

Willington Parish Council

Footpaths and Open Spaces Group

Minutes of Meeting – Monday 19th November 2019

Present:

Tim Bartram – Chair - TB

Tony Bates – Vice Chair - AJB

Paul Cullen - PC

Ian Hudson - IH

Louise Ramsden - LR

Barbara Cassia - BC

Sue Finney - SF

Joe Cullen - JC

1 x Member of the public

1 x Guest – George Bird from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

50/19FO - To receive apologies for absence – Caroline Blanksby

51/19FO - Declaration of Members' Interests – No Interests Declared

52/19FO - Public Speaking, including County, District and Police Representation

George Bird from Derbyshire Wildlife trust spoke to the group at length about how DWT are proposing to develop Meadow Lane Nature reserve including the collaborative work they are undertaking with CEMEX. He discussed the recent funding application submitted to BIFFA, which was supported by WPC, introducing Beavers into the area is still a key area of focus for the group along with the creation of a circular footpath and visitor centre.

53/19FO - To confirm and agree as a true record the non-confidential Minutes of Willington Parish Council, Footpaths & Open Spaces Group meeting held on Monday 21st October 2019. Resolved that the minutes were a true record.

54/19FO - Transforming the Trent Valley.

George Bird, (Living Landscapes Officer) from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust gave the group a very informative update on the works currently ongoing on the Willington Gravel Pit Nature Reserve as detailed above.

55/19FO – Meadow Lane to FP7 footpath.

January 2026 is the cut off date to have PROW included on the definitive map.

The group agreed that it would be beneficial to invite key stake holders to a meeting to discuss possible ways forward on creating a FP across the Gravel Pits, these stake holders are to include Peter White DCC, DWT and the land owner.

Resolved – AJB to arrange meeting to discuss way forward.

56/19FO – Footpaths Maintenance and Plan of Action.

Survey sheets and updates received from three members of the group relating to BW 11 and FP's 1, 4, 7 and 13.

A recurring issue from the surveys carried out appeared to be the lack of suitable and sufficient sign posting of the PROW. PC to forward Survey Sheets to Clerk for permanent storage.

Resolved – To complete all actions as necessary identified during the surveys.

57/19FO – Working Group for planning each month.

PC provided the group with a generic risk assessment which could be adapted for most activities. TB as yet to identify who as planted the trees at the Institute Ponds but will continue to look into this matter.

BC has contacted Melbourne Footpaths Group and obtained some provisional costings for 'Footpath' signs, which is approximately £550 for 10, (believed to screen printed signs) and £275 for 1 cast aluminium sign, Melbourne Footpaths carry out all of the installation and maintenance work themselves.

The FOSG agreed that there is sufficient shortfall to warrant an initial purchase of 10 'Footpath' signs at £575.

TB has agreed to meet with Barry Thomas from The Melbourne Footpaths Group to exchange information/good practice.

Resolved – To seek funding from Full Council for the purchase of Footpath signs.

58/19FO – Ivy Close Planning Application 9/2019/0091

TB gave the group an update on the Ivy Close planning application which now appears on the SDDC planning portal as planning application number 0091. He informed the group that despite some strong opposition from several Parish Councillors, Full Council had agreed to commission an independent planning consultant to review the planning application and make recommendations to Council thereafter.

The group expressed disappointment that several Councillors had elected to either vote against employing independent planning consultants or abstain.

The group discussed how University students could assist with providing evidence/information into future large scale developments which would be detrimental to the village, DWT utilise such student for the work they carry out.

59/19FO – Willington Picnic Site car parking issues.

AJB submitted a written question regarding the parking at the picnic site to the area forum, this was done formally by email through the 'meetings' clerk so there is a proper record. At the time of the November FOSG meeting AJB still hadn't had the courtesy of a response to his query, update required at January meeting.

A Transit type van, advertising Willington Garage has started to park on the grassed area at the entrance to the Picnic Site, this is clearly the sort of parking that WPC want to

discourage and it was agreed to ask the Clerk to write to Willington Garage asking them to refrain from parking on the grass.

Resolved - Clerk to write to Willington Garage asking them to refrain from parking on the grass.

60/19FO – Willington Picnic Site.

Parking issues and unapproved usage at Willington Picnic Site have been an ongoing issue for many years and the group were keen to explore avenues that would secure the long term future of the site for future generations to enjoy. The group are aware that there are implications surrounding the owner of the site, Derbyshire County Council and their desire to generate income from various initiatives, including implementing car parking charges and the leasing land to a local public house.

Vehicles regularly park on grassed areas adjacent to picnic benches and staff from The Dragon PH have been seen driving a vehicle across the entire length of the site.

Unauthorised use of the site is also of concern with activities such as bouncy Castles often appearing in the summer months.

Resolved – The Clerk to make an official approach to Derbyshire County Council with a view to taking over control of the Picnic Site in its entirety to ensure its long term future for future generations to enjoy.

Date of next meeting – Monday 20th January 2020