

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2014 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

398. Apologies

Mrs J Deveney, Cllr P Smith. The Chairman also apologised for the postponement of the September meeting due to his being unwell.

399. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17th June 2014

Proposed from the Chair, seconded by Cllr Cordwell, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Agreed all in favour.

Dr Cordwell pointed out that the finger post sign at Rope Walk had not had the Police Station marker painted over as had been requested in the June minutes. The Clerk would issue a reminder.

400. Remit of Committee

The Remit of the Footpaths Committee, as approved by the Town Council in June 2014, was noted.

401. Footpaths Survey

a) A summary of paths surveyed had been distributed to members. It was noted that some boarding is missing from the edge of the tarmac path between Valley Road and Holywell (CWE23) and as a result the edge of the path is falling away. The Cotswold Wardens are doing some fencing work at Holywell on 18th November, the timber being provided by the Town Council, and would be prepared to replace the boarding if the wood for this was also provided.

b) Members agreed that the Footpaths Survey was a worthwhile exercise, with Wotton's paths noticeably better than those in many other areas. It was recommended that all footpaths issues should be reported via John Lane at Gloucestershire County Council. Some of the footpaths on the survey had not yet been checked, some had not been checked over several surveys, and it was agreed that these should be checked before the survey programme was rolled forward. The Clerk would email members with details of the paths still to be checked, including a description of paths 99-102, and members could then volunteer as they wished.

402 Holywell Leaze

a) Members discussed in depth the December 2009 Management Plan for Holywell Leaze and agreed amendments. The Clerk would make the revisions and take to Town Council for approval. It was agreed that a boundary agreement with the adjacent landowners was needed urgently to clarify that the fencing line was not the boundary. The Cotswold Wardens estimated a cost of £850 for stone to restore the old mill wall, although it was accepted that this removed the historic element of the wall. To some extent the wall supported the adjacent Costwold Way and it was suggested that John Lane at the County Council might advise on appropriate works. The Clerk would chase Stroud District Council regarding relocating the litter bin from New Road.

b) Mr Jarmuz circulated a photograph of an outdoor classroom that the Cotswold Wardens had built in another location, and suggested that Holywell Leaze would be a good place for a similar construction. The Wardens would build it if the Town Council supplied the stone, at an approximate cost of £800. It was suggested that funding might be available from Gloucestershire

County Council Active Together grants, which was aimed at encouraging outside activity. Members considered that the area under the old mill wall was the most suitable spot, but the wall would have to be made safe before any such project could commence. Dr Cordwell would email the grant information to the Clerk. If the project was agreed by Town Council it would be incorporated into the Holywell Leaze Management Plan. Mr Jarmuz further suggested that the two memorial trees for the Cotswold Wardens, which had already been approved by the Town Council, should be planted shortly in the proposed area of the outdoor classroom in such a way as to allow space for the project, but to provide some shade in the area. This was agreed provided the trees, a crab apple and a morello cherry, were of a small variety. It was hoped to plant them on 18th November when the Wardens were doing other work in that area. The Wardens would also move the fruit tree from the stone wall to a more appropriate location on site.

Mr Jarmuz left the meeting

403. Budget for 2015-2016

A budget of £1500 was suggested for 2015/2016 to allow for:

Holywell Leaze boundary agreement legal fees -	£200
Stone to repair old mill wall -	£850
General footpaths/Holywell repairs -	£450

After some discussion this was agreed in favour.

404. CWE25 – Cotswold Way Improvements to Path

The Chairman had attended a site meeting with James Blockley of the Cotswolds AONB organisation. In association with the Cotswold Wardens they are planning some major improvements on CWE25 to rectify flooding of the path caused by bank erosion. The Town Council may be approached for a contribution.

405. Any Other Footpaths Matters

a) It was noted that a footpath from Mitre Pitch along the back of the British School to Water Lane was obstructed. It was noted that this was not a Public Right of Way and that a suggestion for it to be added to the Definitive Map some time ago had been discouraged due to security issues for the school. Mr Galbraith would pass on this information to the person concerned.

b) It was noted that a path at the top of Hill Road was very overgrown but investigations had proved that this was the responsibility of the landowner.

This completed the business of the Footpaths Committee at 9pm

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Footpaths Committee