

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Rights of Way Committee** held on 28th January 2019 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs J Cole, J Dykstra, S J Green, Mrs M H Harlock, P S Potts, Mrs S J Wilcox, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

Ms K Simpson

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ms L A Gifford and J A Parker.

01/18 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Wilcox and seconded by Councillor Mrs Harlock, 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

02/18 CO-OPTION

The Chairman welcomed Ms Simpson to the meeting who had been co-opted to the Committee to represent the Bridleway Group of horseriders in Warboys.

03/18 NAME OF COMMITTEE

As the Committee dealt with both bridleways and public footpaths and Ms Simpson had been co-opted to the Committee to represent horseriders, it was

RESOLVED

that the name of the Committee be changed to the Rights of Way Committee.

04/18 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

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

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs M H Harlock be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

05/18 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Dykstra, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

06/18 MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Cole declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 08/18 as she owned land which was crossed by footpath 4.

Councillor Mrs Harlock declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute No. 09/18 as she was a member of the Warboys Walking Group.

07/18 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee considered the following matter arising from the Minutes of its meeting held on 29th January 2018:-

(a) Annual Pathfinder March

Further to Minute No. 05/17(b), Members were informed that the annual Pathfinder March had taken place in 2018 and that notification had been received that it would be held again on Saturday 22nd June. The programme provided for there to be two checkpoints in Warboys at the Royal Oak and Pelican Farm, although the Clerk advised that he would query with the Royal Air Force whether the latter should have read Tithe Farm.

Members were also advised that it appeared that a long distance walk of the Rothschilds Way had been organised by the local Wildlife Trust in June in 2018 on the day following the Pathfinders March. As that walk also passed through Warboys, the Clerk indicated that he would try to establish whether a similar event would be held in 2019.

08/18 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.

Footpath Nos. 3 and 4

The Clerk reminded Members that the County Council had now confirmed an order to divert footpath 3 which was affected by the David Wilson Homes development at Great Pastures Phase I off Station Road.

The Section 106 Agreement for Phase I required the creation of a footpath link between footpaths 3 and 4 which were not currently connected. The Agreement provided for a scheme to have been agreed before development commenced but the Clerk reported that this had not occurred and he was continuing to press the County Council's Asset Information Definitive Map Officer for progress to be made.

As the route of footpath 3 was protected by Heras fencing while development was taking place, it was reported that the gap between the panels for people to walk the path was too narrow.

(Having declared an interest in respect of footpath 4, Councillor Mrs Cole left the room for the remainder of the discussion on this item.)

The Clerk reported that 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 where it crossed land in private ownership. The Clerk advised that he had been informed by the Asset Information Definitive Map Officer that he had spoken to the landowner but Councillor Dykstra reported that he had been asked by Councillor Mrs Cole to point out that this was not the case.

As groundworks had commenced on the phase II development, it was reported that the route of footpath 4 had been protected by Heras fencing but that this had not been secured and had blown over making the route impassable. Under the circumstances, the Clerk indicated that he would speak to David Wilson Homes 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.

It was reported that a post with a directional sign was missing where the path left the surfaced track to cross farmland to Broughton Brook and the Clerk reported that he would arrange for this to be replaced.

Footpath No. 6

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

Footpath No. 7

The Committee noted that footpath 7 was particularly well used following its diversion around Pingle Wood. Access to Pingle Cutting nature reserve which was open to the public was via this footpath.

The Clerk reported that the line of the footpath had been fenced by a landowner where it adjoined the nature reserve as the adjoining farmland was now grazed by livestock. While the minimum width of the footpath had been retained, the Clerk pointed out that the land did become very muddy in wet weather.

Footpath No. 8

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

Footpath No. 9

Footpath 9 also linked Fenside Road with the A141 providing access to footpath 10 and the Pidley footpath network. The path followed the field edge 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

The Committee was informed that this footpath which linked Wistow Toll and Wistow Fen Lane was little used.

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. Councillor Mrs Harlock reported that the route had become overgrown and the Clerk reported that clearance work would be undertaken by the Walking Group in March.

Footpath No. 13

No action required.

Bridleways 14 - 19

(Councillors Mrs Wilcox declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of bridleways 17 and 18 as she and her husband rented adjoining land from the landowner. Councillor Mrs Harlock declared a similar interest in bridleway 19 for the same reason.

Councillor Mrs Cole declared a similar interest in bridleways 14 and 16 as she owned adjoining land.

As no discussion took place which affected their interests, they remained in the meeting.)

It was noted that no action required.

While there was a permissive bridleway along the first stretch of New Barn Drove off Puddock Road which accessed bridleway 17, it was noted that there was no access along the drove linking bridleways 17, 18 and 19. Councillor Mrs Wilcox advised by way of explanation that the tenancy agreement for the land that they rented specifically precluded public access along the drove.

09/18 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 2019/20 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 2019/20.

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

Chairman.