

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, 19th October 2017**

Present: N Nimmo- Smith, M Millen, S Atwell, P Clement, P Stanier, R Winterton
In Attendance: D Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

Apologies for absence: R Hayes, J Smethurst, and S Maund (Parish Lengthsman)

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 6th April 2017, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting. It was noted that the meeting which had been originally scheduled to take place on 13th July 2017 had been cancelled.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

4 Report of the parish Paths Warden – Norman Nimmo - Smith

MW-551: Timber debris from two fallen trees has been obstructing the bridleway for over two years despite repeated requests made to Abbey College (the landowner) to remove it. As a desperate last resort, Worcestershire County Council served notice on Abbey College in April under Section 154 of the Highways Act to remove the obstruction. Abbey College's contractors eventually removed all the fallen timber from the bridleway in June and the bridleway is now clear, making it possible for horse-riders to use the route once again.

MW-551: The gate at the bottom of this bridleway, where it meets MW-547, doesn't close properly and there is a continual risk of stock escaping onto King's Road. Although Brickbarns Farm are responsible for upkeep of the gate, I installed a loop of rope in April to help keep the gate closed.

MW-552: The finger post located at the road-end had rotted at its base and fallen over; this was reported to the Countryside Service in April. The post has been temporarily strapped to the side of a nearby BT pole until it's eventually **replaced by WCC Highways Dept.**

MW-553: For the past two years I have strimmed the footpath that runs through the land at Chestnut Hill, owned by Mr Paul Copland. However, when I spoke to Paul in June he told me that he now wishes to strim the path himself, and did not require any further assistance. He has installed a new gate in fencing running alongside the footpath to provide him with access.

MW-522: In June Steve Maund removed a tree that had fallen across the footpath at its junction with Wells Road. Steve also strimmed that path which had become badly overgrown in places.

MW-502: Hedging at both ends of the footpath had encroached on access gates, making it difficult to pass through. The hedging was cut back in July.

MW-511: Two handrails on a wooden fence adjacent to a stream had been damaged, probably by people sitting on them. They were repaired in September.

Strimming: Thanks go to Steve Maund for cutting back vegetation and strimming numerous paths since the last meeting in April.

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

Peter Clement again reported that **MW 526** requires vegetation clearance and the silted stream bed dug out.

The way marker post on **MW 523**, near to the road, had become unstable and repairs were needed.

MW525 had been cleared of nettles and brambles which had been blocking stiles and a gate. Ideally the stile needs to be changed for a gate as the 5-bar gate is always locked.

MW 527 There was a narrow passage through unharvested crop but passable. Two stiles at junction with 526 needs replacing ideally with one gate and a length of fencing.

MW 528 Gate is disintegrating needs to be replaced with a new gate. New gate still not installed by Brick Barns Farm

MW529 Tarmac & broken paving slabs have been dumped at junction with 524/528/ which is impeding access

MW 554 and MW 528 required strimming

Marilyn Millen reported that on B511 the bridleway needs strimming the whole length to just beyond the east end of the lake. It has become too narrow to comply with the required width of a bridleway. Another tree has come down. It has been removed but a large part of the stump still projects onto the bridleway

On **B512** Several large branches have come down into the field. Walkers can go around them only by diverting into the field

Pam Stanier and Richard Winterton reported that **MW501** was impassable on the south side: Richard slashed nettles and brambles, and swept pine needles from the concrete section near the top with Eaton Road (this section could do with repair by the landowner)

MW 502 the hedge down the side has been cut back by the very cooperative new owners the gate to the golf course has been fixed and the hedge cut back to display the warning notice

6. Resignation of Peter Buchanan.

The resignation of Peter Buchanan was noted with regret and thanks for his service to the group were formally recorded. Pam Stanier and Richard Winterton kindly volunteered to take on the responsibility for the care of footpaths **530,531 ,558** and **559** which had previously been looked after by Peter

7 Date of next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 11th January,2018

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

Approved Chairman -----
Dated 11th January 2018