

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 **Thursday, 9th July, 2015**

Present: Pam Stanier (Chairman), N Nimmo-Smith, P Clement, Marilyn Millen, Richard Winterton and Cllr Jackie Smethurst

In Attendance: David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

Apologies for absence: Michael Jupe, R Hayes, P Buchanan and S Maund (Parish Lengthsman)

1 Appointment of a Chairman for the Meeting

It was agreed that Pam Stanier should Chair the meeting.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8th July, 2015, 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

Norman Nimmo- Smith reported that over the previous six months, the Worcestershire Golf Club had been very helpful in improving the signage of footpaths and bridleways that criss-cross the golf course. He had worked closely with Colin Lowe, one of the directors of the Club, and with Steve Lloyd the course manager. Steve and his crew had installed a number of posts provided by the Countryside Service, as follows:

Footpath 502 - new waymark post has been installed.

Bridleway 508 – one new waymark post has been installed, one waymark post re-sited.

Bridleway 509 - two new waymark posts have been installed, one rotten waymark post replaced, and the path has been widened through a copse.

Footpath 520 - new finger post has been installed.

Footpath 664 - two rotten waymark posts have been replaced.

Additionally, "No Horse-riding or cycling" signs had been installed at three entrances to the golf course, to counter ongoing problems with cyclists and horse-riders not adhering to the bridleways.

A new gate had been supplied to the golf club to replace the broken one at the northern entrance to the golf course on **Footpath 665**. Steve Lloyd intends to install it when time permits.

An excellent working relationship had now been established with the Golf Club, and thanks go to both Colin Lowe and Steve Lloyd for their whole-hearted cooperation in making these beneficial improvements to the rights of way.

Other Items

Bridleway 551 - The high winds on 31st March resulted in a large fallen tree completely blocking the bridleway. The landowner for this bridleway is Abbey College, who were contacted by the Parish Clerk. After much discussion the County Council had finally agreed to deal with the tree, but its large size meant that it took two attempts by their contractors to clear a path through the debris. The bridleway was eventually made navigable once more on 30th June.

Footpath 518 - A supporting post for the handrail on a ditch-crossing had rotted, making the handrail unsafe, and a new post had now been installed.

Footpath 530 - A rotten base on the finger post adjacent to the Wells Road resulted in the post falling over, and a new one had been installed.

Footpath 510 - A fallen branch obstructing the path was reported on 10th April, and it was removed by 17th April.

Footpath 511 - A dilapidated finger post adjacent to Blackmore Park Road needed to be replaced. A new post has been obtained from the Countryside Service and will be installed in due course.

Steve Maund has been very helpful by strimming a number of paths overgrown with vegetation.

Tracy Sutton, the Parish Council's Primary contact with the Worcestershire Countryside Service, has left to take up a position elsewhere. Until a replacement is recruited, team leader Phil Coulson is the interim contact for any problems that we can't deal with locally

The County council have now introduced a system for monitoring and recording the time logged by parish path wardens on looking after the individual rights of way across parishes countywide. There was now no need for the previous six monthly work summary logs to be submitted.

Norman welcomed Jackie Smethurst to the meeting and gave her a brief outline of the role of a Parish Paths warden (PPW). Norman explained that PPW training was undertaken by County Council officers from time to time. He would look out for future such training events that might prove suitable prior to some of the footpaths being reallocated to Jackie.

5 Review of public rights of way in the care of each member of the Committee

Marilyn Millen reported that she had undertaken further strimming and cutting back of overgrowth along the bridleway **MW511** and it was now much more accessible since a fallen tree had been removed. The fallen fence on part of the path was still an issue which needed to be addressed by the relevant landowner.

Pam Stanier & Richard Winterton advised that the hedge on the north side of **MW502** was very overgrown and was beginning to impede the path. Dangling brambles on **MW517** had been cut back. Sycamores growing on **MW555** were beginning to cause an access problem to the footpath.

Peter Clement reported that **MW 526** still requires vegetation cleared and the silted stream bed dug out. As this job is likely to be substantial the work will need to be undertaken by the County Council, but their policy is such that they will only undertake such works if the flooding is of a permanent nature.

Strimming work was needed to **MW 527** and Steve Maund would be asked to see what remedial work could be undertaken.

The Clerk reported that there had been difficulties getting access to work on path **MW553** but it was hoped that this could be resolved in collaboration with the landowner

6 Date of the next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 8th October, 2015

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58pm

Approved Chairman -----
Dated 8th October, 2015