

**MINUTES OF PRUDHOE PATHFORCE, held 19th November, 2018
at 2:00 pm at The Spetchells Centre in Prudhoe**

PRESENT: Coun. Duncan Couchman (act. Chair) Pete Barrett (act. Sec), June Rose (Treas/Health Walks), Brian Hudspith, Co Coun. Gordon Stewart, Tim Fish (NCC), Jo Bentley, Geoff Diamond.

APOLOGIES: (none)

IN MEMORIAM: A minutes silence was observed in memory of Mavis Harris.

TEMPORARY OFFICERS: Following the passing of Mavis, It was agreed that PB become acting Secretary and DC become acting Chair with immediate effect until the next AGM.

MINUTES: of the meeting held 17th September 2018 at Bradley Farm Cottage were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING: DC (chair) welcomed all to the meeting. PB reported that there was now no crop obstruction on the Inter-Parish walk between East Farm, High Mickley and the TC Garden Centre. BH understood that Woodlands Trust to take over Low Guards Wood and pathways would be made.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

FP22 (Cottier Grange, Gentoo, etc) to be opened by April 2019 if not before. GS had been working on this today and TF to do site survey later in that week. Legal closure still extant. Alternate route from Moor Road "contentious". **Kepwell:** PB had received a history bundle from Sarah at PTC. There was a brief discussion on restoration options and funding. PB to visit Kepwell with an employee of NWL. **MMM Project:** TF said that a donation from PPF was unnecessary. **LOI:** Discussion on heritage trail with interpretation of artefacts. TF said this presented a new opportunity to include LOI info in a new leaflet. TF has original artwork and dialogue and will return to PPF with an update. **PTC Grant:** PB reported that the grant aid process had changed, and no requirement to make a bid at end of November. Our bank balance (a copy was circulated) stood at £ 531.02. The meeting agreed that a request for £50-00 grant be adequate and then resources would be sufficient to produce new or revised walks leaflets. PTC could retain all or part of an agreed grant and then process invoices directly to recover VAT. **Health Walks Leader Training:** PB circulated an invitation from Loraine Oliver to attend a training day on 07 December. **Change of Banking Persona:** Our account with Barclays requires 2 of 3 officers to authorise payments. DC to visit local branch with completed papers and proof of identity.

NCC AND FIELD REPORTS:

BH reported obstruction to part of **Stanley Burn** path due to trees felled by wind; contractors to check. BH asked if path at **Whittle Burn** (Ovingham parish) could be diverted (instability of riverbank) as it was closed near chalets. No progress on **Wylam bank** path near Tom & Joe's Nursery. PB reported that **Pennine Way** north of Sycamore Gap (Hadrian's Wall) was treacherous due to marshland. TF said this was a SSSI protected site, but would consider if signage or diversion was appropriate. GD reported damage to 4-way finger post on **Modigar's Lane** south of High Mickley. DC reported a problem on path near **Coal Dub on Princess Way** due to water draining onto it from carriageway. TH said contractors are working near here. No progress on bridleway claim. DC reported an issue on path between **Ovington and Newton**. GD reported poor waymarking and an electric fence on a path **north of Acomb**. PB asked TF if it would be possible to obtain **maps for surrounding parishes**. TF said that although this was possible, the quality of GIS mapping may not be suitable for purpose. GS was asked (not certain by whom, I'm sorry!) if NCC could provide a litter bin at on **Moor Road at South Park**.

GS reported that plans for a **new retail site on Princess Way** (near roundabout east of castle) are now imminent. GS also reported on the meeting (previous week) of **local outdoor volunteer groups**. He praised the work of volunteers and the meeting gave an opportunity to meet and

discuss any requirements for tools and sharing of ideas and expertise. The meeting was hosted by Karbon Homes at The Manors.

AOB:

The issue of **parking at the Rail Station** would be discussed at the PTC meeting. PB suggested that PPF should **join Ramblers** as an affiliate member. This was **carried**. PB to contact local Ramblers group to arrange.

