

“Bridgnorth Rights of Way Association”

Minutes of Meeting – 19th October 2017

Minutes of a meeting held at Bridgnorth Town Council offices.

Present: Clive Dyson: Chair (W), Nickie Smith (R), Graeme Tait (C), Bob Bosson (W), Vic Chandler (W), Keith Chandler (W), Ina Roberts (W), Barry Goodyear (C), Debbie Smith (C), Ray Gill, Jean Onions (BTC), Kate Dyson: Secretary (W), Warren Holland (R)

Apologies: Helen Beresford (Shropshire Council), Keith Fradgley (W), Tammy Ratoff (W), Sarah Stevens (BTC), Craig Coates (R), Des Plain (Worfield Walkers), Jenny Pearce (Broseley Bridleways)

Affiliations: (W) Walking Club, (R) Running Club, (C) Cycling Club, (BTC) Bridgnorth Town Council

1 Minutes of and actions from last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were not reviewed. Please send any corrections to the secretary, Kate Dyson (kathryn.dyson@tagtig.co.uk).

Status of actions:

- Action Sep/1:** Clive to revise the draft constitution and circulate. **Complete.**
- Action Sep/2:** Clive to seek to promote the group through What's What and other routes, possibly including the library, leaflets, Facebook, Shropshire Great Outdoors, Bridgnorth Walking Club and a website for the group. **What's What article submitted. Website underway. Running and cycling clubs contacted.**
- Action Sep/3:** All to review the aims of the group in the existing draft constitution and suggest changes to Clive. **A few suggested changes in revised draft.**
- Action Sep/4:** Helen to address the obstructions via Shropshire Council, advise her colleagues of the working party and obtain permission from the landowners (for the working party). **Complete.**
- Action Sep/5:** Helen to investigate the possibility of a permissive path linking 0113/32/1 and 0113/10/1 to avoid the need to walk on Ludlow Road, which is dangerous. **Ongoing.**
- Action Sep/6:** Helen to arrange training on brush cutters and strimmers for, at least, Ray Gill and Clive Dyson. **Ongoing.**
- Action Sep/7:** Clive to complete the P3 group agreement with Shropshire Council on behalf of the group. **Complete.**
- Action Sep/8:** Helen to investigate if and how this (formalising the footpaths along the tops of the bypass cutting) could be achieved. **Contact in Highways provided to Clive, who will progress.**
- Action Sep/9:** Clive to send out a list of priority paths / areas requiring attention. **Complete. A list is (and will be) appended to the minutes.**

2 Organisation, collaboration and constitution

Attendees introduced themselves. Following contact from Clive, attendees were present from Bridgnorth Cycling Club and Bridgnorth Running Club. We also have contacts with interested horse riders.

Members of each of the clubs outlined their interest in rights of way:

Cycling Club

Bridleways are used for off-road cycling as well as agreed routes with landowners, such as the National Trust. The club already helps to keep routes clear, including at Dudmaston and Benthall. The National Cycle Network route through Bridgnorth (Route 45) has been diverted and a better route should be formalised, with any necessary access and trackway improvements. Route 45 also uses roads which can be busy in places to the south of Bridgnorth. Access out of the valley to the east of Bridgnorth is very poor and dangerous. For example, there is no safe cycling route from Bridgnorth to Dudmaston. Alternatives should be found and the possibility of upgrading the footpath through Hermitage Hill Coppice (0115/70/5, OS SO 729 929) was suggested as one possibility. Support for children (and adults) cycling in the town needs to be improved.

Running Club

Priorities are to clear overgrown tracks and to know where they are. The club would like to see a number of the best routes marked and kept clear and know who to contact if there is a problem.

Walking Club

The club's members wish to help keep the paths in the district clear, marked and maintained, in line with the association's constitution.

Next steps and Constitution

Clive suggested that we might aim for about 100 members, each contributing to 2 or 3 working groups per year.

We need to ensure we have representation from horse riders and from the farming community. Clive has been in contact with Broseley Bridleways, which has sent a list of the bridleways they have worked on and claimed.

We agreed to modify the constitution to allow for representatives of the Cycling, Running and Walking Clubs on the committee. The constitution will be reviewed and ratified at the next meeting. Please check that you agree with the objectives in particular.

Action Oct/1: Clive to send out a revised version of the constitution for approval at the next meeting. All to send back comments prior to next meeting.

Action Oct/2: Bridgnorth Running Club and Bridgnorth Cycling Club attendees to arrange for each club to nominate a committee member.

We need volunteers for a treasurer and working group secretary. Please contact Clive to discuss what would be involved if you are interested.

3 Working groups and projects

The first working group was held on Tuesday 3rd October and 7 people erected a new gate and cleared the path from the bypass to Ludlow Road, close to the Punchbowl Inn, and on Tiddlebrook. This took less than 3 hours and we were pleased how much progress could be made. Thanks to all involved.

A crash barrier has been erected across the end of the path at the bypass, during recent roadworks. Clive has contacted the Shropshire Council representative at the site office and been informed that a path will be created around the barrier.

The next working group will be held on Saturday 2nd December, meeting at 10am and will, provisionally, clear the path above the Hermitage to Queen's Parlour and beyond. Meeting point to be advised. Part of the path is in Worfield parish.

