

MINUTES of the Rights of Way Working Party of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 23rd July, 2018 at St Barnabas Church, Beanacre at 8.10 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Richard Wood (Council Chair), John Glover, Alan Baines, Terry Chivers.

Officers: Teresa Strange (Clerk) and Marianne Rossi (Assistant Parish Officer).

Invited Guest: Brian Flynn, RoW Volunteer

- 188/18 **Housekeeping & Announcements:** Cllr. Wood welcomed all to the meeting and explained the evacuation procedure in the event of a fire.
- 189/18 **Election of Chair of Rights of Way Working Party:** Cllr. Wood invited nominations for the Chair of the Rights of Way Working Party for 2018/19. Cllr. Chivers proposed, seconded by Cllr. Glover that Cllr. Alan Baines was elected as Chair of the Rights of Way Working Party. **Resolved:** *The Council unanimously resolved that Cllr. Baines be Chair of the Rights of Way Working Party for 2018/19.*
- Cllr. Baines took the Chair.*
- 190/18 **Election of Vice-Chair of Rights of Way Working Party:** Cllr. Baines invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Rights of Way Working Party for 2018/19. Cllr. Chivers proposed, seconded by Cllr. Wood that Cllr. John Glover be Vice-Chair of the Rights of Way Working Party. **Resolved:** *The Council unanimously resolved that Cllr. Glover be Vice-Chair of the Rights of Way Working Party for 2018/19.*
- 191/18 **Apologies:** Cllr. Paul Taylor had given apologies as he had work commitments; this was accepted.
- 192/18 **Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 193/18 **Dispensation Requests:** None.
- 194/18 **Public Participation:** There were no members of the public present.
- 195/18 **Extract of Minutes of Highway & Streetscene Committee 30th April:** The members noted the extract which referred to Rights of Way from the minutes of the last Highways and Streetscene Committee meeting on 30th April for context. It was noted that some of the issues raised at this meeting by the West Wilts Ramblers had been passed onto the Rights of Way Warden.
- 196/18 **Priority of Rights of Way (ROW) Issues:** The members noted that issues had been raised by the West Wilts Ramblers and they had produced a comprehensive list of the ROWs in the Parish and their current condition. Members of the public had also raised concerns about some of the ROWs. The members considered the extensive list of ROWs and any issues relating to them against where these footpaths lead to and from

and their use by the public. **Resolved 1:** The following footpaths in the Parish to be given priority for clearance, improvement and signage as they are considered to be the most useful and the initial footpaths to concentrate on. **2:** This list and the 1989 list of priority footpaths in the Parish to be sent to the West Wiltshire Ramblers.

MELW67- Footpath from the Melksham Urban District boundary at its junction with path No. 64 leading north to the Chippenham – Melksham road., A.350, about midway between paths Nos.99 and 101. Approximate length 1.006 k.m

MELW47- Footpath from Forest Lane, C.165, leading south-east, north- east and east to path No 48, 366 m west of the north- east corner of Basin Covert. Approximate length 2.012 k.m.

MELW61- From lower Woodrow road C.165, near Forest Farm leading north across the Canal to Queenfield Farm and continuing north to the Lacock path No.36 at the Earthworks and Roman road. Approximate length 2.012 k.m.

MELW48- From Forest Lane, C.165 leading south -easterly along the access track to Hack Farm for approximately 420 metres, then over a brook in a north- easterly direction for approximately 50 metres continuing south- easterly past path No.47 to its junction with path No.50 near the northern corner of Basin Covert. Approximate length 1.465 k.m

MELW23- Footpath from the Urban District boundary at its junction with path No.31 leading south- east across path No. 18 to Browne Lane, path No.41, near Redstocks; including a diversion leading south-east to path No.20. Approximate Length 1700 m.

MELW23A- Footpath from Browns Lane, path No 41, at Redstocks, just north of the junction of path No 20 with Redstocks Lane, U/C 6193, leading south-east to path No. 23B and across path No. 25 to the Seend Parish boundary on the Box- Devizes road, A.365, about 229m west of Michell's Farm. Approximate length 640m.

MELW42- Footpath from the Southern side of the A365, Devizes Road, at approximate OS Grid Reference 906 627, leading south and then west around the balancing pond, thence continuing in a generally southerly direction past the sports ground and the old railway track to the canal south of Newton Farm. Approximate length 1.78km.

MELW26- Footpath from the Melksham – Calne road, B.3102, west of Blackmore Farm, leading south – east across path No.41 and continuing south – west to path No.22 and south- east to Browns Lane path No. 41, at its junction with path No.29. Approximate length 1.737 k.m.

