

## **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, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2016**

**Present:** N Nimmo- Smith, R A Hayes, M Millen, J Smethurst, S Atwell

**In Attendance:** D Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

**Apologies for absence:** P Clement, P S Stanier, R Winterton, P Buchanan and S Maund (Parish Lengthsman)

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

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

### **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, 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**

**Fiona Argyle** has been appointed as the Countryside Service's responsible officer for Malvern Wells Parish, replacing Tracy Sutton.

**Footpath MW-501:** Vegetation from the garden on the north side of the path had grown across the path, causing an obstruction. Although the owner was aware of his responsibility to keep the path clear, a broken leg had prevented him from doing so, and I helped him out by cutting back the thickest growth.

**Bridleway MW-511:** As the landowner (Adrian Frost) had still not cleared the remaining redundant metal fencing from the bridleway, I progressively removed the most obstructive sections of metal fencing and brambles. This has increased the width of the bridleway along most of its length. The posts in another section of fencing had rotted at ground level and I tied the fencing to some trees to prevent it obstructing the path. I spoke to Mr Frost on 18<sup>th</sup> July, and reminded him of his responsibility to maintain the bridleway.

**Bridleway MW-515** – Waymark discs were fitted to a replacement gate installed by the landowner across the path.

**Footpath MW-517:** A branch that had fallen across the footpath was removed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Bridleway MW-528:** The wooden gate at the junction with MW-524 has become quite dilapidated and needs to be replaced. Following discussions with Simon Morris at Brickbarns Farm, the Countryside Service finally agreed to provide a replacement metal gate, which was delivered to the farm in early May.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Simon confirmed that fitting the replacement gate was on his "to do" list, but there has been no progress to date.

**Footpath MW-532** – The stile at the Hanley Road end of the path had a rotten step, and has now been repaired.

**Footpath MW-548** – Owing to the lack of progress by the landowner (Brickbarns Farm), the replacement wooden stile and metal gate provided by the Countryside Service were installed on this footpath with the help of Steve Maund.

**Bridleway MW-551:** Another tree fell down across the bridleway in May, coincidentally landing on top of the tree that fell down last year. Steve Maund was able to remove a section of the tree, thus making the path navigable, but this section of the path is now cluttered with timber debris. Fiona Argyle contacted the bursar (Mr Mehran Noor) at Abbey College (the landowner) and, following a site meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June, he agreed to tidy up the fallen timber. (No progress at 20<sup>th</sup> July).

**Footpath MW-553:** In July I strimmed the footpath running along the side of the Chestnut Hill property, following a discussion with landowner Paul Copland. He intends to cut back the hedgerow and undergrowth in the autumn.

**Footpath MW-554** – A waymark post on this path had been leaning over, and was re-set with the help of Peter Clement. New waymark discs were also fitted to the post.

**Footpath MW-559:** The wooden finger post at the footpath's junction with Holywell Road had rotted at ground level and fallen over. This was reported to the Countryside Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, who advised that responsibility for replacing the signpost lies with WCC Highways Department.

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

**Peter Clement** had again reported that **MW 526** requires vegetation clearance and the silted stream bed dug out. A new gate is required at grid reference 78494175 on footpath **MW528**. **Jackie Smethurst** noted that a fallen tree on **MW 664** had been cleared. **Steve Atwell** reported that **MW 550** had been recently strimmed.

**Steve Maund** was to be asked to strim **MW 511**

The fallen tree **on MW-526** was removed by Steve Maund

The list of paths allocated to volunteers was reissued on 8th January.

**6 Date of the next meeting** It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm

Approved Chairman -----  
Dated 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2016