

# WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Rights of Way Committee** held on 27th January 2020 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

## **PRESENT**

Councillors Mrs J Cole, J Dykstra, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, 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 Mrs C Evans, Ms L A Gifford, S J Green and Mrs J E Tavener.

## **01/19 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Dykstra, 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**

## **02/19 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

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

### **RESOLVED**

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

## **03/19 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Wilcox and seconded by Councillor Parker, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **04/19 MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Cole declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in that part of Minute No. 06/19 relating to footpath 4 as she owned land which was crossed by it.

Councillor Mrs Wilcox declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of bridleways 17 and 18 as she and her husband rented adjoining land.

Councillor Mrs Harlock declared a similar interest in bridleway 19 for the same reason. She also declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute No. 07/19 as she was a member of the Warboys Walking Group.

## **05/19 MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee considered the following matter arising from the Minutes of its meeting held on 28th January 2019:-

### **(a) Annual Pathfinder March**

Further to Minute No. 07/18, the Clerk and Ms K Simpson reported that the Pathfinder March and Rothschild Way long distance walks had taken place over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd June in the previous year, both of which had passed through Warboys. Details as to whether the walks would take place again in 2020 were not yet available.

## **06/19 MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATHS**

With the aid of extracts from the Definitive Map, the Committee proceeded to review maintenance requirements for the footpath and bridleway 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**

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

The Clerk reminded Members that the Section 106 Agreement for Phase I of the David Wilson Homes development required the creation of a footpath link between footpaths 3 and 4 which were not currently connected. The Agreement provided for a scheme to be approved before development commenced. As this had yet to occur, the Clerk reported that he was continuing to press the County Council's Asset Information Definitive Map Officer for progress to be made.

The Clerk reported that a separate 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. As work was proceeding on the phase II development, the Clerk indicated that he would also seek to progress this with the County Council.

#### **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 only work normally required was the cutting back of vegetation where a bridge crossed Broughton Brook.

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

Ms Simpson advised that in the previous year a landowner had sought to divert walkers around the perimeter of a field rather than following the route of the path diagonally across the field. The Clerk indicated that he would be walking the footpath on the following weekend and would investigate the signage.

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

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

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 became very muddy in wet weather.

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

It was reported that the route of the footpath where it passed Woolvey Farm had become overgrown and the Clerk advised that he would arrange for this to be cleared by the Warboys Walking Group.

#### **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 line of footpath 12 crossed paddocks that had been erected at the rear of Humbrills Farm but walkers now used a permissive path that had been signposted by the Walking Group around the perimeter of the paddock fencing. Clearance of the permissive path had been undertaken by the Walking Group in the previous spring but it was reported that this was now overgrown again. Ms Simpson reported that walkers now tended to walk along the field boundary as opposed to following the route next to the paddocks.

### **Footpath No. 13**

No action required.

### **Bridleways 14 - 19**

(Councillor Mrs Cole declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in 17 and 18 as she owned land in their vicinity. Both she and Councillor Mrs Harlock remained in the meeting as their interests were not affected by the discussion.

Councillor Mrs Wilcox left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on bridleways 17 and 18 where they adjoined New Barn Drove.)

It was reported that the bridleways were in a poor condition following the heavy rainfall in recent months.

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. The Chairman and Ms Simpson explained that the creation of a link would be of great assistance to horse riders and walkers by creating a circular route. Ms Simpson offered to provide support from the Warboys Bridleway Group which she said now had about 60 members and the Clerk reported that he would contact the County Farms Estate to ask if a permissive path or bridleway could be created.

The Chairman reported that a direction sign was missing where bridleway 14 left Puddock Road at Millers Way. As a result the Clerk indicated that he would contact the County Council to ask for a replacement to be installed.

### **07/19 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 2020/21 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 2020/21.

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

Chairman.