

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, 5th April, 2018**

Present: N Nimmo- Smith, P Stanier, R Winterton

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

Apologies for absence: P Clement, J Smethurst, M Millen, 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 19th October 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 11th January 2018 had been cancelled.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes There were none.

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

Strong winds in January resulted in a spate of fallen trees blocking paths. Trees on **MW-518, MW-522, MW-546, MW-550** and **MW-665** were able to be cut back with hand tools, and I dealt with them in January. A very large oak tree that had fallen across **MW-511** was eventually removed during March by a contractor engaged by Abbey College, the landowner.

The January gales also blew down several large number of fencing panels which ended up strewn across bridleway **MW-550**. The landowner, who was abroad at the time, eventually had them removed a week or two later.

A gate is in poor condition on **MW-547** (rotten gate-post) and needs to be repaired by the landowner, Brickbarns Farm. It was reported to the Countryside Service, and Fiona Argyle has asked the landowner to make repairs. Fortunately, this is not causing a problem now as the gate has been propped open.

I removed the last section of redundant wire fencing from bridleway **MW-511** in January, as agreed with the landowner Adrian Frost. This will at last make it much easier to control the brambles the have plagued this bridleway for many years. A current problem on the bridleway is flooding due to a blocked land drain in an adjacent field. I've discussed this with the landowner and he does intend to repair the drain at some point.

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.

MW525 - Ideally the stile needs to be changed for a gate as the 5-bar gate is always locked.

MW 527 - 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

Marilyn Millen reported that on B512 and F514 large branches had come down but could be circumnavigated.

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 New group volunteers.

It was agreed that the Clerk would compose a short article for publication in the Summer edition of the Wells News asking for any additional volunteers interested in joining the Committee

7 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that as Thursday meetings seemed to be somewhat inconvenient for most of the committee, future meetings would take place as far as possible on the second Wednesday of each month, save for the July meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee was then scheduled for Monday 9th July

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

Approved Chairman -----

Dated 9th July 2018