

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



PRESENT: Cllr Roger Claydon (Chairman), Mr Pat Comer, Cllr John Cordwell, Mr Marcus Cross, Mr Dale Curtis, Mr Stazek Jarmuz, Mrs Jane Mason, Cllr Nicholas Pinnegar, Cllr Derek Thomas, Cllr Stephen Wood

The Chairman advised that due to illness, Jenny Wyatt, the Secretary was unable to attend the meeting. He would make notes.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Derek Thomas and Stephen Wood to the Partnership.

586. To elect a new Chairman.

Cllr Claydon advised that as he was now an ex-officio member of the Partnership, following the Council's annual meeting in May, it was appropriate for him to stand down as Chairman. He invited the other Councillor members to consider taking on the chairmanship. However, he agreed to chair the meeting pending the election of a new Chairman.

Post Meeting Note: Councillor Steven Wood has agreed to stand as Chairman. This will be ratified at the next meeting.

587. Apologies for absence – Cllr T Luker.

588. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations – None.

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

590. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th April 2019

The Minutes of the PROW and Amenity Areas Committee held on 16th April 2019 were approved as a correct record, with 9 in favour and 1 abstention and signed by the Chairman.

591. Footpath and Footway Surveys

It was noted that the GCC online tracker was still out of action and there were no updates to report. Cllr Cordwell advised that there had been some personnel changes at GCC and suggested that the Secretary should contact GCC (Alan Bentley) for a progress report. Action: Secretary to contact GCC.

The Chairman said he was unhappy about re-starting the formal surveys until the tracker system was up and running but asked all members to report to the Secretary any problems they spotted when out on walks.

592. Footpath and footway issues reported

a) Stile on CWE 15

Cllr Claydon reported that the stile by the reservoir was in good condition and thought the location may have been mis-identified.

b) Gate by Pumping Station CWE25/1

Cllr Pinnegar reported that the gate post was rotten and there were also problems with path subsidence shortly after the gate. Action: Secretary to report problems to GCC.

c) Gate at top of sheep track CWE8/1

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Wotton-under-edge Town Trust Reg Charity No.203466

This was discussed and no one could recall a gate at that location. Action: Secretary to check location with originator.

d) Surface of path at Brickfields CWE56/2

This was discussed and not considered to be a problem.

e) Damage caused to CWE 60/1 due to the development of the Full Moon site.

Cllr Claydon said that concern had been raised about the possible encroachment of the full moon development onto the footpath which had appeared to reduce its width. He thought the matter had been reported to the SDC Planning Authority. Action: Secretary to check and provide an update.

f) Clarity of Cotswold Way signage to Wotton at Nibley Monument.

Apparently, walkers visiting the monument from North Nibley had reported problems finding the onward path to Wotton and had suggested a need to improve signage. Cllr Claydon said that if these paths were in another parish the issue should be reported to North Nibley Parish Council. Action: Secretary to report issue to NNP.

g) Surface of Cotswold Way up from Bradley Road.

Cllr Claydon reported that the surface of the raised path above the field (between Bradley Road and the access lane to Hillside Cottage) had developed large holes along the edge to the field. Mr Jarmuz said this would be looked at by the Cotswold Wardens.

Action: Secretary to report issue to GCC.

h) Surface of Shinbone Alley (CWE 90/1).

Cllr Claydon reported that several complaints had been received about the poor state of the tarmaced path along Shinbone Alley. He thought that this had been notified previously to GCC.

Action: Secretary to check and report again, if necessary.

i) Overgrown Vegetation on Path CWE53 at Hack Hill.

Mr Cross reported that footpath CWE53 on Hack Hill was badly overgrown.

Action: Secretary to report problem to GCC.

j) Overgrown Vegetation on Path CWE13 at Parklands.

Mrs Mason reported that path CWE13 behind Parklands was overgrown.

Action: Secretary to report problem to GCC.

k) Cycling on CWE 54.

Cllr Thomas reported that concerns had been expressed to him that cyclists descending CWE54 were causing a danger to pedestrians using the path and that measures should be introduced to control this. Cllr Claydon advised that since this was a footpath rather than a bridleway, its use by cyclist (mounted or dismounted) was not permitted. Cyclists should therefore be made aware of this.

l) Motorcycling on CWE95.

Cllr Claydon reported a recent incident involving motorcycles (motorcross) riding on CWE95. He noted that signs warning motorcyclists that such activity was illegal had been removed. Mrs Mason advised that the police were recording such activity and anyone encountering motorcyclists in the area should inform the police on the 101 contact number.

593. Cotswolds Gateways Project

a) Design of map boards

The proposed map for the map boards was reviewed and the following comments made:

- The routes on the map should be numbered and the preferred walking direction shown;
- The routes should be in bolder print;

- If possible, the defibrillator locations should be shown on the map, although it was accepted that the small scale of the map may make this impractical;
- Local information needs to be added;
- There were spelling errors.
- The referenced web site (www.Wotton/Walking) was not operational.

Action: Secretary to report these comments to Cotswolds AONB and check with the Regeneration Committee and Chamber of Trade about the local information they would like to see included.

b) Design of walk leaflets

The proposed walk leaflets were reviewed and the following comments made:

- The walk leaflets should be numbered to align with the proposed mapboard numbers;
- The routes on the maps should be in bolder print with the preferred walking direction shown;
- Walk distances should be checked carefully;
- Walk distance should be shown in km as well as in miles;
- It was not clear whether the available route leaflets had included the latest comments from the surveys of Walks 1, 2 and 3;
- The starting points should include Grid References;
- The routes should be available in GPX formats.

Mr Comer offered to check the walking route No.3 through Wortley, if required.

c) Actions required and timescale to complete implementation of project.

Cllr Claydon said that the route marking materials had yet to be received but once these were available volunteers would be needed to install marker discs and posts. He hoped that members of the Walking Festival group would also be able to assist.

594. Town Council Walk Leaflets.

It was noted that all updates to routes have now been received and leaflet amendments were being finalised.

595. Holywell Leaze.

Mr Jarmuz said that the Cotswold Wardens had re-pointed most of the old mill wall using the lime mortar paid for by the Council and the work should be finished within a week. He was planning to treat and kill the weeds behind the stone seating area and plant Cotoneaster ground cover plants to inhibit future weed growth.

Action: Secretary to inform the Town Clerk of this proposed work.

596. Any Other Footpaths/Amenity Areas Matters.

The new Council members requested paper copies of the parish footpaths maps. Members also requested copies of the maps in e-format, if this was possible.

Action: Secretary to provide new members with paper copies of the parish footpaths and to circulate e-copies to all members (if this is possible).

Mr Jarmuz advised that he had been challenged when clearing footpath CWE10 and it appeared that the Northern section was not a public right of way even though this was a well used and distinct footpath. This prompted discussion about the possible impact of the CROW Act 2000 and

whether action needed to be taken to protect such paths for future use. Cllr Cordwell advised that, in his opinion, the Act referred to protecting the use of little used historic paths, rather than existing well-used paths. The situation in Westridge Woods had been looked at previously and it had been concluded that the number of paths made it impractical to consider them all for inclusion in the Definitive Rights of Way map.

597. Proposed date for next meeting

The next meeting was arranged for 16th October 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