

PAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**RURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ABOVE COMMITTEE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Ann Daniels (Chairman)  
Cllr James Cross  
Cllr Steve Morris  
Cllr Abigail Smith  
Cllr Martin Slinger  
Honorary Freeman Mr Terry Parker

Also Present: Cllr Rob Lewis  
4 Members of the Public (departed after Agenda Item 5)

**1. TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Roey Parker.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016.**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA**

**a. Kissing Gates**

MPA 39 - The Clerk has now written to the owner of the land for MPA 39 from Stepping Stone Lane to Kings Mill, requesting permission to add two kissing gates; one just in from the lane and then another one at the end of the road before the weir.

MPA 60 – The Chairman has written to the Rights of Way Officer to report a broken stile, (near Stepping Stone Lane) and offered to replace the stile with a kissing gate. No response has yet been received.

**b. MPA 93 Tocknells**

Honorary Freeman Mr Terry Parker confirmed that he has recently walked the route and the path has been officially diverted, to avoid being so near to a residential property.

**c. MPA 73 Lower Washwell.**

The Chairman reported that the little footpath at the end of Lower Washwell Lane has been cleared of Cowbane.

**5. TO CONSIDER RESPONDING TO A CONSULTATION TO DIVERT MPA 135 ON THE PAINSWICK GOLF COURSE.**

The Chairman read out the details of the proposal and invited comments from the Committee and Members of the Public present.

Various concerns regarding this proposal were raised including: -

- The path forms part of the Cotswold Way.
- Diversion suggested is too narrow.
- Walkers have the right to roam the Common, they do not have to stick to the paths.
- Concern that the diversion might be misinterpreted that walkers are required to stick to the paths.
- The issues regarding safety for users of the common are not isolated to this one area, it is an issue for much of the common which shares the space with the golfers.
- Mutual respect needs to be 'given to all' and 'by all' users.
- The current path is wide and in the open and therefore popular with riders.
- The alternative route suggested is muddy and in a wooded area and less attractive to riders than the current route.
- If the diversion proposal was approved it could set a precedent and reduce the value of the 'right to roam'.

The Committee also discussed alternatives including: -

- Signage to warn Golfers that walkers and other users could be in the area, so take care.
- An installation of steps similar to those already used at the 17<sup>th</sup> tee.

The Committee agreed for Honorary Freeman Terry Parker to draft a letter objecting to the diversion but suggesting the alternatives. **TP**

**6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FOR WORK IN THE PLANTATION INCLUDING POSSIBLE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.**

The Chairman reported that Terry Fenton will pursue grant opportunities from the Woodlands Trust.

The Handyman has cleared two trees, one rather large one.

The Council have been consulted on a charity event that will walk the Cotswold Way, they will be erecting temporary toilets and gazebos.

**7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BULLS CROSS**

Natural England are pleased to confirm that Bulls Cross common is now officially part of the Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve.

There will be a celebratory walk being organised around the common in the spring or early summer.

**8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON A RECENT MANORIAL MEETING.**

A constructive meeting was held with Selina and Amaury Blow where several issues were raised. They are aware of concerns and are taking appropriate action.

The Handyman has now taken back the grass cutting around the parish, and will include the strimming of Jacks Green (twice annually).

**9. TO NOTE ANY NEW ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION.**

- a. Honorary Freeman Mr Terry Parker will update the Parish Council with issues from the Painswick Beacon Conservation Society, when necessary.
- b. Cllr Steve Morris will send photos of a bank in Slad that needs grass cutting.
- c. Cllr Martin Slinger reported that the Council now have a list of the areas owned by the Blow family and to which member of the family each location relates to.
- d. The Chairman reported that the Clerk receives regular updates from the Footpath Wardens. The Committee acknowledged the excellent contribution they make.

**10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FINANCES.**

The Clerk reported the Finances from the Plantation Account is £4,015.82.

A further £500 will continue to be added to the Plantation Account each year and £500 for Footpath Improvements (to provide new kissing gates).

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.