

Barrow Parish Council – Footpaths Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 4th December 2023

Attendance

S Bartsch P	R Simpkin A
P Bond (Minutes) P	R Tomlinson P
D Cunningham (Barrow PC) A	J Walsh (Barrow PC)
G Higginbotham P	D Watson P
A Porter (Barrow PC) A	C Youngs (Chair) P
	T Kinsey

A: apologies

P: present

Minutes of Last Meeting on 2nd October 2023

The previous minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising

1/ Guide Books – Since the record listed in the minutes of 2.10.23; 5 books have been sold.

Date 4.12.2023	Balance from last record	£ 510.57
Income	2 books sold at Bluebell Café 2 books sold at Meadow Lea 1 book via website and CY charged £1.50 for postage Proceeds from sales:	£20.05
Stock locations: Bluebell Café, Guilden Sutton PO, Tarvin PO, Meadow Lea, CY.		
	Expenditure:	£0
	Latest total:	£530.62

2/ FP 9 (Broomhill to Long Green) – RT reports that this work has been done and whilst the path becomes very wet at this time of year, it is much better. Action closed.

3/ FP 30 (Mill Lane to Heath Lane) – AP has secured the membrane and will liaise with the landowner and Andy Jones to ensure there is enough gravel/planings to complete the work, or whether we need to top this

up. Concerns were raised about the possibility of gravel washing into the stream but this shouldn't be a problem.

Email update from AP: in view of the impact of Storm Babet on October 20, when FP30 was completely submerged under fast flowing flood water I think it needs a more comprehensive solution than our homemade suggestion, which would simply have been washed away. I therefore asked for a quote from a local (Barrow) supplier for a more permanent solution:

- £1600 plant and labour,
- 10-15 tonne of stone at £20 per tonne,
- Membrane supplied FoC by Urban Landscapes.

Having walked the path last week, it is almost as bad at the Heath Lane end and as it is in what is now a regular flood zone which we are hoping to address with the aid of an application for funding from the Environment Agency, anything we do would I think be premature. The Committee agrees this would be premature and may lead to more water in the fields.

4/ FP 21 &22 (Park Hall and Park Hall to Tarvin Sands) – There was no progress on this to report, we are still waiting to hear who the new CWaC officer is.

5/ FP 4 (Barrowmore to B5132) – CY felt the Committee should keep a watching brief on the issue of the squeeze gap onto the B5132, since there remained some disquiet as to safety.

Update: CY is yet to receive a response from CWaC on this and to hear who the FP officer is. Plan is still to invite them to a meeting when we have a name/contact. Over a separate matter, CY has been in contact with the Clerk to Mickle Trafford Parish Council; who discovered that Mike Goan is the Public Rights of Way Officer covering the Barrow area, and Lee Roberts is the Network Management Officer. Mike has suggested he will be in touch.

6/ FP 23 (Barrowmore to Broomhill) – The electric fence is back up and close to the stile. This needs to be adequately protected and not obstructing the path. CY has spoken to BR who is agreeable to Footpaths Committee doing the work, use wood in CY's garage or consider spending £50 on more wood to create an 'H' to bridge the electric fence.

Update: CY and RS visited the site to discuss the 'H' bridge but concerns were raised about public liability. The landowner will presumably not want to take this on. We could pop a longer piece of pipe over this section of the fence as an interim measure, but this will need to be discussed with the Landowner. Historically there was a letter with indemnity insurance from Mike Bolton – GH will look into this as may still be relevant. CY has also since explored this with the Clerk to the Parish Council, she believes the PC insurance will cover this, as long as the Footpaths Committee has approved the work. She will double check and confirm this.

Other Matters

1/ FP 20 (Barrow Mill to Tarvin) – The upright to the bridge at Point 2 had not been replaced and there have been two complaints. CY has sent images to the Council, but it is too overgrown to assess currently, CWaC to replace post as this may cause an injury if not secure.

2/ Sunken Road – The bridge has been patched by the Chumpers but gets slippery in the wet weather, could consider using chicken wire to provide grip. The Chumpers have cleared overgrowth on this path and also upper Ferma Lane (from The Hollies – see next item).

3/ FP29, Ferma Lane, Upper Lane and FP 12 - Parts of upper lane have been strimmed but this was stopped due to landowner distress, in future needs a conversation first - AP to discuss this and clearing nettles the with them, ideal would be to strim twice a year in spring and summer. TK has previously raised the possibility of spraying nettles in spring but there is some concern over the impact this may have on wildlife and walkers. Ferma lane is currently impassable, needs CWaC attention. Parish Council Clerk has requested this is done. CY to follow this up with photos from JW.

Update: the Committee does not believe there has been any attempt at path clearing/strimming/mowing carried out on Ferma Lane by the council this summer.

4/ FP 3 (B5132 to Plemstall) – There was discussion as to whether the landowner might accept responsibility for repair of the collapsed section of the sleeper bridge. CY would raise this with him. The materials supplied by RA were unlikely to be suitable. PB to check and confirm this work has been completed by the landowner.

5/ Secretary – Thanks expressed from Alan for his gift.

7/ Footpaths email address – The website is now live: [Foot Paths - Great Barrow Community website](https://www.greatbarrow.org.uk/footpaths). Please take a look and feedback to AP with any suggestions. The email address is: footpaths@barrowpc.org.

Any Other Business

There has previously been discussion around the map used and who may have the original file.

Email update from AP re mapping: the PC confirmed in their October meeting that they (and the Footpaths Committee) have access to the CWAC OS licence, which is great news. The map is included for reference at the end of this document.

Following some investigation, CY has discovered the map will cost £500 and there was discussion around who will fund this? It was historically authorised by the previous PC, does the current PC have any thoughts on this?

There was some further discussion as to where these may be displayed and the Pavilion and Pub had previously been suggested. This prompted discussion as to whether the White Horse could stock walking books. GH and RT to explore with Nuno and Jess.

CY's to Report to CWaC Customer Services:

- Paths Barrow 9 - which I have already reported.
- Barrow 3 - once it has crossed the River Gowy, which I have also reported.
- Barrow 21 - which becomes Tarvin 4; both Tarvin and Barrow Parish Councils had been in touch with Richard Ankers about this having broken stiles and wire and some stuff dumped on the PROW, he and Pete Atkinson had also both checked this path and agreed it needed attention. It is a good route for getting from Barrow to Tarvin.
- Barrow 4 - recently the kissing gates at each end of this path had rotted, when Richard Ankers and Pete Atkinson were asked for a site meeting with Patrick Haycock, he requested a post instead of a replacement kissing gate. Barrowmore, which he is chief executive of, provides supported accommodation. We feel this is unsafe as the prow then crosses the B5132 the road through the village which can be very busy.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 12th Feb (10 weeks) 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

