

## **MINUTES OF SHROPSHIRE AREA RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE MEETING ON FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, SHREWSBURY**

**PRESENT:** Trevor Allison (Area FP Secretary and Chair), Peter Carr (Area Chair and Osestry Group FP Secretary), Phil Barnes (Shrewsbury Group FP Sec.), Paula Doherty (Telford & ES Group FP Sec.), Peter James (Clun & SW Shropshire FP Secretary), Chris Jenkins (Oswestry Group), Marion Law (Secretary)

**APOLOGIES:** Sue Jones (Craven Arms area), Darren Hall (Church Stretton), John Wilkinson (Market Drayton)

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising:** Some discussion took place about how to involve the Shropshire Young Ramblers in footpath work.

It was hoped that they could be used for checking parts of the Shropshire Way, and Phil Barnes (as a member of the group) was asked to identify rewarding ways of doing some footpath work, possibly in connection with white roads and Lost Ways and by joining a work party of one of the existing 3P groups.

### **AREA FOOTPATH SECRETARY'S REPORT attached to agenda**

Trevor said that most of the recent diversion orders involved anomalies, or at building sites.

In relation to **ploughing and cropping**, the first letters to landowners were due to be sent out next week.

**Frodesley FP7 & BW4:** Trevor said that the time for comments on the Inspector's recommendations has now expired, and if there are none, the recommendations would go back to the Inspector for confirmation. We need to encourage the necessary work to be done on the ground.

A level crossing north of Craven Arms is currently closed by Network Rail, with legal notices in place requiring the route to be re-opened at the end of six months. Ove Arup, engineers, had been in contact with Peter Carr about the possibility of a bridge over the railway.

It was proposed and seconded that Trevor should write to Shropshire Council, copied to the Portfolio holder and to Craven Arms Town Council, requiring that the route be re-opened at the end of the statutory period. All in favour.

### **GROUP FOOTPATH SECRETARIES' REPORTS**

#### **Oswestry by Peter Carr, attached to the agenda**

Peter reported that **Welshampton 0216/13/1** is still to be followed up

The footpath affected by a solar farm at **Gobowen** still lacks a stile at one end, it is accessible but needs more work.

**0306/15/1**, from Travis Perkins, the surface is still disturbed but the central section is drying out. There seems no need for remedial work but the owner will regrade the path.

**Trefonen 0307/143/2**, Peter has been in correspondence with Eugene Suggett of RA Central Office, who recommends direct communication from Ramblers CEO to Shropshire Council CEO, or even from the Ramblers solicitor to the Council. Peter favours the latter. The meeting supported this course of action, with one abstention. Peter will progress this via Eugene.

**Trefonen Heritage Day:** Peter reported that Ramblers will be invited to take part, with a joint stand with the P3 group, and a focus on rights of way.

Peter had met Clive Knowles of the Ironworks to discuss how to promote the benefits of walking and the rights of way network as part of the tourist economy.

He had also met Roger Plowden, landowner and discussed Brexit and the potential effect on rights of way. A future joint meeting with the Country Landowners Association was planned.

**Tourist attraction:** Peter had met Clive Knowles of The Ironworks to discuss tourist attraction and the benefits of walking and rights of way to visitors.

Peter had also met Roger Plowden to talk about Brexit and its potential effect on farming. They plan a joint Ramblers/Country Landowners Association meeting.

**Clun and SW Shropshire by Peter James attached to the agenda:**

**Clunbury FP20 at Lyndale:** Trevor Allison reported that Kate Nore (SCC) had looked at the route of the ROW on the ground; she now needs to make a final decision based on historic evidence. The line of a diversion needs agreement and Trevor undertook to look again at the route before a final agreement is reached.

Trevor and Peter Carr asked Peter James not to bombard SCC with emails about this issue, but to allow the Council time to resolve it, given that there are many other problems to deal with.

**Craven Arms area:** Sue Jones reported that there were no obvious issues at present, but she would look at the problem of the closed rail crossing north of Craven Arms.

**Market Drayton Group, report attached by John Wilkinson**

**Telford & East Shropshire Group, report attached by Paula Doherty**

Paula reported additionally on obstructed rights of way on land owned by Harper Adams University College. She would send reports and pictures to T & W Council, but did not wish to be personally involved as a local resident. Peter Carr would try to get advice from an appropriate member of staff while at General Council.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A planning application had been made, and approved, to establish a winery in the Ellesmere Road area of Shrewsbury, which would affect a right of way.

**DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:** Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.