



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 27th April, 2010

Ulley Parish Hall,
Main Street, Ulley

ATTENDING

John Harker
Richard Swann
Richard Brooke

Ken Whetter
Rachel Hayes
Jane Sara

Richard Pett – Senior Rights of Way Officer, RMBC Streetpride
Christian Hayes - CROW Act Officer, RMBC Streetpride
Michael Firth – Member of the public

1.0 Apologies

Peter Cogill

Jill Riley

Steve Hird

2.0 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2009 were agreed as a true record.

3.0 Matters Arising/Action Points

CH to pursue cost of creation order and contact RMBC Land Valuation team.

CH met with Paula Dales-Russell, the councils land valuer on the 11th of March to discuss the potential creation of a bridleway on Aston F16 (Hardwick Lane). Paula looked at two different solutions and the potential compensation that may have to be paid to the land owners.

Her findings were as follows:

“I refer to our meeting earlier today. In valuing the additional area involved in creating a bridleway as opposed to the existing footpath, I consider the additional land to be worth a maximum of £950.”

As discussed, it may be worth approaching the land owner with the offer of works ie fencing as opposed to financial compensation.

With regard to access along the private lane by Vessey Close Cottages, I feel that there are no land value issues to be considered and that any compensation offered should be based upon the additional traffic / wear and tear to the road surface."

CH has since written to the landowner to inform him that RMBC would be happy to either compensate him or offer to construct a new fenceline along the route or indeed discuss any other form of compensation he may prefer. But again there has been no reply and it appears that he is unwilling to even discuss the matter. The next option is to visit the landowner again in person to see if we can persuade him to at least consider the options. If this fails then we will go for a creation order.

RP informed the group that he is happy to pursue a creation order, however he would like the forum to bare in mind that a creation order will possibly be needed at Smithywood and this would certainly take priority over Hardwick Lane as the potential safety issues are far greater.

Action Point 1

CH to continue gathering evidence and pursuing an upgrade to bridleway at this location.,

RP to provide update on the A57 underpass

There are 2 proposed underpasses on the A57, but due to finance only one is being constructed presently. My fear is that there may only ever be one and as such I pressed for this underpass to be available to horses. However, I have been informed by planning that what I suggested was contrary to what legally we could ask for and was unreasonable, bearing in mind that:

- What is being put in is an improvement on site
- The costs of installing an equestrian underpass would be considerably higher

The bottom line with this underpass is that under the Section 106 agreement, the golf club MUST allow the public access within a month of completion. Our discussions with them have been cordial and I gather their intention is to approach us with a suggested package of measures which, of course, the LAF will be invited to comment on. Previously I have met on site with club officials and this seems a logical way to proceed. My personal feeling is that I would be happy to keep an open mind about access and to see what the club propose.

Whilst very welcome, it's a shame we couldn't have achieved more but as I say, legally we have taken the matter as far as we can for this underpass, but there is a cast iron guarantee of equestrian access at the other end of the A57. It also goes without saying that the golf club have shown every effort to co-operate over access in the past and it is understandable that they must protect their members finances and interests as best they can.

