

# WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Footpaths Committee** held on 27th January 2014 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

## **PRESENT**

Councillors Mrs M P Bucknell, Mrs J Cole, R A Payne, P S Potts, Mrs J A Taverner and G C M Willis.

Messrs D L Crane and Mr J Edwards.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs M H Harlock and Mrs A R Wyatt.

## **01/13 CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

The Committee noted that the Council had co-opted Messrs D L Crane and J Edwards to the Committee, both of whom were members of the Warboys Walking Group.

## **02/13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Upon being moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Mrs Taverner, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that Mr D L Crane be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

**Mr D L Crane, Chairman, in the Chair**

## **03/13 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Bucknell and seconded by Councillor Potts, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that Mr J Edwards be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

## **04/13 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th February 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **05/13 MEMBERS INTERESTS**

No interests were declared in respect of items appearing on the agenda, although Councillor Mrs Cole reminded the Committee that footpath 4 crossed land in her ownership.

## **06/13 MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee considered the following matters arising from the Minutes of its meeting held on 7th February 2013:-

### **(a) Pathfinder Way Long Distance Footpath**

Further to Minute No. 06/12(b), the Clerk reported that he had been advised by the County Council's Rights of Way Team that work on the creation of the Pathfinder Way Long Distance Footpath which passed through the village had been completed. However footpath 5 had not been diverted where it crossed over the former Warboys Airfield and the route used by walkers did not follow the line of the official footpath.

The Committee was also advised that a new long distance footpath to be known as the Rothschild Way was being created from Woodwalton Fen to Wicken Fen which also passed through Warboys. Councillor Willis reported that the route was 36 miles in length and was to be walked for the first time on 28th June 2014.

### **(b) Use of Footpaths by Dog Walkers**

Further to Minute No. 06/12(c), attention was drawn to the amount of dog fouling that occurred on public footpaths which owners neglected to pick up after their pets. Not only was this unpleasant for other walkers but it led to contamination of crops. While it was an offence for a person not to pick up after their dog on a footway adjoining a carriageway, the Clerk pointed out that the same penalty did not apply in the case of public footpaths and bridleways.

Councillor Mrs Tavener suggested that she would consider arranging a 'dog interest day' to try to educate owners into clearing up after their dogs. She also advised that Luminus provided dog bags free of charge and she offered to contact that organisation to ascertain whether they would make the bags available for distribution in Warboys. In order to encourage dog walkers to pick up after pets, it was suggested that dog bins and bags be made available at the point where each of the footpaths left/joined the village. In order to see whether this had any discernible effect on the amount of fouling on the footpaths, it was suggested that this be trialled at the beginning of footpath 5 where the path left Church Road. The Clerk indicated that he would ascertain the cost of bins with a dispenser for dog bags and would ask the owner of the land whether he had any objection to the proposal.

**(c) Use of Bridleways by Horseriders**

Arising from Minute No. 07/12, the Clerk reported that there had been no further complaints by the owner of Tick Fen Riding Centre off Fenside Road about the condition of bridleways used by horseriders. However it was thought that enquiries were being made by the relevant authorities as to whether planning permission had been granted for the establishment and over the dumping of horse waste on a bridleway.

**(d) Creation of a Bridleway off Fenside Road**

Further to Minute No. 09/12, the Clerk reported that the County Council had advertised an order to register a public bridleway following footpath 8 from Fenside Road to the top of the hill and then following a private track around Woolvey Farm to Heath Road (A141).

The Parish Council had objected to the order and it was understood that other objections had also been made. As a result it was anticipated that the order would be submitted to the Secretary of State for determination and a local inquiry held.

**(e) Permissive Path**

Further to Minute No. 10/12, the Committee was reminded that the Council had subsequently decided to place notices indicating that the land in the Parish Council's ownership off Fenton Road adjacent to the Hallgate Allotments was private and should not be used as a public right of way. This had arisen following a planning application for travelling showmen's quarters in the field north of the allotments in which it had been suggested that village facilities could be accessed on foot from the site without having to walk along the A141.