Action Oct/3: Clive to contact Worfield (Worfield Walkers).

Action Oct/4: Clive to contact Helen Beresford and arrange the working group. Also to ask Helen to arrange a training course (Action Sep/6). A chainsaw (and council operator) will be needed to clear fallen trees.

We will also aim to run a working group on Tuesday 16th January 2018. We agreed to aim to ramp up to running a working group once a month initially and then review progress. Working groups will alternate between the third Tuesday and the third Saturday of the month, so that members who cannot attend on weekdays or at weekends can attend the other option.

Action Oct/5: Kate to contact Helen Beresford to discuss the volunteer form and the Data Protection Act and to request way markers.

We also agreed that some rights of way require more effort and that these should be addressed as a 'project', over a period of time.

Each working group / project will be run by a volunteer member to spread the effort. The first working group showed that this is not a lot of work and that we might aim for about 10 members contributing to running working groups.

4 Promotion and publicity

There will be an article in the next issue of What's What. Clive is working on creating a web site. He requested a volunteer to run a Facebook group.

5 AOB

No other business.

6 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held, provisionally, at 6.30pm on Thursday 30th November. Date and location to be confirmed.

Rights of Way in Bridgnorth

See table on next page for Rights of Way (ROW) in Bridgnorth.

In addition:

- Paths at top of bypass embankment from 31/1 to 49/4 and from 49/7 to Oldbury Road are well used but not rights of way. Should be upgraded. See Action Sep/8.
- Informal path from Faraday Drive towards Hermitage Hill Coppice is used and should be upgraded to a right of way. Is the industrial estate Shropshire Council land?
- 0151/53/1 from Swancote: Fly tipping / builders rubbish obstructing the path.

Number (*)	Description	Status / Comments	OS start	OS end
42/1-3	E. bank N. of Bridge St.		718922	723939
54/1, 41/1	Severn to road		719932	722733
39/1, /3, /6	Around High Rock	Sloping underfoot in many places.	724941	726938
40/1, 39/5	Cemetery to B4363		724935	728935
38A/1, /4-5	Around the Hermitage	Working group 2/12/17	728935	728932
W/38A/1-3	E. of Queens Parlour	In Worfield parish	728932	734923
47/1, W/70/5	Up Hermitage Hill Coppice		727930	730927
43/1, 44/1, 45/1	Around Morfe Road		722929	725932
46/1	Queens Rd. to Birchlands		725928	726928
56/1-4	Bridge St. to Quatford	Needs clearing around gates. Ploughing.	718922	738909
60R, 61R, 62R	56 to Kidderminster Rd	Muddy. Stile access on 62R.	726914	734915
57/1, W/57-58	Above Quatford Castle	Cut back and realign path.	733916	744914
15/1	A442 toward Mose		739890	743900
16/1-3	A442 toward Gags Hill		738907	748906
17/1-2, /4	Quatford to Hillhouse		739909	743908
18/1-2	Hillhouse to NE		741907	746913
19/1-2	Cross Severn at Quatford		739907	735908
20/1, /3, 21/1-2	W. Severn at Quatford		734911	736905
23/2	Toward Eardington		737907	734905
34/2, 35/5	Around playing fields		721936	720939
36/1	Ropewalk		719936	717935
37/1-2	Bramble Ridge – Friars St.	Not suitable for cycles / new kissing gate	719936	719934
35/4	Stanley Lane and Bramble Ridge to Love Lane	Needs work.	719939	717938
UN3/1, 64R/1	B4373 up Cantern Brook	Future priority project: Improve signage. 26/1 muddy – needs new steps. 26/2 overgrown and with rubbish.	715939	710940
63R/1	Cantern to Greenfields Dr.		714940	712938
26/1-2	Innage Lane to Cantern Br.		710937	709942
24/1, 27/1	Innage Lane to Hook Farm		710938	705940
33/1	Westgate to W/berry Close		710932	708935
31/1, /3, 32/1	Conduit Lane to B4364	Cleared 3/10/17. New gate.	707927	703924
11/1	To Tiddlebrook bridge	Cleared 3/10/17.	699921	695920
49/1-7, 48/1	B/north to Oldbury Wells	49/5 should be urban footpath – upgrade.	715929	711920
10/1, 13/1, 50/1	Punchbowl to Oldbury W.	Check signage.	701923	711922
9/1	To Harpswood Bridge		699916	692916
12/1, 5/1-2	Manor Farm Lane to SE	5/2 check signage.	705919	699909
7/1-3, E/4/1	Harcourt to Westwood		708907	702914
14/1, 8/1	Oldbury to Westwood		709918	703909
2/1, /3	Oldbury to Potseething Spr		713919	711913
1/1, 3/1-5, 4/1-2, E/9A/2	Oldbury to Daniels Mill	Future priority project. Overgrown, muddy, unsafe. Needs steps in places.	713919	717917
55/1, 52/1-5, 53/1	W. bank S. to Daniels Mill	52/2 overgrown and muddy. Signage.	718931	719918

(*) All ROW should be prefixed with 0113/ unless otherwise stated.
ROW prefixed with W/ are in Worfield parish - the actual prefix is 0151/.
ROW prefixed with E/ are in Eardington parish – the actual prefix is 0123/.
All OS grid references are for area SO.