4.0 Update on CROW Act works from Chris Hayes

2009/10 Budget Spend

Item	Date	Value
Hire of Ulley Parish Hall for LAF	30.04.09	25.00
Land Registry Search for Whiston b/way	09.07.09	30.00
Kissing gates @ Aston F6	07.08.09	1846.00
Contribution to planting scheme @ Brinsworth F4	09.07.09	500.00
Fencing works to complete scheme @ Aston F6	25.08.09	1380.00
Hire of Woodsetts Hall for LAF	23.07.09	60.00
Removal of self set trees along Aston F6	07.08.09	335.95
Fencing on permissive f/p @ Roman Banks, Rawmarsh	25.08.09	1171.15
Removal of damaged A-frame + erection of new k-gate @ Boston F14 (Templeborough section)	14.09.09	655.00
Supply & erect new waymarker post @ Todwick F3	28.08.09	8.65
Fencing alongside whiston brook on new b/way (F7)	28.08.09	4350.93
Supply & erect new waymarker post @ Wickersley F9	28.08.09	8.65
Removal of A-frame + erection of k-gate. Plus removal of damaged fencing on Boston F14 (Canklow end)	14.09.09	1075.00
Removal of damaged A-frame & repairs to footpath	14.09.09	250.00
Hire of Woodsetts Parish Hall for LAF	08.09.09	60.00
Supply & erect 4No waymarker posts @ Thorpe Salvin	17.09.09	25.95
Design & print 1000 leaflets for Doorstep Walk 18	12.10.09	910.62
Construction of 2 sets of timber steps on Maltby F13	02.11.09	4955.35
3No Woodstock mobility k-gates from Centrewire	06.11.09	852.00
Clearance work to improve verge @ Long Ln, Treeton	11.11.09	110.39
Clearance work to improve verge @ Carr Ln, Carr	11.11.09	138.69
Clearance work to improve verge @ Common Rd, Thurc	11.11.09	188.69
Hire of Wentworth Mechanics Institute for LAF	17.11.09	50.00
Removal of fallen tree from permissive path @ Anston	01.12.09	65.00
2No bridle gates + 1No field gate for Whiston F7	04.12.09	452.00
Clearance work by Groundwork DV @ Maltby F18	10.12.09	11.36
Erect sign on Stan rouse Trail	11.12.09	50.00
Erect bridle gates & field gate at Whiston F7	18.01.10	1022.23
Erect 2No mobility kissing gates at Anston F3	18.01.10	1581.32
Clearance work by Groundwork DV @ Catcliffe	04.02.10	37.95
Radar key for Disabled Kissing Gates	09.02.10	4.00
Make safe dangerous branch over Aston F6	09.02.10	88.00
Install 65m long handrail on Thorpe Hesley F1	25.02.10	2195.00
Removal of section of dangerous fence – Anston F3	25.02.10	100.00
Easy latch for bridle gate at Whiston	26.03.10	39.00
Total		£24,633.88

Local Paths Partnership Scheme

I shall be overseeing the Local Paths Partnership scheme during 2010/11. This year 5 parish councils have signed up to the scheme: Aston, Thurcroft, Treeton, Wales and Thorpe Salvin.

Eastern Strategic Route

Richard Pett and I met with the Traffic Management Department to discuss the signing of the ESR, particularly the Thurcroft section. It has been agreed that new traffic signs promoting the route from nearby major roads will be designed and erected this financial year. I am currently drawing up a sign spec for the Todwick to Woodsetts section of the ESR and will then request quotes from sign companies.

It is hoped that the trail will be open by next summer, once a Pegasus crossing has been constructed across Todwick Road and all signage and access issues have been addressed.

Whiston F26 / F7

The gates and fencing work on the new permissive bridleway are now complete.

Ravenfield F2

I shall be replacing the 2 old wooden stiles adjacent to the church at Ravenfield with timber kissing gates. Once these are in place Rotherham Metro Ramblers will be erecting a plaque at the location to remember founding chairman Harry Rogers.

Aston 14

I have also ordered 2 timber kissing gates for the path at the rear of Aston Common farm. These will replace the two stiles.

Maltby F10

One of the metal kissing gates originally funded by Neighbourhood Development has been stolen, I have therefore ordered a replacement.

Maltby F30

Maltby running club have agreed to fund the replacement of a stile with a kissing gate on the path adjacent to Roche Abbey. However, due to the location, an archaeological survey must be carried out before any work goes ahead. The survey will be done by Archeritage of Sheffield over the 29th and 30th of April. Following that, a new kissing gate will be installed by RMBC Green Spaces.

Groundwork D.V.

Groundwork Dearne Valley have been instructed to repair 2 flights of timber steps within Birch Wood at Rawmarsh, place 2 railway sleepers adjacent to the footbridge to create a horse stile at Stoket Lane Ulley and also carry out vegetation clearance and a litter pick on Aston F6.

We are starting to use Groundwork DV more and more as they provide free labour and the standard of work so far has been excellent.

ROWIP Statement of Actions

The statement has yet to be updated, however I thank Ken for his suggestions which I shall be discussing with Richard and Bob Stock in the near future.

