

SHROPSHIRE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING FORUM (SRCDF)

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11th June 2018, at 5.30pm, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

1. Attendance:

Angela Williams, BHS CABO & Ellesmere, Chairman. Zia Robins, Shrewsbury & District RC A&BWO, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Linda Russell, South West Shrewsbury BW P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Ann Durnell, Bridgnorth BWA. Elaine Newton, Broseley BWA. Jan Mees Robinson, Telford Bridleways. Shona Butter, Shropshire Council.

Apologies:

Pam Yuille, Underton, Bridgnorth. Andrew Kelly, Vyrnwy & Dist. BWA. Mark Weston, BHS.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th February 2018 (paper A) were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Helicopters

Squadron Leader Kim Leach, the Corporate Engagement Relations Officer at RAF Shawbury, has reported that the annual Landowners' and 4th Horse Rider Awareness Day on 17th May went well, and was well attended by about 28 riders, including safety reps from the BHS and Pony Club. She is aiming her campaign this year at Pony Clubs to give them hi viz, and hopes to talk to some of them over the summer. She briefed all the aircrew at Shawbury last week on rider awareness as part of their internal engagement, and it was well received. She asked that members note her new email address kim.leach347@mod.gov.uk. Elaine Newton, from our Forum, attended and reported having an excellent day. They had a talk, then were taken up in a helicopter and had to spot two cyclists in high viz on the ground. They recommended wearing high viz whilst turning out horses. The Shropshire Star had a photo and report on 28th May.

(b) Cycling – Mountain Biking (MTB' s)

Shona reported that they have had issues reported at Nesscliffe Countryside Heritage Park. Mountain Bikers are making their own routes and riding off Rights of Way. The Police have been involved. Picnic Benches have been broken and digging taken place to make jumps, and there is concern over bikers using the ramparts of the Hill Fort for down hill runs. There has been an incident of glass on The Cliffe, in an area used by the bikers, but as they ride off their legal bridleway routes, this may have been old glass from when there were squatters cottages, as broken glass and metal has been dumped there over the ages and is often exposed by the weather. The Shropshire Star carried rather sensational reports. Zia reported a lot of old broken glass etc. having to be cleared when the new bridleway was put through the Shrubbs Common on Hopton Hill. Downhill cycling is also causing run-off, bringing debris down onto the bridleways. Cycling sites state that cyclists have a right to ride on Bridleways, but there is lack of information on the requirement by law for cyclists to give way to walkers and horse riders. Cycle Racing is also not permitted by law on Public Bridleways. It has been suggested in the news that cycling laws should be brought in line with driving, following incidents of people being killed and injured by dangerous cycling.

(c) Outdoor Partnerships Annual User Survey 2018

Noted - The 2018 Annual User Survey Results - Summary sent out to members on 4th June.

There was a lot of input by equestrians to the 2018 User Survey, a lot more than in previous years. It is very important that equestrians continue to respond to this Annual Survey.

(d) Any other matters arising not on the Agenda

Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Project

Lucy McFarlane is working with Powys on cross border routes including the unregistered section of old lane to the west of Corndon Hill. East of Corndon Hill there is an old road, Poker Lane, shown as an Unclassified County Road (UCR) in Shropshire, which has now been gated at the Powys County boundary. There was an Ale House there. This is an important link to Bridleways to the east. Zia has photos of riding it before it was gated. Zia is concerned over the lost opportunity with the Project to look at gaps in the riding network such as the Unclassified County Road from Rorrington link route up to the ridge Byway on Stapeley Common Shona advised Zia to speak to Lucy McFarlane with regard to routes.

Drones

Zia said that a Shropshire Star Report raised concerns over use of Drones. A lot of surveying is now done by Drones, including a recent one of Nesscliffe Hill Fort. RAF Shawbury's website advised that a drone should not be flown higher than 400 feet, must be kept in line of sight at all times, not flown within 150 feet of people or property, or within 500 feet of crowds or built up areas. It also states that if you spot anyone doing this, report it to the Police on 101.

There are no other matters arising

4. Shropshire Council

(a) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships

Noted - that the Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Volunteers Newsletters are available on www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk website on the Home page under 'Useful Links' – 'News'.

Noted – the updated 'Access Mapping and Enforcement Team Areas' Map (sent with Agenda).

