

DRAFT Barrow Parish Council – Footpaths Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 6th October 2025

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

footpaths@barrowpc.org

[Public Map Viewer](#)

Attendance

S Bartsch P	R Simpkin P
P Bond (Minutes) P	J Walsh P
D Cunningham (Barrow PC) P	D Watson P
S Kellett P	C Youngs (Chair) P
S Paton P	M Goan (CWaC Footpaths Officer) A

A: apologies

P: present

Minutes of Last Meeting on 18th August 2025

The minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising

1/ Guidebooks - Since the record listed in the minutes of 18.8.25; 8 books have been sold.

Date 16.24	Balance from last record:	£940.12
In	7 books sold between Meadow Lea and Bluebell Cafe 1 book sold at Tarvin PO	
Proceeds from sales: £32		
Stock locations: Bluebell Café, Tarvin PO, Meadow Lea, CY.		
	Expenditure:	£0
	Latest total:	£972.12

2/ FP 30 (Mill Lane to Heath Lane) - Recommendation from the Environment Agency for work (application in, just waiting to hear regarding funding though some mention of funds on National news), no work has been done just yet. Awaiting update from MG.

3/ FP 4 (Barrowmore corner to B5132) - MG has suggested using a pedestrian gate which will act as a kissing gate with the posts that are already in place, which the Committee are happy to accept this suggestion. It would be helpful to replace the signs which were previously in place, warning walkers to 'beware traffic'.

4/ FP 24 (Ferma Lane) - MG has noted big drainage issues past Ferma Wood which will require work with the Landowner. MG keen to fix. CY suggested speaking to S Pym re the drainage pool. Awaiting update from MG.

Path is now very overgrown, request that MG liaise with CWaC contractors to cut this and advise when the work may take place.

Pixie steps - Awaiting update from MG. He had previously met with Paul Johnson about the sandstone blocks, but was keen to speak to a contractor as any gravel would simply wash away. This is problematic as the drainage ditch has gone. No further deterioration but this is a concern as we move into winter.

5/ FP 12 (Hollowmore Heath to Broomhill House Farm) - CY has confirmed the Landowner with MG. Awaiting update as will become wet again when we have rain.

6/ FP 2 (Ferma Lane to Guilden Sutton) - New stone has now been washed away (What3Words: arranges.winners.reliving). MG had met with a contractor to discuss putting a longer bridge in and moving it slightly, MG was hoping to allocate CWaC funds as financial year ended. OR does the landowner have responsibility here? It would be good to have some guidance from MG or Margaret Parker.

7/ FP 23 (Barrowmore to Broomhill) - Awaiting update from MG re positioning of electric fencing and proximity to hedge line.

8/ FP9 - Near Long Green Farm, MG had previously organised two bridges over the stream and brook which will help despite ongoing flooding problems. MG was still keen to speak with Landowner regarding the electric fencing; await update.

9/ - MG requested an update in Spring when paths become overgrown, please see item 4 above re cutting. FP 29 will also require cutting. Oct update: no cutting has happened at all this summer.

Other Matters

1/ FP 20 (Barrow Mill to Tarvin) - The upright to the bridge at Point 2 had not been replaced and there had been two complaints. CY previously sent images to the Council, but it was too overgrown to assess. MG planned to walk last year, awaiting update. SB reports still wobbly.

2/ Church Lane (Sunken Lane) - Note on Care for Barrow re broken bridge. Several planks on the bridge have rotten and broken, and there were signs placed advising this route is closed and walkers should divert over the Milton Brook bridge. Update needed from MG to see if he could recommend someone to complete repairs. It may be preferable to advise walkers to use the existing concrete bridge and to divert the path to avoid spending money on repairs, as this is a permissive path and the Landowner may rescind access. JW suggested the Chair contacts the landowner to see whether they could guarantee keeping this path open. There was discussion of a legal agreement between three stakeholders, and JW wondered whether this could be shared.

3/ FP 26 (Village Hall to Church) - CY yet to liaise with resident and MG on this.

4/ FP 19 (Mill Lane path to FP 30) - Awaiting update from MG re log store on the path. This house has been sold so there is scope to pick this up with the new owners.

5/ FP 29 - This path is overgrown and impassable. Awaiting update from MG re cutting and CWaC maintaining this.

Any Other Business

DC raised a request/concern from the Parish Council, that we are currently operating as a 'Working Group' rather than a 'Committee' (which should abide by certain regulatory rules), and as such the PC would rather our role/name changed to a 'Working Group'.

There was some group discussion on this and whether to continue operating as a 'Committee' or whether to change the status to a 'Working or Steering Group' under the Parish Council. DC explained that as a formal Committee we would be required to follow strict procedures, such as publishing agendas three days in advance, having the Parish Council Clerk present, and only publishing minutes after formal approval, all of which we currently do not meet, creating compliance issues.

Changing to a 'Working Group' would not alter the practical roles, responsibilities, or independence, but it would remove these legal obligations and resolve the compliance problems. The group also discussed delays in publishing minutes, confusion in Barrow News updates, and how information is shared with the Parish Council.

DC agreed to check with the Parish Council about designated power, and JW agreed to investigate the formal differences between a committee and a working group, and to consider the review/update to the terms of reference which has previously been started. Both will bring clearer information to the next meeting before making a final decision.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 17th November, 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

Update from MG required on Footpaths 30, 4, 24 including the Pixie Steps, 12, 2, 23, 8, 20, 26, 19 and 29 please.

Actions required from MG:

- Liaise with contractor re cutting required on Ferma Lane (FP24) please and also FP29 at the same time.
- Church Lane - this path is now unsafe, please could you be in touch about repairs?

Health and safety concerns have been raised with MG about the following footpaths: 4, the pixie steps, 2 and 23.