Bramley 3

I have received a request for motorcycle barrier on the above path (see plan). The Councils off-road motorcycle officer is in favour of a barrier as there has been an ongoing problem on this path for a number of years. A local contractor is able to carry out the work for approximately £250. Would the Forum have any objection to the CROW Act budget funding this?

Action Point 2

CH to submit specification of the barrier to LAF members for their approval before agreeing to fund it.

5.0 Updates from Richard Pett & Clare McRoy (RMBC Rights of Way)

5.1 Richards update

Smithywood Bridge

Replace footbridge at M1 J35 with multi-user to link Thorpe Hesley to TPT Sheffield trails (also verbal agreement to install Pegasus crossing at Thorpe Hesley as a result to address safety for all users and local school children – subject to future funding).

Works have been put back until November, but I am told by the HA that they will be taking place this year. I've been in touch with TPT Head Office and have their support for the proposed link to the bridge from existing paths nearby.

Parkway Bridge

I understand Yorkshire Forward moved funding at the last moment for this bridge and so construction now reverts to compliance with the amount of building on (the AMP) site once more, the trigger latest position is:

- I have been in touch with the architects of the three schemes I know are coming forward in the short term and obtained the proposed floorspaces.

These are as follows:

- NAMRC – 8,000 sqm
 - Rolls Royce – 17,200 sqm
 - NAMTEC – 975 sqm

 - **Total** **16,175 sqm**
- Currently there is approx 10,000 sqm of gross floorspace on site and the condition states that the bridge shall be provided prior to occupation of no more than 22,225 sqm. This means therefore that the requirement is likely to be triggered within the next 2-3 years (subject to the above being implemented).

Waverley Site

The bridleway is open and being subject to very, very minor abuse by motorbikes. Signage is up on site and the bridleway has recently been edged with trees, the route seems very popular.

We are about to attempt to rationalise the old 1940's lines around the river, and a diversion order or several will be heading your way soon. This is, to say the least, very complex and I apologise in advance for the order that will be coming. I'll be asking John as usual to cast his eye over it before it goes out to give a user perspective.

The overall intention this year is to:

- Install the flood defences to allow us to open up the diverted TPT along the river and install access for all along its complete length, opening the link into Catcliffe.
- Provide a DDA compliant wheelchair trail around the lakes.
- As a result of the open day, we are looking at what to do about access in the development area (which bare in mind has a 20 year life) and after suggestions, UK Coal are looking at making a figure of 8 available for riders within the site.
- On the new road front, a funding application has been submitted, but all such schemes are presently in abeyance until the election.

My intention and wish is still to provide equestrian access from Treeton and the Hail Mary area, and across towards RVCP, but please bear in mind that this site is very, very complicated, I keep reiterating this request and will keep doing so.

Connect 2 – Core Route

Work started last Thursday, is due to be completed in 6 weeks and will much improve access between the TPT and RVCP for all users, we'll probably have some sort of opening in the summer and I'll keep you posted. The Derbyshire section is as good as completed, it just needs a few barriers.

Connect 2 – Aspirational Route

We are about to finalise agreement with the Highways Agency to attempt to improve access near the Woodall Service Station, a draft order is available. If this order is approved, we can go ahead and create a link between Killamarsh and Todwick that is available to riders, cyclists and walkers. With the proposed works around Vessey Close Farm, the potential then is that these routes will link into greater access around Ulley and coupled with the Eastern Strategic Route at Thurcroft (below) could open up a significant amount of new and existing bridleways as part of the same hack, with links between Thurcroft, Woodsetts, Killamarsh and Whiston on the same potential route within a few years. The future then would be to expand north to the TPT at Conisbrough and east into Sherwood and Clumber.

All other routes are progressing nicely, the core route in Sheffield has been the subject of a public path creation order, the city council anticipate objections, obviously we'll be in touch again if there is a need for support. To reiterate, once the core route is legally a right of way and planning permission is granted for the trail and 2 bridges, our final funds (around 300k) are released, schemes are already in place that will easily spend half of this amount and we have plenty of scope to spend everything (and more) by the end of the project in 2013.

Eastern Strategic Route

Whilst physically available, we now need to install the Pegasus crossing at Todwick Road and improve road safety at Anston, both these matters are slowly progressing. We've approached parish councils on the trail asking for suggested names etc and enhanced signage is being worked on by Chris Hayes, with funds available from road safety, these works should take place this year.