Zia reported that Clare has written an email on Reporting Issues on the Public Rights of Way network. There are on average 976 incidents annually, so individual feedback is not always possible. To make sure that they are effectively recorded, and can then be tracked, it is preferable that they are emailed directly to outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk. Shona said that Cara then logs them and forwards them to the appropriate person, so it is very important that the position of the problem being reported is **clearly** identified with the Route Code or accurate grid reference. An automated response will be sent, and if people want an update they must then state this. Zia will forward the email to Forum members. (This was forwarded on 12th June 2018) Shona also reported that Helen Foxhall only does 1 day a week with her department so cannot deal with general inquiries, so Emily will be dealing with these issues for Helen's area.

(b) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Implementation Team

Noted – The updated 'Area Officers Areas Map' (sent out with the Agenda).

Richard Knight has reported that they are two maintenance Officers short at the moment, but have interviewed for replacements, so are struggling for staff to carry out the annual topping etc. at this critical time of the year.

Sansaw BW 0210/31 Richard does not have any update on the works to be done. This was being dealt with by Harvey Morgan.

Adcote Mill Bridge BW 0202/54 linking BW0202/UN3 & BW 0425/54 and opening up of adjoining Ford 0202/UN3. – They are working with WSP (formerly Mouchel) to get things in motion. Shona reported that this is a complex matter with access issues for replacing the bridge, but they hope to have things in place to do the work in the late summer.

BW 0419/25B Nesseliffe – Shona reported that a date was set for her and Richard to meet with the Landowner, to deal with the problem of the dug away definitive BW line, but then cancelled.
BW 0432/6 Acton Burnell, from the bend East of Langley Chapel via BW0414/1, to the Kenley to Acton Burnell Road. Richard reports that they are trying to find the time to replace this bridge with a timber one.

Melverley RB1 - drainage. This is another one waiting for the staff to deal with it.

Hopton Shrubbs Common BW 0419/UN14 to BW to Pine Car Park – The damage done by a works vehicle getting stuck on the bridleway will be attended to when they do the scraping on the section of the Shrubbs to Shruggs BW at the other end, adjacent to where they have done track improvements works on the bridleway paid for by the landowner.

Acton Round - Shirlett RB 0101/UN1 – Shona reported that she did a statement on the history of incidents there. The Police are now dealing with this following a recorded incident on the route and follow up by Shona. She asked for any further information to be sent to her. Elaine reported an incident of a gate being locked across the route between the two estates.

Shawbury RB 0225/1 - We are still awaiting confirmation of the completion of works there.

(c) Shropshire Council Planning

Gypsy Lane, Gledrid - Zia reported that Kate Nore has responded on behalf of SC ROW to the Planning Application 18/00056/FUL, which they were again not consulted on, for the Caravan Park at Gledrid which will impact on the UCR and **BW0309/UN1/10 – Gypsy Lane**, which leads under the A5, and is the only safe crossing for equestrians of the A5 for some distance.

Nordley, Aston Abbotts BW 6R - Ann Durnell reported that there are plans to demolish a 2 bed cottage to build a new 5 bed house, and to put in 2 new access points onto BW6R. Application 18/01952/FUL. She is concerned over the safety aspect. They have already ripped out a hedge. Shona will check this with Kate Nore who now deals with Planning Issues. Ann was advised to check it and report this. It is important if access for a Planning Application is onto, or up a Public Bridleway or Restricted Byway, that it is checked if the applicant has prescriptive rights to drive up the BW or RB. Private rights can be acquired by long usage.

Shona confirmed that they do not get notification of, or consulted on agricultural planning applications for permitted development. They have had about 3 Environmental Impact Assessments which impact on ROW, but which they don't get consulted on as they don't have to, but planning do inform Parish Councils, so they have said that they want to be notified on these so they can check any impact on ROW..

There have been more Applications to extend Chicken Farms, including ones at Little Minsterley, and at Upton Magna. Shona confirmed that again they had not been consulted on the latter.

Baschurch Railway Yard 17/02174/REM - The new plans now show the proposed bridleway route

through the site, but the last section is through the middle of a proposed car park.

Mortimer Forest – A Planning applications for 68 Forest Chalets has received lots of objections. These Chalets could impact on the Forestry tracks which are open to horse riders in Shropshire. Horse riders do not need a permit in Shropshire Forestry, following the Concordat reached some years ago by the British Horse Society.