The Clerk reported that notices indicating that the land was private had been erected by the Handymen on a number of occasions but these had been removed almost immediately by members of the public. Further notices would be erected on the day after the meeting and photographs would be taken to provide evidence that the Council had not given permission for the land to be crossed by the public.

**07/13 RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

The Clerk circulated copies of the following documents which been issued by the County Council relating to public footpaths and the powers available to Parish Councils –

- Rights and responsibilities for maintaining public rights of way – a guide for Parish Councils
- List of selected Parish Council powers relating to public rights of way and open space of potential use to P3 co-ordinators
- Notes on the Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) for volunteers

## **08/13 PERMISSIVE BRIDLEWAY AT NEW BARN DROVE**

Councillor Potts explained that following complaints from the new owner of a property on New Barn Drove about the poor condition of the access to his property because of the impact of heavy farm machinery, the County Farms Estate had installed a gate across the drove which was a permissive bridleway. Following complaints to the County Council's Rights of Way Team, the gate had subsequently been removed.

However Councillor Potts reported that a new gate had recently been erected in a different position. Following a complaint that the bridleway was no longer suitable for use because of the proximity of a dyke to the side of the gate, the County Farms Estate had placed a notice withdrawing permission for its use until the matter could be resolved. Councillor Potts advised the Committee that the bridleway was safe for use in his opinion and he had spoken to both the Rights of Way Team and the County Farms Estate. He had been informed that a new member of staff would be joining the County Farms Estate shortly who would be dealing with the matter and he indicated that he would report back to the Council when he had further information.

## **09/13 MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATHS**

The Committee proceeded to review maintenance requirements to the footpaths network in the Parish in the ensuing year.

### **Footpath No. 1**

Other than litter picking and strimming, the Committee was informed that no work was required to this metalled footpath.

### **Footpath No. 2**

The Committee noted the need for continued strimming and litter picking of the metalled footpath along George Lane. Otherwise no action was required.

### **Footpath No. 3**

No action required.

The Committee noted that the footpath from Station Road did not link to the footpath network or a metalled street elsewhere but was used by members of the public and dog owners who walked around the field edges and accessed footpath 4. The footpath crossed the land which was currently the subject of a planning application for 150 dwellings but the information accompanying the application showed that the footpath would be retained, albeit possibly on a diverted route.

### **Footpath No. 4**

Councillor Mrs Cole reported that many people continued to disregard the official route of footpath 4 where it crossed land in her ownership between Flaxen Walk and Coronation Avenue.

The Committee noted that no maintenance was required.

#### **Footpath No. 5**

The need for ongoing cutting back of vegetation near the bridge over Broughton Brook was noted.

#### **Footpath No. 6**

Some trimming back of vegetation would be undertaken by the Handymen.

#### **Footpath No. 7**

The Clerk reported that the Handymen would continue to monitor the condition of the steps and would carry out any necessary repairs. The Committee was informed that the footpath was well used following its diversion around Pingle Wood.

#### **Footpath No. 8**

The Committee was informed of the necessity for regular maintenance of the line of the footpath where it adjoined Woolvey Farm to ensure that it was passable.

#### **Footpath No. 9**

It was noted that this footpath was little used and no work was required by the Parish Council.

#### **Footpath No. 10**

No action required as the footpath had a metalled surface.

#### **Footpath No. 11**

No action was required.

#### **Footpath No. 12**

The Walking Group would monitor the need for any further work to ensure that the path near the paddocks did not become overgrown.

#### **Footpath No. 13**

No action required.

#### **Bridleways**

No action required.

## **10/13 WALKERS PROGRAMME**

(The Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk pointed out that they were all active members of the Warboys Walking Group.)

A copy of the draft programme prepared by the Warboys Walking Group for 2014/15 was circulated for Members' information.

Having regard to the efforts of the Walking Group in helping to maintain and waymark the footpaths in the Parish and in organising a programme of walks twice each month and on Friday evenings during the summer, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that the Council be recommended to make a grant of £150 to the Warboys Walking Group in 2014/15.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

Chairman.