MELW35- Footpath from Bowerhill Lane, U/C 6072, leading south- east past Little Bowerhill Farm and east to its junction with path No. 36 at the southern end of Carination Lane. Approximate length 594 m.

MELW36- Footpath from the Box- Devizes road, A.365, opposite Redstocks Lane, path No.20, leading south- west along Carnation Lane to the Seend Parish boundary. Approximate length 320 m.

MELW15- Footpath from path No.5, east of the River Avon, leading north- east to its junction with Melksham path No.30 at Western Way. Approximate length 735m.

MELW5- Bridleway from Berryfield Lane, U/C 6065, east of Boundary Farm, leading north – west past Boundary Farm, across path No.6 and continuing south- west over to the Broughton Gifford Parish boundary at the junction of path Nos. 12 and 13. Approximate length 1.74 k.m.

MELW7- Footpath from Berryfield Lane, U/C 6066, leading west across path No. 6, then south – west to the junction of Old Holbrook Lane, path Nos.14 and 8, and continuing south- west to the junction with Hilperton path No.23 at the old railway. Approximate length 450m.

MELW8- Footpath from the Trowbridge – Melksham road, A.350, at Semington Lane leading west past its junction with path No.9, then north -west to the junction of Old Holbrook Lane, path No.14, with path, No.7, east of Holbrook Farm. Approximate length 1.006 k.m.

MELW93- Footpath from Norrington Lane, C.239, leading east-north-east and south-east to its junction with path Nos. 90, 94 and 94A to the Melksham Urban District boundary, west of Shurnhold Farm. Approximate length 1206m.

MELW105- A short path leading, north-west along the Melksham Urban District boundary at Shurnhold linking the two sections of Melksham Urban District path No. 22. Approximate length 55m.

MELW85- Footpath from Corsham Road, B.3353, about 45 m north of the Atworth Road, C.220, by Whitley House, leading south- east for about 534 m to its junction with path No. 84, then south east for about 60 m, east for about 118 m and south- east for 100 m, east for 120 m and south- east for 122 m, continuing east over the railway to the Chippenham- Melksham road., A.350, at its junction with path No.97 by the Carpenters Arms Inn, Beanacre. Approximate length 1618m.

MELW84- From the Corsham Road, B.3353, Whitley, opposite road U/C 6026 and south of “Multum in Parvo”, leading north east for approximately 300 metres where north north east for approximately 150 metres to its junction with path No. 85. Width 2 metres except at OS grid reference ST89227 66299 where 5.5 metres. Approximate length 650 metres.

MELW66- From Boundary of Town Parish at Methuen Avenue northwards to junction with MELW61 north of Queensfield Farm”.

MELW74- From the Atworth road, C.220, at West Hill about 64m west of Littleworth Lane, U/C 6024, leading south- west to the Box- Devizes road, A.365, about 183m east of the Golden Fleece Inn at milestone “Bath 10”. Approximate length 503m.

197/18 **Rights of Way in the Parish Obstructed by Maize:** The West Wilts Ramblers had raised concerns with Wiltshire Council over ROWs obstructed by maize and farmers not cutting a footpath through it to keep the ROW accessible. Wiltshire Council had said at the Highways and Streetscene meeting in April that they were in the process of developing a formal proforma to send to landowners and farmers reminding them about the planting of crops and their responsibility to keep ROW clear and accessible. If fields are ploughed then the ROW must be reinstated within 14 days and the ROW must be a minimum of 1m wide. The members noted that Shropshire Council had produced a really useful leaflet on the roles and responsibilities of landowners with regard to ROW. It was noted that the maize would soon be cut and thus these issues would be resolved for this year, but that they would most likely reoccur next year. Maize crops are usually planted in April, and so it was considered that letters could be written to landowners in March asking them to reinstate ROW following the planting of crops, and that this would be taking a proactive approach rather than a reactive one. However, it was noted that the West Wilts Ramblers have an expectation that Wiltshire Council will sent letters to farmers and landowners this year to remind them of their legal responsibilities and the impact of not complying with this. **Resolved : The Parish**

Council query with Wiltshire Council when their proforma letter to landowners will be available, stating that they would like to send letters out to landowners in March 2019 prior to crop planting.

- 198/18 **Works Undertaken on Parish Rights of Way by Volunteer:** The members noted that a volunteer had installed anti-slip tape on 80% of the stiles on ROW in the parish; 10% of the stiles could not be accessed. The volunteer anticipated that he would finish the rest of the stiles by the end of the month. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to this volunteer and for the feedback given about issues on all the ROWs.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman, 17th September, 2018