

Barrow Parish Council – Footpaths Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 19th February 2024

[Foot Paths - Great Barrow Community website](#)

footpaths@barrowpc.org

Attendance

S Bartsch P	R Simpkin A
P Bond (Minutes) P	R Tomlinson
D Cunningham (Barrow PC) P	J Walsh (Barrow PC) P
G Higginbotham P	D Watson P
A Porter (Barrow PC) P	C Youngs (Chair) P
Michael.Goan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk	M Goan (CWaC Footpaths Officer) P

A: apologies

P: present

Minutes of Last Meeting on 4th December 2023

The previous minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising

1/ Guide Books – Since the record listed in the minutes of 4.12.23; 16 books have been sold.

Date 19.2.24	Balance from last record:	£ 530.62
Income	10 books sold at Bluebell Café 2 books sold at Meadow Lea (4 books gone but only paid for 2 – CY has put the price on there to avoid a repeat of this) 2 books sold at Tarvin 2 books sold at Guilden Sutton Proceeds from sales:	£64.00
Stock locations: Bluebell Café, Guilden Sutton PO, Tarvin PO, Meadow Lea, CY.		
	Expenditure:	£0
	Latest total:	£594.62

2/ FP 30 (Mill Lane to Heath Lane) – Recommendation from the Environment Agency for work (application in, just waiting to hear regarding funding) so no work on this to be done just yet.

3/ FP 21 & 22 (Park Hall and Park Hall to Tarvin Sands) – Concerns regarding stiles and maintenance reported to MG. JW raised replacing these with gates – may be preferable. MG reported farmer and landowner to place, CWaC can supply gates. A recent legal diversion has been granted at this point on FP 22. JW to identify What3Words locations for the stiles in question.

4/ FP 4 (Barrowmore corner to B5132) – CY explained concerns to MG, would we prefer a pedestrian gate? MG can arrange this but landowners responsibility to 'fit' these, so will need to liaise with landowner. MG will have a look in the next week or 2 and feedback.

5/ FP 24 (Ferma Lane) - Junction with Ferma wood completely flooded, AP has pics showing the gate into the wood. MG suggests needs better drainage and some gravel down. MG suggested the flooding needs to be reported, he has already considered cutting.

MG doesn't think Ferma Lane was cut last year, checking it is on the list for this year. CWaC to cut from the ground, but the sides are the landowner's responsibility.

JW reported a tree down blocking the path too and has pictures, MG to investigate this as a matter of urgency as it is potentially blocking the path.

6/ FP 12 (Hollowmore Heath to Broomhill House Farm) – A significant amount of water after the second stile (from Broomhill House Farm to HH), has been reported by Oliver Rackham. MG to speak to Contractor (Groundwork and Leisure Services LTD – Wrexham) and the landowner (Wendy Lawson) too. May need to implore landowner to clear ditches. AP to send pics to MG.

7/ FP 2 (Ferma Lane to Guilden Sutton) - First bridge down to the first kissing gate and then the bridge – MG has already received a report and has a contractor on board to redirect the water and place some gravel under the kissing gate, then keen to conduct work on the bridge.

8/ FP 23 (Barrowmore to Broomhill) – The land is currently for sale and is being used by a tenant farmer. Wait to see who buys this before we consider completing any work? However, MG confirmed this is an obstruction to a public right of way so needs to be rectified. MG to look into it further.

Across the stream there has previously been discussion of a planning request as these plans did not show the public right of way. CY to investigate whether we have a name for the Planning Officer to forward on to MG.

Other Matters

1/ FP 20 (Barrow Mill to Tarvin) – The upright to the bridge at Point 2 had not been replaced and there have previously been two complaints. JW to photograph alongside FP20 and 21.

2/ Church Lane (Sunken Lane) - DC raised concerns as the badger set has now grown and it is difficult to get through. Permission to move spoil from the set has now expired. CY to gather any evidence pertaining to last application and explore a new one.

AP also raised concerns re the bridge at the bottom of Church Lane Permissive Path as the wood is rotting. CWaC may not be able to help as it is a Permissive Path, but MG to explore. Discussion around submitting an application to turn this Permissive Path into a PRoW.

3/ FP 26 (Village Hall to Church) – GH to place the Permissive Path disc on the horizontal fence as the wooden finger post is broken. MG to investigate fixing the finger post.

MG to have a look in the store to see if they have any Permissive Path discs.

4/ FP 19 (Mill Lane path to FP 30) - DW reports a new post with signage, and raised concerns with the positioning of this. CY suggests this was placed by Richard Ankers.

5/ Ferma Lane, Upper Lane and FP 12 – See previous comment re MG addressing clearing Ferma Lane. AP to liaise with landowner (adjacent) when cutting is needed.

6/ FP 3 (B5132 to Plemstall) – MG to consider fixing the bridge as this is likely under CWaC's remit. Will need to look at maps and liaise with farmer (Paul Johnson at The Hough opposite The Foxcote).

7/ CWaC Footpaths Officer - MG discussed how we can communicate more effectively. CWaC are keen to utilise the power of volunteers. Email MG directly as needed moving forwards.

8/ FP 29 - Restricted byway is impassable. Raised with MG – who has instructed the Contractor to clear this. MG also raised the state of the footpath through horse field whereas other side of the hedge is clear. Considering requesting a Permissive Path on the other side of the hedge, but on MG's radar to explore.

Any Other Business

MG reported a backlog of issues that have been reported through the Customer Service channel. Happy to be contacted directly via email, and suggests that reports with photos, What3Words locations ([what3words](#) [/// The simplest way to talk about location](#)) or grid references and path numbers are helpful.

Path across playing field is becoming overgrown and would benefit from being sprayed. JW and AP to raise with either BP or TS to clear.

Insurance - Clerk to the Parish Council has confirmed that if the Footpaths Committee approve the work, the Parish Council insurance will cover it.

Discussion regarding map printing and a community advisor, as the maps displayed on PC noticeboards were printed by CWaC initially. MG to provide a contact.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Main Room – Okell room in use).

Appendix of Outstanding Footpaths Work

Path	Pos	Date	Work Required	Actions
Path 6	4	24/05/10	Gowy crossing steps very steep. Extra step needed.	No funds available.
Path 19	2	07/09/15	New gate needed at Mill	No action at present
Path 29		12/11/18	Barnhouse Lane to FP 13 impassable	CWaC responsibility