

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH JUNE 2015 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllr P Smith, Cllr John Cordwell, Cllr T Luker, Cllr R Claydon, Mrs J Deveney, Mr S Jarmuz, Mr B Rodman, Mrs E Warren

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Clerk Mrs Y Milsom

420. Election of Chairman

There were no nominations for the position of Chairman of the Footpaths Committee, with one possible candidate absent from the meeting. Proposed by Mrs Warren, seconded by Cllr Cordwell, to elect Cllr Smith as Chairman for this meeting only and to consider this item again at the next meeting.

421. Apologies

There were no apologies. It was agreed to invite Mr and Mrs Galbraith to become co-opted members of this Committee.

422. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 31st March 2015

Proposed by Cllr Cordwell, seconded by Cllr Luker, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2015. Agreed all in favour.

423. Updates

a) CWE10 – After further investigation into the position of the kissing gate it had become clear that no further action was required.

b) Hill Road – The overgrowth had now been cleared but this had revealed a lot of litter in the area. The Clerk would ask Stroud District Council to clear this.

c) CWE25 – A boardwalk had been installed to overcome the problem with the section of path which is eroded and constantly flooded. However, the boardwalk was adjacent to the line of the path and was subsequently removed following objections from the landowner. The County Public Rights of Way Officer was liaising with the Cotswold Wardens to continue revetting along the stream edge and backfill with stone; and had agreed that the landowner could fence off that particular section of land that falls within her boundary. The Clerk was asked to convey support for this approach to the PROW officer and also to enquire about where responsibilities lie between the County Council and the landowner with regards to path maintenance.

424. Walking Festival

The idea had been discussed at the Town Regeneration Partnership Committee and it had been suggested that we speak to Mr David Baird and Mr John White, who already organise walks around the town. They had not yet been in touch. Members believed these walks to be short Town Trails and, although these could be incorporated into a walking festival, a series of longer walks would also be needed. The Regeneration Partnership also suggested looking at the circular walks available at the Heritage Centre. This Committee had produced a series of circular walks a few years ago which could be used, although they would need to be updated and presentation improved. The walks were available on the Town Council website. Work on a new Town Council website had commenced and this will also incorporate walks from Wotton. It was confirmed that the Town Council has an Ordnance Survey licence and the Clerk would check the conditions which apply. It was agreed that the current walks would be circulated to members prior to the next meeting, together with circular walks undertaken by Mr Jarmuz in his role as a Cotswold Warden. These can

then be reviewed at the next meeting with a view to shortlisting a selection for the festival. Agreed all in favour.

425. Holywell Leaze

a) Members were asked to consider recommending to Council that the Cotswold Wardens should procure the materials for the wall repairs at Holywell to ensure correct supplies. The Town Council would pay for the materials. The Wardens had quoted £810, which fell within the £850 apportioned in the budget for the work. The outdoor classroom would be funded separately from the Warden's Countryside Fund and would incorporate a millstone supplied by Mr Jarmuz in keeping with the old mill heritage of the site. Proposed by Mrs Warren, seconded by Cllr Cordwell, to approve the recommendation to Council that the Wardens procure the materials, which will be paid for by the Town Council. Agreed in favour with one abstention.

b) The Land Agreement document had been sent to the adjacent landowners and a response was expected shortly.

426. Footpaths Survey

Members were asked to pass any information on paths surveyed to the Clerk. An enquiry was made as to when the Footpaths Survey would be rolled forward. It had previously been considered that, as some paths had not been reviewed for several surveys, these should be completed before moving forward. The Clerk was asked to email members to remind them of the paths still outstanding.

427. Any Other Footpaths Matters

a) It was noted that the orchids on the verges at Old London Road were looking good, despite them being cut back early last year. An area of verge with orchids had been cut back on Rushmire but this was understandable for safety reasons. Within Westridge Woods was an area with a wonderful display of white helleborines. It was noted that the County Council's contractors had been shown a map of the areas where orchids flourish in order to avoid cutting them.

b) Old London Road is currently closed again whilst the retaining wall is landscaped.

c) It was noted that there were two further piles of cremated remains in the Clump.

d) It was noted that a number of photographs of overgrowth on Synwell Lane had been sent to the Town Clerk. An area of grass adjacent to School Road/Potters Pond had also been overgrown but has now been cut.

428. Dates for Future Meetings

Further meetings were arranged for 23rd September 2015 (Wednesday), 19th January 2016 and 12th April 2016.

This completed the business of the Footpaths Committee.

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Footpaths Committee