

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 Monday 8th October, 2018

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

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

Apologies for absence: S Atwell, P Stanier, J Smethurst

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 5th April 2018, 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 12th July 2018 had been cancelled.

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

4 **Resignation of Marilyn Millen.** The resignation from the Committee of Marilyn Millen was noted with regret and thanks for her service to the group were formally recorded. It was agreed that another advertisement, aimed at recruiting new members to the group, should be placed in the forthcoming edition of the Wells News.

5 **Report of the Parish Paths Warden – Norman Nimmo - Smith**

The broken gate post on **MW-547** has been replaced and the gate re-hung by Brickbarns Farm. This now allows the gate to be opened and closed easily.

On **MW-529**, the rubble that caused a narrowing of the bridleway has now been partially removed by the landowner (Mr Simon Morris of Brickbarns Farm) to repair one of the tracks elsewhere on the farm. This has widened the path sufficiently for all users. I discussed this with the Mr Morris in July, and hopefully we won't experience this type of problem again.

Flooding on bridleway **MW-511** due to a blocked land drain in an adjacent field was reported to the Countryside Service, and Fiona Argyle met the landowner (Mr Adrian Frost) on 22nd June to discuss a solution. As a result, Mr Frost has now improved the drainage and resurfaced the section of path that flooded. Since then there has been no sign of any surface water on the path.

Stiles on paths **MW-534** and **MW-535** have been damaged by stock in the field and are now unusable. Landowner Mr Simon Morris (Brickbarns Farm) has been asked to repair them. The two damaged stiles have been reported to the Countryside Service.

Peter Clement had reported previously that there was significant damage to the wooden bridge on **MW-526** because of rot. This was reported to Fiona Argyle at the Countryside Service, who inspected the bridge on 2nd October. As well as rot, she found that one of the main beams had split. Previous repair work had been carried out on the bridge in 2010, and Fiona decided that it had reached the end of its natural life and needed to be replaced. Work is currently in hand by WCC to install a new bridge.

A branch that had fallen across bridleway **MW-551** and reduced the headroom was removed on 4th October.

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

Peter Clement agreed that he would make further contact with the Countryside Officer, Fiona Argyle, following his report regarding the footbridge on **MW526** which needed repair, and the stile leading to **MW505** which was recommended to be converted to a gate.

Peter reported that, at the other end of MW526, with its junction with **MW525/MW527** there are three stiles which he had repaired on several occasions. Peter was of the view that the fences and stiles had now reached the end of their useful life. Ideally these should be replaced with gates. Instead of three stiles, by re-aligning a fence to the south, there would only be a requirement for two gates. At the other end of **MW527** and **MW525** there are already gates. The large 6 bar gate by the stile from **MW526** onto **MW525** is always locked and thus cannot be used by the public.

Jackie Smethurst had reported by email that there were no problems on her allocated paths.

7 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 16th January, 2019.

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

Approved Chairman -----

Dated 16th January, 2019