Flax Mill - Maltings – Zia raised concern over the proposed outlet for the Greenfields BW 0443/UN52/2, as Angela has been sent a Stopping up order confirmed on 25th May 18 for the UCR from the railway bridge, with the proposed new vehicle route to be alongside the railway line. The proposed non-motorised link through is only shown as a 'Proposed cycle route'. This needs to be a Public Bridleway on the Definitive Map and not just a Cycle Path.

Nesseliffe Countryside Heritage Park – Following the concern over the impact by new development on the Park, and the linking routes between the Hills, Clare is looking into ways of protecting the Heritage Park and is looking into NNR status.

New housing Estate alongside the north of the A5 Oswestry Bypass - Zia raised the plans for this. There are proposals for a cycle way link over the A5. This should be a multi- user crossing point, and not just a cycle and footway.

Shona confirmed that they are looking at Green Space and Planning. When more than 10 houses are planned the developer has to provide Green Space. They want co-ordination with this Green Space requirement, where there is a lot of development planned in an area, creating useable areas of green space, and inclusion of linking multi-user routes.

NOTED - Kate Nore, kate.nore@shropshire.gov.uk deals with all the Searches and Planning Applications, so one person sees it all through. She consults with the area ROW Officers. Applications can be viewed on <http://planningpa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications>

(d) Shropshire Council Highways

Richard Knight has reported that, following the UCR funding being removed last year, there has been no decision yet on this year. He suggests that we report any UCR problems direct to Highways as his department now have no budget for this work. He reports that, with the help of a contractor, they did manage to finish off the Hill Houses BOAT work that the Clee Hills BW Group was so patient in waiting for.

Chapel Lane, Yorton. UCR U2527/10 - No change on the incorrect signing of this UCR.

Old Moors Lane UCR U1019/20 St. Martins – Shona has had a query on the status from local residents. She has informed them that it is a UCR.

Polemere to Hinton, UCR U4941/10 dual registered as BOAT 0431/UN7– Richard reports that this is occasionally wet, but not a priority. The landowner has cut back a lot of trees recently which should help.

Dyas Lane also written as Dyers Lane UCR U1763/10 Baschurch – 25 houses are being built down the first section of this old green lane UCR, the part which the Coffin Path followed, and it has been surfaced and renamed ‘All Saints Way cul de sac’ This is a through lane and part of the Humphrey Kynaston Way route. This has been reported to Highways and the PC.

North West Relief Road – Shona has not had any update on this. Angela has been looking into the link by Hencote vineyard on railway plans. This was an old through road. Ramblers are looking at the change in line of this Hencote route.

Oxon Link Road Bicton – Zia reported that it is planned to cut off Shepherds Way and Calcott Lane, with no link across the new road for equestrians. The Planning Application is now awaited. Shona has not heard any more on this. Shepherds Way is needed to link to Angela’s ¼ sessions claim over the overbridge of the A5 to Onslow. New Green areas/routes provided by development in this area could provide valuable multi user links.

Potholes – Concern was raised over the condition of roads with deep potholes not being repaired. Shona confirmed that there are more than 5,000 potholes this year needing repair.

Noted: Enforcement on UCR’s is still the responsibility of Highways.

5. Public Inquiries and Definitive Map Issues

Frodesley Lodge BW4 – Letters will be going out on this giving notice that it will be opened up on the Inspector’s decision line, unless there is agreement by all to a diversion to where the field gate was, and then along the field edge. They will be given 14 days to respond. It was agreed by Forum Members that it was a good decision to put forward this diversion..

Bentley Ford Farm BW 7R outlet – The outlet is open and useable, but Shona said that they are looking at getting a safe route by the farm area for the existing obstructed section of the bridleway from Frodesley. She confirmed that it would not be diverted through the farmyard.

Hanwood Railway crossing – Shona reported that there has been no advance on the correct recording of the definitive status of the railway crossing.

Old Coalport to Bridgnorth Railway Line and Link – There is a short section currently registered as a a footpath, that swings round and goes under the railway bridge. This needs to be

dedicated as bridleway. Mick Baldwin was dealing with it. Shona thought that Lucy knows about this. This is **Sweyney Bridge**. It is the Shropshire Way. The Railway line is only permissive and also needs to be dedicated as a Definitive Bridleway.

Stiperstones Higher Access Route – the showing of the higher status of this route to the public has still not been resolved.

Oaks Wood BW claim – no further progress.

Drumbles BW outlet to Platt Bridge claim – Shona confirmed that this is next on her list.

