

NOTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL'S PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY AREAS PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16th APRIL 2019 AT 7PM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE



PRESENT: Cllr Roger Claydon (Chairman), Cllr John Cordwell, Mr Marcus Cross, Cllr Terry Luker, Cllr Nicholas Pinnegar, Cllr Paul Smith, Mr Stazek Jarmuz, In attendance: Information Officer, Jenny Wyatt

573. Apologies – Mrs Jane Mason, Mr Patrick Comer

574. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations – None

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

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

The Minutes of the PROW and Amenity Areas Committee held on 23rd October 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

577. Matters Arising

It was noted that Cllr Cordwell had raised the issue of the GCC online tracker and that it was expected to be reinstated by January 2019. The Information Officer advised that this had not happened and that there was still no date for this facility to be made available. It was further noted that all footway issues raised had been reported but that the hedging on Synwell Lane at the entrance to Court Orchard needs cutting back again.

578. Footpaths and Footpaths Survey

It was noted that following the Footpaths Survey in 2016, some 60 issues had been reported to Gloucestershire County Council. Some had been followed up last year, having been identified as still outstanding following a re-survey. In addition, 18 footway issues had been reported following the Footway Survey.

In both cases it was not possible to effectively track progress and there was reluctance to initiate any new surveys while current issues are still outstanding and the tracker issue is still unresolved.

579. Footpaths and Footways issues reported

a) CWE15 and CWE 91 – repaired stiles reported to be too high

It was noted that the stile on CWE 91 had now been lowered. Although there are guidelines for the dimensions of new stiles, this does not apply to existing ones and stiles are considered to be acceptable if they are in a sound condition. However, Councillor Claydon will walk CWE 15 to check the current status of the stile.

b) CWE 25/1 Gate at the end of stream by Pumping Station difficult to open

It was thought that the gate was a little stiff but not too difficult to open. Members are to check the current condition and report back.

CWE 8/1 It was reported that a post thought to be on the kissing gate at the top of the sheep track needs repairing. The exact position of the issue is to be confirmed by Mr Jarmuz.

CWE 56/2 A resident had complained that the path surface at Brickfields had holes and was liable to flood following nearby building work. Members are to check the condition report back to the Information Officer for further action if required.

580. Cotswold Gateways Project

Councillor Claydon updated the meeting on the current status of the project and further work required. Obtaining land owner permissions for the new routes had been identified as an issue but information had been posted on the Council's website and no objections had been received. Permission had been sought from the National Trust to use the permitted bridleway through Newark Park for Cycle Route 4 and from the owners of Alderley Farm for Cycle Route 3. The National Trust had refused permission and a response is still awaited in respect of Alderley Farm. The Newark Park section of Cycle Route 4 has therefore been rerouted via the road. Part of Route 1 has also been rerouted due to the poor condition of one of the sections. Apart from these changes, the view of the meeting was to progress with implementation of the project as planned.

Help is still needed to resurvey some of the routes to identify exact locations for works required. Councillor Claydon agreed to complete Walking Route 2 and Councillor Pinnegar will do Walking Route 1.

A query was raised about whether Footpath 10 (Walk Route 2) is actually marked correctly on the GCC footpaths map as walkers currently use a different route to that marked. Councillor Cordwell will check another map that he has access to. The Information Officer will raise the issue with the GCC Footpaths Officer.

Additional help will be required later to set up waymarking along the routes. Delivery of the discs had been expected following the meeting with the Cotswold AONB but they have not been received yet.

581. Wotton Walking Festival

Councillor Pinnegar reported that all arrangements for the Festival were in place. There are 17 walks this year. Town Hall Teas will be available. Additional volunteers are sought if anyone would like to help, to act as guides, collect donations on the day or to help with next year's festival.

582. Walk leaflets

Updates for Walk 1 are outstanding, Councillor Pinnegar will complete this. Mr Jarmuz requested a copy of the route for Walk 5 in order to confirm the location of issues identified as needing attention. The Information Officer has updated the leaflets with amendments received to date and is finalising the revised maps. The Heritage Centre have enquired about the fact that the leaflets need to be updated and have been advised that this is in progress.

583. Holywell Leaze – Mr Jarmuz circulated a photograph of work completed so far at Holywell Leaze. There have been additional costs of £120 for sand, cement and lime mortar. The rear wall is to be repointed to create a traditional appearance. A discussion took place about what could now be done with the area to the rear of the new wall. This has been built to provide seating but has created an enclosed area which will be difficult to maintain. Ideas are sought for suitable low maintenance planting for this area – possibly the creation of a traditional meadow. Councillor Claydon will seek advice from the Town Clerk.

584. Any Other Footpath/Amenity Area Matters – The Wotton Times had reported on a possible threat to historic footpaths posed by the requirement to identify any unrecorded footpaths on the definitive PROW map by 2026. (Country and Rights of Way Act 2000) There is concern that access to some well used footpaths, for example in Westridge Wood, on Coombe Hill and some of the walking routes could be lost if this is not acted upon. Councillor Cordwell advised that if people are still walking the routes it should be possible for them to be claimed. However, if they haven't been

walked it will not be possible to do this after 2026. There are so many paths in Westridge Woods that it would be difficult to claim them. Submissions would need to be made by 2025.

It was reported that a motor bike meeting in Westridge Woods had been planned. The National Trust had attempted to have it stopped and the Police were also involved. As a result, a smaller scale meeting for cyclists was held instead.

585. Proposed dates for future meetings

The next meeting is arranged for 16th July 2019

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

Signed:

Date:

Chairman of the Public Rights of Way and Amenity Areas Partnership