

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Footpaths Committee** held on 29th January 2018 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs M P Bucknell, B L Correll, R J Dykstra, Mrs M H Harlock, G B Joseph, P S Potts, Mrs J A Tavener, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs J Cole and Ms L A Gifford,

01/17 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Dykstra and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wyatt, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor P S Potts be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor Potts, Chairman, in the Chair

(Councillor Mrs Bucknell arrived in the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

02/17 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Potts, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs A R Wyatt be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

03/17 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Dykstra, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30th January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

04/17 MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda.

05/17 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee considered the following matters arising from the Minutes of its meeting held on 30th January 2017:-

(a) Use of Footpaths by Dog Walkers

Further to Minute No. 05/16(a), Members were of the opinion that the situation with regard to the fouling of footways in the village had improved recently and it was suggested that a suitable notice be posted on Facebook thanking dog walkers for being more considerate. Councillor Mrs Tavener also reminded Members that the District Council had now introduced an offence if a dog walker did not carry suitable bags with them to clean up after their pet.

(b) Annual Pathfinder March

Further to Minute No. 05/16(b), Members were informed that it appeared unlikely that the annual Pathfinder March would be organised again in 2018 because of a lack of volunteers and health and safety issues.

(c) Public Bridleway No 20 Warboys

Further to Minute No. 07/16, Members were reminded that following a two day local inquiry in the previous summer, the Planning Inspectorate had not confirmed an order made by the County Council to create bridleway no. 20 in response to claims of continual usage by horseriders.

06/17 MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATHS

The Committee proceeded to review maintenance requirements for 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 which now followed the line of Humberdale Way.

Footpath No. 2

The route followed George Lane and Third Avenue before crossing open countryside to join Station Road near Humbrills Farm. However the Clerk pointed out that few people crossed diagonally over the field adjoining the farm preferring instead to follow footpath 12 before joining Station Road.

Councillor Mrs Tavener commented that dog walkers were tending to divert from the footpath network to walk over farmland to Ramsey Road.

Footpath Nos. 3 and 4

The Clerk reminded Members that the County Council had recently invited comments on the proposed diversion of footpath 3 which was affected by the David Wilson Homes development off Station Road.

The Section 106 Agreement for the development required the creation of a footpath link between footpaths 3 and 4 to enable residents of the new development to access the school and centre of the village as opposed to walking via Station Road. The Clerk reported that he had recently been informed by the County Council's Asset Information Definitive Map Officer that the developer would be preparing a proposal for the County Council to consider.

A second Section 106 Agreement for phase II of the development made provision for a contribution from the developer for the improvement of footpath 4 between the development and Flaxen Walk and the Asset Information Definitive Map Officer had advised that he had been in contact with the landowner on the matter.

Footpath No. 5

The Clerk pointed out that the official line of the public footpath predated the development of the land as an airfield in the Second World War and bore little resemblance to the existing land use. As a result, walkers tended to follow the hard surfaced tracks remaining from the airfield rather than the official path.

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

Footpath No. 6

The Clerk reported that no further problems appeared to have occurred with the condition of the footpath after complaints in the past that it had been cultivated and was difficult to pass.

Councillor Mrs Bucknell reported that a footpath sign was still missing in the vicinity of Padgetts Barn which the Clerk undertook to investigate.

Footpath No. 7

The Committee was informed that the footpath was well used following its diversion around Pingle Wood. The adjoining Pingle Wood was now inaccessible as the owner had decided to terminate public access to the wood with effect from the end of the previous February. However the local Wildlife Trust continued to manage Pingle Cutting as a nature reserve open to the public which was accessible from footpath 7.

The Clerk reported that when he had last walked the footpath, a landowner appeared to be in the process of erecting fencing as he intended to graze cattle in the field off Fenside Road. While the footpath could still be used, he pointed out that the land did become very wet in winter which might create a problem for walkers.

Footpath No. 8

The Committee was informed that the route of the footpath was maintained by the Handymen and the Walking Group where it passed Woolvey Farm

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 Chairman pointed out that the line of footpath 12 crossed the paddocks that had been erected at the rear of Humbrills Farm and that walkers now used a permissive path that had been signposted by the Walking Group around the perimeter of the paddock fencing. It was intended that maintenance work on the permissive path would be undertaken by the Walking Group in March.

Footpath No. 13

No action required.

Bridleways 14 - 19

No action required.

07/17 WALKERS PROGRAMME

(The Clerk pointed out that he was the co-ordinator of the Warboys Walking Group. Councillor Mrs Harlock also declared a non-statutory disclosable interest as she was a member of the walking group.)

A copy of the programme prepared by the Warboys Walking Group for 2018/19 was circulated for Members' information, containing over 40 walks on Saturdays and Sundays and on Friday evenings in the summer months.

Councillor Dr Withams drew attention to a copy of an information board in Upwood depicting a local walk and suggested that similar boards in Warboys might encourage greater use of the footpath network and an opportunity for exercise by members of the public. The Clerk reported that the Council had previously considered the design of leaflets on local walks but that this had not been progressed in view of the volume of

work involved. However he offered to contact members of the walking group to seek their possible assistance in resurrecting the idea.

Having regard to the efforts of the Walking Group in helping to maintain and waymark the footpaths in the Parish and in organising the programme of walks, it was

RESOLVED

that the Council be recommended to make a grant of £150 to the Warboys Walking Group in 2018/19.

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

Chairman.