Weston Woods BW claims – Shona reported that the owners, who are objecting to the Orders, have put the land up for sale. Emily has written her statements and these will be sent off soon.

Sutton Mill – This is still ongoing. It is a very complex issue which Lucy is working on the Statements for. The Order was published for a Public Footpath which got rejected, they asked for BW which was rejected, and they appealed which was rejected. New evidence was discovered for this, and for Dog Kennel Lane, and they put in new Orders which were objected to, so they now have to send it off to the Inspectorate to determine.

Hilton BW claim – No change. Unlikely to be dealt with for some time due to work pressures.

Market Drayton BW 9 diversion – Shona confirmed that this is now nearly completed. They are waiting for the grass strip to be marked out for the BW parallel to the cycle path.

Richards Castle BW addition Mitnell Lane – the Inspector's modifications following the PI in November were advertised. The people threatened to go to the High Court and the deadline for this was the 7th June, but they have not heard anything on this. If all is ok, they will open it up.

Bishops Castle, Banks Head, RB Addition – Shona confirmed that they are now publishing the Orders for the sections in Shropshire and Powys for the Restricted Byway addition. The parallel green lane needs evidence of use, and claiming. It is understood that it is used as a circular route. There used to be a Racecourse to the South of these routes.

Adderley – This is ready to be published

Taddymoor Lane, Hopesay nr Craven Arms – Lucy is working on this. It is a clearly defined track with footpaths exiting onto it that has not been recorded. Evidence is needed for this route.

Linley Estate northern outlet for UCR URS U5999/10 – It was asked if any approach had been made to the new owners of the Estate on the missing outlet for this long UCR. Shona said that this was one to raise with Lucy.

6. Claiming Lost Ways

Angela reported that she had been contacted by a Mike Crawshaw, the Community Engagement Officer for the EU and Heritage Lottery funded Bog Life Project based at Whixall.. He is looking into the opportunity to discuss horse riders' access to the Marches Mosses. There was a meeting in April with 2 members from the NE Wales Team, as Whixall Moss is in Shropshire and Wales, and they divided the area into four to look at. They have a meeting tomorrow. Angela said she has explored the area she was given, and also on Lost Ways CD's, and there are 4 unrecorded strong Public FP's and five unrecorded strong Public carriageways. One is a RUPP which ends in a BW past a closed scrapyard. It is fenced across. She cycled and photographed the routes and will present this at the meeting with Mike and the other two tomorrow. She will need to know how these strong Lost Ways claims will be progressed and asked Shona about this. Shona said the research has been done, but that it would need funding, and to be tied up with a bigger package. Angela said that Lord Kenyon owns the Railway Line, which is ridden, and that they are trying to get permissive, but she thinks that he should be approached to dedicate this route. Elaine reported that she rode this route when she worked there. Andrew Kelly found an enclosure award for the Wales end of Moss. The Lost Ways have put un-surfaced ways as FP's but these could hold higher rights. Shona confirmed that the RUPPS will all be Restricted Byways now. Zia reported that Jim Stabler had a file on all the white roads in that area; that John Gibson put in information on carriage driving routes; and that Natural England looked at Higher Access routes there, but could not progress these as they were cross border and Wales was not in the scheme. Angela will forward the information to Zia.

Colebatch – BOAT claim – This Order was made prior to CROW and it should be a Restricted Byway. They may have to send this to the Inspectorate to determine.

Buildwas – The gate is locked on this old route.

Baschurch Routes - Zia is looking at claims in this area. We need to get the section of BW from the Baschurch Station Yard Planning Site ¼ Sessions Diversion south to the Eyton Lane.

It is agreed that we should ask LMBWA to report on what they are doing on Lost Ways so as not to duplicate.

TO NOTE - Highways and Landowners Statements and Declarations, Formal Applications & Public Path Orders are available through ‘Useful Links’ on the home page of www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk click on ‘Access & Rights of Way’ and then the link to the new website. Go to ‘Countryside Access and Public Rights of Way’.

7. Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Consultation

Only 34 people have fed back in on this Consultation. Natural England has stated that it is a really good document. Zia found that Network Rail has been omitted as a body to consult. Cross Border liaison is also to be added. She is on the working party for this.

It is very important that members check the documents for any omissions on equestrian or other matters.

Noted - The Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Draft revised Policies Appendix 5.

Under ‘Surfacing Policy’ Jan put forward the rubber NU-PHALT which is used up north, and was used for the National Cycle network. She got information on this from the National Federation of Bridleways. Shona said that it would be good to see an example.