NEXT MEETING: 21st January 2019 at 2 p.m. at The Spetchells Centre

**PROPOSED AGENDA for PRUDHOE PATHFORCE, 21st January , 2019
at 2:00 pm at The Spetchells Centre in Prudhoe.**

**Please advise PB (acting sec.) of any other items for inclusion
(webweaverpete@gmail.com)**

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

MINUTES PREVIOUS

MATTERS ARISING

OFFICERS' REPORTS (inc Finance and Grant Aid)

NCC REPORT/FIELD REPORTS

AOB (please advise in advance if any new major items)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MINUTES OF PRUDHOE PATHFORCE held 21st January 2019 at 2pm at The Spetchuells Centre, Prudhoe

Present Coun Duncan Couchman (act. Chair), Pete Barrett (act. sec.), June Rose (Treasurer/Health Walks), Tim Fish (NCC Footpath Officer), Brian Hudspith, Anne Fettis (minutes). Margot Robson (Footpath Officer, South West Northumberland branch of The Ramblers Association,) was welcomed.

APOLOGIES CC Gordon Stewart, Jo Bentley, Geoff Diamond

MINUTES of the last meeting on 19-11-2018 were approved

MATTERS ARISING TF reported that the hospital woodland path through Cottier Grange was open outside working hours and at weekends. This would apply until April and after that permanently. Once the closure Order expired it would not be renewed.

Fallen trees had been removed by volunteers and the management company for Homes England.

Ramblers Association PB had been in touch with head office. On joining, a cheque for £64 for affiliated membership would be sent to HQ. MR said advantages of affiliation would be that PPF could get involved with major RA projects, and she could see what PPF did. She had access to RA legal team, whether access was given to affiliated member, she didn't know.

BH reported need of bridge repair on ROW going towards hospital. TF knew of another needed bridge repair and said they were on the radar.

The Kepwell PB had examined well with DC and N Water official who described it as a spring coming from a crack in the rock face. The official said if its cleaning up could be classed as a community project with ecological benefit, funds could be made available. DC said £2,000 was being provided by PTC to do up the well, and if the NWA scheme progressed this money could be used in Prudhoe throughout the year, possibly monthly litter picks.

Agreed PB and DC take a photograph of well to be sent to NWA.

Footpath Retail Site Princess Way DC said there was no direct foot way access from town to the site. BH mentioned a footpath in the area which could be used as part of a link. DC said Town Council would insist on direct footpath connection. He believed it would be part of the detailed planning process. BH asked about status of footpath at South Park. TF said nothing to report; would depend on who they were dealing with. BH said Woodland Trust would need help to make it all one entity.

DC said NCC had withdrawn proposed parking charges at Prudhoe Station and Tyne Riverside Country Park, subject to ratification by full council.

OFFICERS' REPORTS Further to a request at previous meeting TF produced 6 copies of maps of the parishes of Broomley and Stocksfield, Hedley and Ovington, Ovingham and Wylam. Also circulated re-printed copies of Prudhoe maps. He said he would be meeting Mavis's granddaughter next month to discuss new walks leaflet for new Land of Oak and Iron Heritage Trail. LOI had provided money for an interpretation board in the cafe at Tyne Riverside and his dept was looking to use some remaining money for the walks leaflet, which would refresh the existing one.

He planned to have some drafts for the next meeting. BH noted that steps on The Spetchells had been improved.

TF said sign post replacements on BWs 13 and 62 were in progress. A sign post and stile on FP 14 at West Wylam had been replaced. The rubble pile on the golf driving range, near High Mickley was being removed this very day.

Treasurer's report the bank balance was £514.22. The sum of £50.40 paid for room hire, and £16.18 for room hire for today's meeting. It was agreed to apply to PTC for £50 grant this year. The grant to be used towards another walks leaflet. PB and DC to speak to Sarah of PTC about VAT situation..

AOB PB said he was receiving a blog (Sycamore Gap) from pals interested in footpaths etc and would TF be interested? TF and MR said they would. TF said former member, and cycling representative on Pathforce, David Roberts, had called him. His health was better and he expressed an interest in coming back. TF would put him in touch with PB.

Next Meeting to follow annual meeting, on 18th March 2019 at 2pm at The Spetchells Centre. Nominations are being sought for officials.