YES

A request to extend planning permission has been submitted and is being discussed by RMBC tomorrow, it is worth noting that Joanna Edley has recently been head-hunted by the YES team. YES officers have offered to meet with the LAF at any time convenient to members.

Action Point 3

RP to arrange meeting between LAF and YES developers including Ian Dixon to discuss both the YES project and the management of RVCP

5.2 Clares update

The PROW Vegetation Clearance Programme for 2010 is again being carried out by the Green Spaces team. The Team has a relatively new manager, who has a promising proactive attitude towards the programme, i.e. he is keen to put extra staff onto the programme to ensure it is completed on time! The programme has been expanded slightly this year in response to previous customer complaints about vegetation and to include some of the Rotherham Trans Pennine Trail route. There is also likely to be a 3rd cut this year of the most popular routes. The weed spraying part of the programme is now underway and the first cut of the clearance programme is due to commence on the 17th of May. As was the case last year, there are a spare few weeks inbetween the main 2 programmed cuts when extra vegetation works and other minor works such as stile and gate repair and/ or replacement will be carried out. The second cut of the clearance programme is scheduled to begin on the 2nd of August. The Rotherham Walking Festival is being held between the 8th and 16th of May this year, and Groundwork Dearne Valley teams will be carrying out any necessary vegetation clearance on the walk routes for us, to enable the Green Spaces Team to get on with their annual programme without interruption.

Thanks to the outstanding work carried out for us by Groundwork Dearne Valley and Probation Service teams we achieved considerably more vegetation clearance, path surface and furniture maintenance work than would usually be the case, as the only cost we have in using these teams is for materials and provision of necessary facilities. The involvement of these 2 sources of labour will continue for this year until at least August, so we are hoping to get many more small schemes completed on this basis.

There are 3 surfacing schemes planned this year with our funding from Highways, the primary one of these is to improve the drainage and surface of the recently diverted section of Public Footpath Wentworth 20. This scheme is likely to take up all of the allocated funding, but we do have 2 smaller schemes waiting in the wings ready to mop up any surplus. Work is likely to start on site at Wentworth within the next 2 months.

The ploughing and cropping 'campaign' for this growing season has now commenced and so far we have a high level of compliance throughout the Borough. At the moment, reminders of their responsibilities are being sent to persistent offenders, and letters have gone out to several landowners, but no notices have needed to be served yet. CM is in the process of getting the amended version of the Rights of Way Enforcement Policy approved by Cabinet, thus giving the Team the necessary bureaucratic back-up for carrying out enforcement work.

As you can see, we are looking forward to a very busy (and hopefully dry!) spring and summer.

Action point 4

CM to respond to KW's request for details of how many enforcement letters were sent out in 2009/10.

Action Point 5

CM to send JH the amended ROW Enforcement Policy before it goes to cabinet

Action Point 6

CM to contact Mick Firth regarding Aston F5 as he has some further information for her.

6.0 Feedback from England / Yorks & Humberside and neighbouring Local Access Forums

NOTHING TO REPORT however JH and KW will be attending the next Yorks & Humberside meeting on May 17th

7.0 Any other business / Questions from the public

- 7.1 MF informed the group that Aston Footpath 10 is being used by horseriders.
- 7.2 MF informed the group of the upcoming consultation meeting on 26th May regarding the Ulley Windfarm. The plans show one of the windmills will be within 25m of a public right of way.
- 7.3 JS informed the group that the Rother Valley Bridleways Group are holding 2 fund raising events to raise money for the improvement of permissive bridleways within Hail Mary Wood. JH proposed that for every £1 raised by RVBG, the LAF (through the CROW Act budget) could contribute £2. Members of the group agreed to this.

- 7.4 RS informed the group that planning permission has been submitted for 5 houses to be built on the former livery yard site near Grange Avenue. RS asked CH to find out what vehicular access is being sought as it could affect nearby footpaths.

Action Point 7

CH to get copies of planning application and verify access routes.

8.0 Date and time of next meetings

Tuesday 27th July at 7pm – venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 3rd November at 7pm – venue to be confirmed