Angela mentioned some new porous surfacing used by Kew Gardens. Linda mentioned Hippo Tiles which are produced locally and used for stables and other applications.

8. Minutes and Feedback from SGOSB and other Forums

The Minutes of the Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Board held on 30th January 2018 and 19th March 2018 are noted and that a meeting was held at 10am this morning, the 11th June.

Shropshire’s Great Outdoors Strategy Board Minutes - The Board covered funding for P3 groups, volunteers etc., Brexit and opportunities to improve access, and the Strategy Working Group consultations and workshop.

Concern was raised, at the meeting, that where a Public FP is converted to a cycleway under 1984 Cycle Act it is deleted from the Definitive Map

We do not now have a member to report from the Strategy Board meetings to our Forum. Mark Weston, the Equestrian representative has not been able to attend the last two meetings.

Shona reported that there was a misunderstanding at today’s meeting with the All Terrain UK representatives who thought they were to be attending as members of the Strategy Board, and not just to do a presentation.

For Strategy Board papers and list of the members so far appointed go to.

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=727>

Previous LAF Meeting papers are available with ctrl+click on: - [Local Access Forum](#).

Noted - Minutes of the Central Walking Forum held on 18th May 2018

- Minutes of the Northern Walking Forum held on 23rd April 2018

- Minutes of the Shropshire Hills Forum Meeting held on 16th February 2018.

Central Walking Forum – Members discussed items in the minutes including that the Insurance is now back in place for volunteers. Rob Purcell is now very busy as he is covering a massive area. Helen now does 4 days with Walking for Health so is unable to administer these forums. David Hardwick has been working with the Long Mynd & District BA at Pennerley. Zia reported that Norbury P3 helped clear two local through bridleways. Shona's team have been following up on Ploughing and Cropping offenders, including inadequate width provided for a headland bridleway. Shona confirmed that she is looking at one at Montford tomorrow. Shona is going to produce a User Guide.

Northern Walking Forum – Some items mentioned above were raised.

The Montgomery Canal Partnership has made suggestions for development of walking, and cycling/horse riding routes. – (see minutes for details). These include dedication of BW rights along Llanymynech & Pant FP197 to give a possible circular route. Angela's claim by Decoy Cottages for FP49 part and the route over Keepers Bridge to Rednal, and possible dedication of BW rights along FP14 West Felton. Shona reported that Emily has done research on more routes.

Shropshire Hills Walking Forum – notes the popularity of off-road cycling in Mortimer Forest; that off route cyclists don't seem keen to volunteer to maintain paths, and the need for bells on bikes to warn other users.

9. Any Other Business or items to Note

Linda reported that Zia had attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party last week. She received her invitation for her Access work.

Out of Control Dogs - There are still ongoing problems with Dogs not on a lead or under close control, in Nesscliffe Countryside Heritage Park. A dog walker recently had 6 dogs off leads running around on The Cliffe. There is concern over a published book 'Shropshire - A Dog Walker's Guide'. It states in the Introduction that each route has been chosen so that most of the time you will be able to let your dog run free. For the Nesscliffe Hills routes it states 'and the free-running expanse of heathland along the ridge of the Cliffe' and 'What's more, in the whole 5 mile ramble he won't be on a lead for more than a few yards' There are two short linking lane sections in the routes. Other Shropshire routes have similar statements. Under Advice for Dog Walkers it does state that the dog need not be on a lead, although it should not stray from the line of the path. There is no advice about meeting horse riders on the higher status routes such as around Nesscliffe, and the The Cliffe. Loose dogs have caused horse rider accidents there.

Oswestry Heritage Comic Strip - Zia reported that she had contributed to an Oswestry Heritage Comic strip piece by John Blogger on Protecting Ancient Routeways, for the 24th April edition of the Border and Counties Advertiser. She emphasised the importance of getting routes correctly recorded on the Definitive Map.

Listing of Historic Routes - Zia put forward that there should be a listing system, like for listed buildings and Heritage sites, for the protection of important historic routes such as sunken ways, drove routes, etc. Rights of Way law only protects a line, and not the setting.

There is no other business or items to note.

10. Dates of the Next Meetings

The date of the next meeting, to be held at the Shirehall at **5.00pm for a prompt start at 5.30-7.30pm**, is agreed for **Monday 15th October 2018**.

The 4th February 2019 is confirmed for the date of the following meeting.