

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2014 AT 7.00PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllr C J Galbraith (Chairman), Cllr R Claydon, Cllr Dr J Cordwell, Mrs J Deveney, Cllr C V Galbraith, Mr S Jarmuz, Cllr T Luker, Mr B Rodman, Cllr P Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

389. Election of Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Claydon, seconded by Cllr Cordwell, that Cllr Chris Galbraith should continue as Chairman. There were no further nominations. Agreed all in favour that Cllr Galbraith be elected as Chairman.

390. Apologies

Mrs E Warren. The Chairman also apologised for the cancellation of the March meeting due to his being unavailable.

391. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21st January 2014

Proposed by Cllr Claydon, seconded by Cllr Luker, that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Agreed all in favour.

392. Holywell Leaze

a) Several maintenance issues had been raised and it was agreed that those members who were able would visit the site after the meeting to assess the work needed. The matters requiring particular input included the condition of the stone walls; the newly-laid hedge which was being smothered by weeds; maintenance of overgrown areas; whereabouts new trees could be accommodated and the possible need to move some of the existing trees. Stone to repair the wall is expensive and consideration should be given as to whether the work is necessary and whether new or weathered stone should be used, the latter being the more expensive option. This would then be referred back to the July Town Council meeting for approval. The Cotswold Wardens were willing to carry out the repairs if the stone was provided. The repair to the wall by the kissing gate had already been done. It was noted that the maintenance of the Holywell site needed to be considered when setting the budget for this committee for the next financial year.

b) The original management plan for the site had been adopted in January 2010 and now needed reviewing and updating. Copies of the original plan were circulated and members were asked to bring their comments to the next meeting of the Footpaths Committee. As well as the overall maintenance, members were asked to consider the function of, and vision for, the site.

393. Community Plan

Members were informed of the Town Council's intention to update its Community Plan. The input of co-opted members with regards to footpaths and amenity areas, as well as any other aspects they wish to comment on, would be welcome once this process commences.

394. Footpaths Survey

The clerk distributed the report received from 1st Wotton-under-Edge Scouts on various paths in the area. Members expressed their gratitude and asked the clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Scout group. The clerk would update the Town Council Footpaths survey with the new information and report back at the September meeting.

395. Gloucestershire Highways Contract

Footpath maintenance was now included in the Highways maintenance contract with Amey. The officers who had dealt with footpath matters at the County Council had been transferred to Amey and John Lane remained at the County Council as their liaison officer. The clerk reported that there were delays in the seasonal trimming of vegetation on the well-used footpaths due to transitional contract difficulties. It was hoped this would be remedied soon but no dates for this had yet been given.

396. Any Other Footpaths Matters

a) It was noted that the blue finger post pointing up Rope Walk still included the Police Station on it. It was requested that this should be painted over.

b) Stroud District Council has now formally taken responsibility for Bradley Green. Mr Jarmuz would check to see if the fence across the Green was still there.

c) It was noted that the County Council could enforce landowners to cut back trees which encroach on Public Rights of Way. Mr Luker would report overhanging vegetation on the paths around Synwell Chapel.

397. Dates for Future Meetings

Future meetings were arranged for 23rd September 2014 and 20th January 2015.

This completed the business of the Footpaths Committee

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Footpaths Committee