

## DRAFT Barrow Parish Council - Footpath Working Group Minutes

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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

[footpaths@barrowpc.org](mailto:footpaths@barrowpc.org)

[Public Map Viewer](#)

### Attendance

S Bartsch (Minutes) <b>P</b>	R Simpkin <b>P</b>
P Bond <b>A</b>	J Walsh <b>P</b>
P Carrigan <b>P</b>	D Watson <b>A</b>
S Kellett <b>P</b>	C Youngs (Chair) <b>P</b>
S Paton <b>P</b>	M Goan (CWaC Footpaths Officer) <b>A</b>

**A:** apologies

**P:** present

New member Peter Carrigan introduced.

CY also advised another new member (not present), Janice Kidman who will be invited to future meetings.

CY will share email address with PB.

### Minutes of Last Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

The minutes were accepted.

### Matters Arising

**1/ Guidebooks** - Since the record listed in the minutes of 17.11.25; 6 books have been sold.

<b>Date 19.1.26</b>	<b>Balance from last record:</b>	£1005.12
<b>In:</b> 6 books sold between Meadow Lea, Tarvin PO and Bluebell Cafe	<b>Proceeds from sales:</b>	<b>£24</b>
<b>Stock locations:</b> Bluebell Café, Tarvin PO, Meadow Lea, Guilden Sutton PO and CY.		
	<b>Expenditure:</b>	£0
	<b>Latest total:</b>	<b>£1029.12</b>

**2/ FP 30 (Mill Lane to Heath Lane)** - No further information received since last update. Update from MG required. *(Previously, recommendation from the Environment Agency for work, application in, waiting to hear regarding funding, no work has been done yet.)*

**3/ FP 4 (Barrowmore corner to B5132)** - Improvements to pedestrian gate and signage not yet taken place. Update from MG required. The group considered a possible connection to Barrowmore planning permission which would require this footpath to be made wheelchair accessible, this may impact the previously agreed improvements.

**4/ FP 24 (Ferma Lane)** - Overgrown and drainage issue raised previously. Awaiting update from MG. Noted still too wet to tackle now, and to update MG in spring 2026.

**Pixie steps** - Written update received from MG advising a quote has been received for £780 to cast 5 new concrete steps and create a bund to stop water run off and asked the group to confirm acceptable. The group considered, it was noted there was a preference by the group to retain sandstone, however it is outside of the conservation area and concrete steps would be better than nothing resulting in an unsafe/closed footpath. Suggestion that the footpath group funds could support the additional cost for sandstone, however as no price for this was stated it was unclear if even an option. Concluded, CY/PB to ask MG how much extra sandstone steps would be as to whether affordable within footpath group budget for further consideration. If not, then to proceed with concrete subject to landowner consent.

**5/ FP 12 (Hollowmore Heath to Broomhill House Farm)** - ongoing issue relating to drainage. No further update received from MG.

**6/ FP 2 (Ferma Lane to Guilden Sutton)** - Written update received from MG advising “removed current bridge which is subsiding due to scouring of the embankment and replace with 8 metre bridge (bridge over Back Brook)” It doesn’t appear this work has been completed yet. To check with MG.

**7/ FP 9** - 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. PC agreed to walk the path to see if any issues remain outstanding.

**8/ FP 29** - MG requested an update in Spring when paths become overgrown, FP 29 will require cutting. Revisit this matter (and any others that require cutting) in spring 2026.

**9/ 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. This remains outstanding, update from MG required.

**10/ Church Lane (Sunken Lane)** - *Broken bridge, several planks rotten and broken, and there were signs placed advising this route is closed and walkers should divert over the Milton Brook bridge.*

*Landowner attended PC meeting in October and opted to close and remove the bridge, they also expressed a desire to close the lane from the top near the Church, but this is not supported by the FP Committee.*

Since the last meeting, a benefactor has agreed to pay for the bridge to be repaired. Three quotes have been arranged, and the benefactor will finalise which supplier. It was noted landowner consent will be required for the work to take place. It was discussed that badgers are located in that area and there are specific laws relating to the protection of badgers which restrict when work can be undertaken and what type of work that can be conducted depending on how close the badger setts are to the work required. For example, if less than 10m away only light or hand tools are permitted to be used. A licence may be required to undertake the work, this can be arranged via the environments agency who will stipulate what, when and how the repairs can be undertaken.

PB to write a letter on behalf of the group to send to the landowner, outlining the next steps. Working with RS/CY/MG in relation to the benefactor, contractor and environment agency.

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

**12/ FP 19 (Mill Lane path to FP 30)** - Previous issue regarding log store on the path may have been resolved due to new landowners. Path not easily walkable in winter, revisit in the spring and see if blockage has been removed. If not MG to take up with new property owners.

**13/ FP 29** - This path is overgrown and impassable. Relates to cutting issue, raise with MG in the spring.

**14/ FP16** - SP walked this route, confirmed a stile is broken but there is a gap to walk around it. No action currently required.

**15/ FP3** - JW had previously raised concerns regarding the positioning of electric fencing (obstructing the diagonal path and the kissing gate too). Will raise with the Parish Council to request they speak with the Landowner to sort.

JW also referred to a leaflet seen in Shropshire which details who to speak to (Landowner, PC, Council etc.) in different circumstances. This may be something we could adapt for use, JW will aim to find again and bring to next meeting. This remains outstanding. JW will pick up at next Parish Council meeting.

MG provided a written update relating to a Mickle Trafford footpath (8) which leads onto our FP3. A broken stile is being removed and replaced with a kissing gate (just before Saul Farm in Plemstall).

### **Other Matters**

**16) FP8** - MG provided a written update to advise a rotten sleeper bridge (near Morley Lane) is being replaced.

**17) FP15** - SP walked this route recently and had photos relating to damage at stile 4. What3words quirky.tabs.vineyard. JW referred to previous email correspondence from landowner reporting two broken stiles, CWAC would provide materials but not repair. Landowner had concerns regarding liability. Refer to MG to review and discuss with landowner.

### **Working Group/Committee**

Email correspondence from Barrow Parish Clerk shared with the group that resolved the previous raised issues. This confirmed the working group:

- would remain responsible for inspecting public and permissive paths in Barrow and record any issues with signage, stiles, gates and bridges, or obstructions
- can liaise directly with CWAC footpath officer but requires use of the “footpath parish council” email address.
- can liaise directly with landowners. Request that PC Clerk is copied in.
- can continue to deliver booklets and collect monies received.
- will continue to make recommendations to PC regarding potential expenditure relating to footpath booklet funding.

Following consideration of the Clerk email, the group agreed to proceed moving forward as the Footpath Working Group.

### **Any Other Business**

PC advised he works for iMap and the school had recently signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh award. As a result, they will have student volunteers available to walk some of the footpath routes. There would need to be a nominated supervisor role who is able to sign off that they have undertaken the walk.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, 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