

## Malvern Wells Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Environment Committee** duly convened and held in The Committee Room of Malvern Wells Village Hall- commencing at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January ,2020**

**Present:** N Nimmo- Smith, P Clement, Mrs J Smethurst, P Stanier, R Winterton  
**In Attendance:** D Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

**Apologies for absence:** S Atwell

**1 Appointment of a Chairman for the Meeting**

It was agreed that Norman Nimmo - Smith would Chair the meeting.

**2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October,2019, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

**3 Matters arising from the Minutes** There were none.

**4 Report of the Parish Paths Warden (PPW) – Norman Nimmo – Smith**

In November, a blocked culvert running underneath footpath **MW-664** on the Golf Course caused extensive flooding across the path, making it virtually impassable. The blockage was eventually cleared by the Club's ground staff.

Also in November, a resident in Rothwell Road reported a problem with cattle in the adjacent field owned by Abbey College. It transpired that Brickbarns Farm had permission to use the field, but unfortunately the cattle frequently blocked footpath **MW-536** and prevented walkers from using it. This was brought to the attention of farmer Simon Morris, and according to the resident there have been no further problems with cattle since December.

Water flowing from an adjacent field continues to cause boggy conditions underfoot on bridleway **MW-511**. The landowner, Adrian Frost, has not yet carried out his plan to dig a drainage channel across the bridleway and so prevent water from pooling on the surface. This is probably because the continual waterlogged conditions in surrounding fields since last October have prevented the use of heavy machinery.

District Councillor John Gallagher made a request in July 2019 to remove the two stiles on footpath **MW-546**. These are not conventional stiles, as there is a gap between the stiles and adjacent fence for a pedestrian to pass through. It is believed that the barriers have been kept in place to prevent cyclists and horse-riders from using the footpath, which is a convenient short-cut. The Parish Council raised the issue with Fiona Argyle (WCC Countryside Service) in December and is currently awaiting a response.

## **5 Review of footpaths and rights of way reports from assistant parish paths wardens (PPW)**

Peter Clement reported that footpath **MW-526** was again very muddy and still requires vegetation cleared and the silted stream bed dug out.

Peter Clement suggested that it might be possible to improve the surface of **MW502** using tree chippings resulting from any tree surgery which were still being undertaken in the immediate area. **MW-546** could also benefit from such work being carried out. Jackie Smethurst advised that **MW-511** had some thick brambles overhanging it which had now been cut back.

Pam Stanier and Richard Winterton set out their concerns for the difficulties caused by the erosion of footpath **MW-501**. The path was becoming difficult to walk especially at its steepest points.

Generally however, despite the recent heavy rain the footpaths were in good condition.

Jackie Smethurst reported that the remedial drainage works which had been undertaken on **MW-664** and by a local resident on **MW-508** appeared to be working effectively. A large tree had fallen on **MW-509** at its junction with **MW- 664**. The Golf Club would be asked to clear the obstruction.

## **6 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee was then scheduled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Approved Chairman ----- 15 April,2020