals. Discussions included setting up a website, advertising with the Ramblers website/magazine, organising walks to finish at Town Hall Teas - already a popular attraction to walkers - and ensuring the event does not clash with similar events nearby. It was noted that both Dursley and Winchcombe festivals had a programme of guided walks, although other festivals also included self-lead walks. The Clerk explained the conditions of the Town Council's OS mapping licence, but this may not be needed if the programme included only guided walks. It was agreed to set up a working group to progress this idea comprising of Cllr Zimmer, Cllr Claydon, Cllr Luker, Mrs Parry and Mr and Mrs Studd. Other interested parties would be welcome to join. The first meeting of the Walking Festival Working Group was arranged for Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7pm in the Civic Centre, to aim for a Festival date during bluebell season, Spring 2017.

5 members of the public left the meeting.

### **433. Trees in Clump**

It was noted that one of the saplings in the Clump had been uprooted and had consequently died. The Town Council's Tree Report had recommended that 10 each of Corsican and Scots Pine should be planted. Members considered this was excessive for the space. It was agreed to recommend to Council that 4 good-sized saplings should be purchased, two of each sort and Mr Jarmuz offered

to plant them. It was noted with thanks that the undergrowth had been kept down by the efforts of Mr Jarmuz and Mr J Turner.

#### **434. Budget**

This year's budget had included a sum for the rebuilding of the stone wall at Holywell Leaze. Mr Jarmuz said this was likely to be scheduled for May next year, when the Cotswold Wardens would also build the outdoor classroom, and so the funds would need to be earmarked over. It was recommended that £1000 should be requested to cover Footpaths and Holywell Leaze.

#### **435. Holywell Leaze**

**a)** This committee's recommendation that materials for the wall repairs at Holywell be procured by the Cotswold Wardens had been confirmed at Town Council. Mr Jarmuz had purchased a millstone with the intention of incorporating it into the wall but it had unfortunately been stolen.

**b)** Cllr Claydon explained the background to the Holywell Leaze Fencing Agreement. The fence had been erected in response to requests from the adjacent landowners who wished to prevent dogs and people straying on to their private land. The boundary is complicated and includes stream crossings and so, to optimise fence stability, the fence was erected on a line agreed between the landowners but which does not follow the boundary. The Land Agreement seeks to establish that the fence is not and will not become the boundary. Comments from the landowners to the latest draft of the agreement were considered and the following points agreed:

- i) The Agreement refers to the boundary as shown in the Land Registry Title – it was agreed that this was adequate and should not be further complicated by including specifics in this document.
- ii) That a paragraph should be added concerning the reporting to Gloucestershire County Council of any problems with the Cotswold Way footbridge adjoining the southern stream bank.
- iii) The combination lock provided by the adjacent landowners on the gate should be replaced by one purchased by the Town Council, which should be a key-operated padlock.

#### **436. Footpaths Survey**

There were 20 paths that remained unchecked. Cllr Zimmer had contacts who might be interested in helping complete this round of surveys and would pursue this.

#### **437. Any Other Footpaths Matters**

**a)** CWE94 to CWE14. These paths both adjoin opposite sides of Adeys Lane. The entrance to CWE14 is some way below that of CWE94 and an unofficial route has developed over time directly opposite CWE94, which then continues on to join up with CWE14. It was suggested that the unofficial path could be added to the Definitive Map and it was noted that this was a very lengthy process.

**b)** It was noted that the Oatground from Synwell Chapel to Chair Cottage needed weed clearance; and that the pavements in Synwell Lane and Court Orchard had thorns overgrowing them. It was advised that these issues should be reported to Gloucestershire County Council.

#### **438. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

This completed the business of the Footpaths Committee

Signed:  
Chairman of the Footpaths Committee

Date: