

MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30th OCTOBER 2018 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE



PRESENT: Cllr Roger Claydon (Chairman), Mr Pat Comer, Cllr John Cordwell, Mr Marcus Cross, Mr Dale Curtis, Cllr Terry Luker, Mrs Jane Mason, Cllr Paul Smith In attendance: Information Officer, Jenny Wyatt

560. Apologies – Cllr Nicholas Pinnegar

561. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations – None

562. Public Forum – No members of the public were present.

563. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th July 2018

The Minutes of the PROW and Amenity Areas Committee held on 17th July 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

564. Footpaths Survey

Members were advised that work to repair bridges on CWE77 and to replace the posts and crossbars on the bridge at Holywell Farm were complete. The footpath at the rear of Parklands has still not been cleared. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) tracking system was still not working therefore although some feedback had been received on specific issues reported, it was difficult to monitor progress as a whole or take the results of the survey much further at present given the tracker issue and the limited resources available. **The Information Officer will however continue liaising with GCC to ensure matters are resolved where possible. Cllr Cordwell agreed to raise the tracker issue with GCC.** Issues currently in need of attention were discussed. Handrails have been replaced on the Cotswold Way at Old London Road but others are now missing. An accumulation of leaves are causing a hazard in the alleyway between Merlin Haven and Lisle Place. The Information Officer is to report both issues. Rope Walk is also in need of clearing – it is understood that the Wotton in Bloom volunteers will be addressing this as part of a clean-up planned for the weekend of 3rd/4th November.

565. Footways Survey

Cllr Cordwell reported that he had sent the list of issues identified by the survey to GCC and that work had been completed in September at Cotswold Gardens, Symn Lane and Chipping Gardens via the Highways Local Scheme. Issues currently in need of attention were discussed. The surface of the footway along Synwell Lane is good but the section next to Court Orchard is in need of attention due to overhanging brambles which are now encroaching the footway. Hedging near Court Orchard is also causing visibility problems for traffic. In addition, the street light on the bank is ineffective due to an overgrowth of vegetation. It was suggested that this could be remedied by installing an extension to bring it out further towards the road. The vegetation along the Oatground near to the Chapel needs to be sprayed or cut back and an area of the footway at Parklands is very poor. **The Information Officer will report all the issues identified to the appropriate authority.**

566. Cotswold Gateways Project

A summary of progress since the last meeting was circulated and it was noted that implementation was moving more slowly than expected. Work is expected to be completed by the Cotswold Wardens who are very busy with other projects. **If any assistance is required with works or any further information is received this will be sent out to members.**

567. Town Council Walk Leaflets

Walk routes were being reviewed following discussions at the July meeting – **Walk 1** – Cllr Pinnegar is still to complete this. **Walks 2 and 4** - Mr Cross has completed Walk 4 and recommends rerouting the section after Holywell, which currently takes walkers along the main road. He will look at the route again and suggest a better option. Mr Cross reported that Walk 2 is a lot better than Walk 4. However, he has noted a few points for improvement and will report his recommendations. **Walk 5** - Mr Jarmuz was not present at meeting, information is awaited. **Walk 6** - Mr Curtis advised that the route was good apart from the section at Katherine's Farm. He has provided amended instructions for this section. **Walk 3** and **Walk 7** do not need to be updated.

568. Budget

Members discussed the requirements for next year's budget to enable a recommendation to be made to Council. The current budget of £500 is not always spent and nothing has been spent yet from this year's budget. Some large amounts have been spent in previous years, for example on the installation of new kissing gates. It was noted that GCC may do more footpath works if the Town Council makes a 50% contribution to costs. It was pointed out that stonework on land at Coombe had also been funded by this budget. A suggestion was made that money could be spent on improving signage on some paths but it was noted that this was a GCC responsibility. **Cllr Claydon proposed that next year's budget should remain at £500 but that a case should be made to Council to earmark this year's budget for next year and this was agreed.**

569. Code of Conduct

The options outlined in the consultation document were considered by members. The view was expressed that co-optees and councillors should have an equal status to enable other points of view to be considered and a balanced decision reached on issues. Options 3a and 3c would achieve this. Concern was expressed about expecting co-optees to be bound by the full requirements of the Code of Conduct in declaring their financial interests and being subject to legal sanctions. Members were also concerned about the influence of the meeting being reduced if its remit was transferred to a working group but were reassured that this would not be the case and that its recommendations to Council would still have just as much weight. It was noted that many other councils were now favouring the use of working groups. It was also noted that members of the public would not be able to attend a working group. Although there is not usually any public attendance at these meetings, it would still be possible to invite people if they have a particular knowledge in an area relevant to discussions. **It was agreed to recommend to Council that the remit of the Committee be transferred to a working group.**

570. Holywell Leaze - No update was available at the meeting. However it was noted that work had still not started on the site.

571. Any Other Footpath/Amenity Area Matters - No matters were raised.

572. Proposed dates for future meetings

Further meetings are arranged for 29th January 2019 and 23rd April 2019.

This completed the business of the Public Rights of Way and Amenity Areas Committee.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman of the Public Rights of Way and Amenity Areas committee