

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Footpaths Committee** held on 30th January 2017 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillors Ms H A Backhouse, Mrs M P Bucknell, Mrs J Cole, R J Dykstra, Ms L A Gifford, J A Parker, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs J A Tavener.

01/16 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

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

RESOLVED

that Councillor J A Parker be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor Parker, Chairman, in the Chair

02/16 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

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

RESOLVED

that Councillor Ms Backhouse be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

03/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25th January 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:-

- (a) the deletion of the words 'most people were now tending to follow' and their replacement with the words 'all people now followed' in the section of Minute No. 10/15 entitled 'Maintenance of Footpaths' which related to Footpath No. 4; and
- (b) the deletion of the word 'Land' in the second line of the second paragraph of the same minute which related to Bridleways and its replacement with the word 'Lane'.

04/16 MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Cole declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of footpath 4 as this crossed land in her ownership.

05/16 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee considered the following matters arising from the Minutes of its meeting held on 25th January 2016:-

(a) Use of Footpaths by Dog Walkers

Further to Minute No. 06/15(a), Members drew attention to the continuing problem of dog excrement on both footways in the village and public footpaths in the countryside. Councillor Mrs Wyatt mentioned that the area at the junction of High Street and George Lane had been a particular problem recently, as a result of which the Clerk undertook to arrange for suitable 'poop-scoop' signs to be displayed on nearby lampposts for a period of time.

Members also mentioned the problem of dog walkers picking up excrement left by their dogs in plastic bags and then throwing the bags in neighbouring gardens or hanging them on trees in the countryside. The Clerk advised that Councillor Payne had already asked for an item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council on 13th February to suggest the provision of an additional litter bin in Goldpits near the junction with Statfold Green. It was suggested by Members that an additional bin was required in Pathfinder Way and on the footpath between High Street and Woodlands. Under the circumstances, the Clerk indicated that the item on the agenda for the next Council meeting would refer to litter bins generally in the village.

06/16 ANNUAL PATHFINDER MARCH

Members were informed that the annual Pathfinder March would take place on 17th June 2017, the 46 mile route linking the four historic Pathfinder airfields of Wyton, Graveley, Oakington and Warboys. As this would be the twentieth anniversary of the event, Members were aware that the Council had been discussing how the anniversary might be commemorated as the walkers passed through Warboys.

However Councillor Mrs Bucknell reported that she had been advised recently by one of the senior officers at RAF Wyton that responsibility for the Pathfinder March in 2017 had yet to be allocated to an officer to arrange. Councillor Mrs Wyatt referred to the offer reported at the previous meeting of the Council that the licence holder at the Royal Oak public house, used as a checkpoint on the march, had offered to provide a barbeque on the day of the walk. However she informed colleagues that she had been advised subsequently that the licence holder would be leaving the public house at the end of February.

07/16 PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO 20 WARBOYS

Further to Minute No. 06/15(c), the Clerk reported that he had been notified by the Planning Inspectorate that as a result of the objections submitted to the Cambridgeshire County Council (Public Bridleway No 20 Warboys) Definitive Map Modification Order 2013, a local inquiry would be held and the Order determined by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. As the Parish Council had submitted an objection to the Order, the Clerk had been asked to notify the Inspectorate of his availability for 2017, as had other individuals and organisations that had objected to the Order.

08/16 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, crossing Humberdale Way and then open countryside to join Station Road near Humbrills Farm. However the Clerk pointed out that few people crossed diagonally over the field adjoining Humbrills Farm, preferring instead to follow footpath 12 at the rear of the farm.

Councillor Mrs Bucknell advised that the landowner had remonstrated with walkers who had walked the footpath in the field adjoining Humbrills Farm and the Clerk advised that the County Council's Footpaths Officer had approached the landowner previously over the fact that the footpath route had not been sprayed to make this passable. The Clerk indicated that the Walking Group would monitor the situation as the crop in the field grew.

Footpath No. 3

The Clerk reported that the route of the footpath had been diverted temporarily by the County Council while the construction of 120 dwellings off Station Road took place. However on completion of the development, a section 106 agreement required the developers to arrange a permanent diversion with the County Council to link this footpath with footpath 4 to gain access to Humberdale Way.

Footpath No. 4

Councillor Mrs Cole reported that the official route of footpath 4 was being followed by walkers where it crossed land in her ownership between Flaxen Walk and Coronation Avenue.

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 a complaint had been received in 2015 that the footpath could not be walked because the person farming the field east of the A141 had not left a strip of uncultivated land of sufficient width. A complaint had not been received subsequently but Councillor Mrs Bucknell advised that the path had been difficult to walk before Christmas. As this was the route of the Pathfinder March, the Clerk reported that the route of the footpath would be monitored to ensure that it was passable.

Councillor Mrs Bucknell also mentioned that a footpath sign was 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. However the Clerk also reported that he had been notified by the local Wildlife Trust that the owner of Pingle Wood had decided to terminate public access to the wood with effect from the end of February. The wood had been maintained as a nature reserve by the Trust for the previous 30 years but they had advised that they would continue to manage Pingle Cutting as a nature reserve which would be open to the public.

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.

Footpath No. 13

No action required.

Bridleways 14 - 19

No action required.

09/16 WALKERS PROGRAMME

(The Clerk pointed out that he was the co-ordinator of the Warboys Walking Group.)

A copy of the programme prepared by the Warboys Walking Group for 2017/18 was circulated for Members' information, containing over 40 walks on Saturdays and Sundays and on Friday evenings in the summer months.

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 2017/18.

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

Chairman.