

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2015 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom; Cllr June Cordwell

413. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr R Claydon and Cllr P Smith

414. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 20th January 2015

Proposed by Mrs Warren, seconded by Cllr Clair Galbraith, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2015 be approved as a correct record. Agreed in favour with two abstentions.

415. Circular Walks

a) Cllr June Cordwell was welcomed to the meeting. She told members of a Look and Learn visit to Chepstow she had attended as a member of Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum, which focussed on the town's approach to tourism. Chepstow holds regular festivals throughout the year, including a walking festival. Shorter circular walks are particularly popular and people will often visit the local shops afterwards, thus bringing trade to the town. The walking festival includes taster walks, guided walks, as well as leaflets for circular routes, and starts and finishes at a particular base in the town where other activities, such as quizzes, refreshments etc, take place. She suggested that a walking festival could be organised in Wotton, based in the Chipping and using the Chipping Clubroom. The circular walks produced by the Footpaths Committee could provide some of the routes, but some additional shorter routes would probably be needed. The leaflets would also need to be reviewed and reprinted to look more professional. The Town Council's Regeneration Partnership have some funding for festivals and it is possible this could be used to update the leaflets or for costs associated with the festival. Volunteers would be needed to organise the event. It was noted that the Cotswold Way website has a number of circular walks and it was suggested that perhaps a link could be added to Wotton's walks. Members had various ideas, including geo-caching; graded walks; urban as well as rural walks; engaging the assistance of the Cotswold Wardens. It was suggested that a sub-committee should be set up to co-ordinate the event, with members from both the Regeneration Partnership and the Footpaths Committee, and aiming for a date in Spring 2016. The next meetings for each of the committees would be June this year and the Clerk was asked to include an agenda item for a Walks Festival for each meeting.

b) It had been suggested before at this committee that a new route could be added to the circular walks to incorporate the level streamside walk to Coombe and aimed at less able people. Improvements had been planned for the path to Coombe to shore up the edge of the path which was falling into the stream. The Clerk was asked to enquire when the work was likely to take place. It was decided to investigate shorter walk routes when the sub-committee was formed.

Cllr June Cordwell was thanked for bringing this idea to the meeting.

416. Footpaths Survey

CWE 50 had been checked and no problems found. CWE48 had been checked and a waymark was needed on one of the gates. Mr Jarmuz would attend to this.

417. Holywell Leaze

a) The Land Agreement was almost ready, requiring minor amendments before sending to the landowners for their input.

b) The Clerk had investigated several quotes for stone for the repairs to the old mill wall. The cheapest quote is for 'as dug stone for walling' and the Clerk needed to know if this would be suitable. It was suggested that Noel Banks, Cotswold Warden work party organiser, should be asked as to its suitability and also when the work is likely to be scheduled.

418. Any Other Footpaths Matters

a) CWE 10 – it was noted that the kissing gate is on a well-trodden route adjacent to the Public Footpath. Cllr John Cordwell has contacted John Lane and Jacci Harris at Public Rights of Way, but has not yet heard back from them. The kissing gate has been in place since 1996.

b) Hill Road – the problem with the overgrown bramble across the path had still not been resolved. It was noted that this was not a public right of way, but an estate path. The Clerk would remind for this to be done.

419. Farewell to Cllrs Galbraith

Cllrs Chris and Clair Galbraith were not standing for Town Council again this year, so this would be their last Footpaths meeting. Members agreed that they would be missed.

The next meeting would be held on 30th June 2015.

This completed the business of the Footpaths Committee

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Footpaths Committee