

# Minutes of Prudhoe Pathforce General Meeting 18th March 2019 at Spetchells Centre

The meeting commenced at 2:25 pm immediately following the AGM.

## 1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

**Present:** Duncan Couchman (chair), Pete Barrett (sec), Cllr Gordon Stewart & Lucy, Jo Bentley, Tim Fish (NCC).

**Apologies:** June Rose (treas). Brian Hudspeth.

## 2. MINUTES PREVIOUS

PB thanked Anne Fettes for preparing the minutes of the General Meeting of 21st January, when he had been unable to write following surgery. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

### i. FP 22 - Cottier Grange development

GS advised that FP 22 should be open again on 30th April this year. Our MP, Guy Opperman, was aware of the issues with Gentoo Housing at Cottier Grange.

### ii. Membership of Ramblers

A cheque for £64-00 would be sent to Ramblers (Association) for Affiliated Membership after our accounts for 2018 had been audited by Mr Warburton.

### iii. The Kepwell (or Kep Well)

PB to contact NWL "Just an Hour" Charity Helpline to find if they can provide help to tidy-up the Kepwell. It was noted that work may have to be delayed until autumn to avoid disturbance to nesting birds and fledgelings. Works to include:

- Clearing undergrowth
- Lopping of overhanging branches
- Removal of silt from well basin
- Removal of beer-cans and similar rubbish

PB to liaise with PTC and explore whether bulbs for planting at the Kepwell could be sourced from Hollybush Nursery (gardening contractors to Prudhoe Town).

### iv. Footpath: Retail Site Princess Way

GS said that Planning Application for retail development will receive consent. A request for an archeological excavation at the site had been made, but this was not likely to affect the footpath. Footway access from Prudhoe residential areas to the new retail park had "no easy fix". A bus service between the Interchange and the retail park had not been "factored in" yet.

## 4. FINANCIAL REPORT

### i. Accounts for 2018

PB reported that the accounts for 2018 were now being prepared for submission to Ian Warburton for audit.

## ii. Grant Application

A Grant Application for £50.00 had been made to PTC. Exceptionally, PTC had accepted this typed application without the standard pro-forma and a signature as PB was recovering from hand surgery.

## iii. Bank Statement

Copies of the bank statement were circulated. This showed the balance of £497.42 at 20 February 2019.

## 5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

### i. Cockshot Dene

TF said the condition of two existing PROWS at Cockshot Dene were acceptable for leisure use.

### ii. Walks Leaflets

TF had met Kiera who was keen to work with Pathforce on the production of leaflets. Projects may include:

- Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Trail (no rush, next month or so)
- Riverside: Castle, Spetchells & Hagg Bank
- A redesign of the Hyons Wood leaflet
- Cockshot Dene
- Interpretation panels in the Riverside Park

**Format of leaflets** Discussion on layout: proposed A4 tri-fold format.

**Funding** TF said that about £15,000 had been earmarked for Prudhoe heritage works and leaflets could be part of this, along with interpretation panels and groundworks. PPF to be joint sponsors along with a funding split of 75% (LOI) to 25% (NCC). It was agreed that PPF's contribution would be £250-00. PPF would be responsible for distribution of new leaflets.

### iii. Princess Way - coal-dub crossing

DC reported that uncontrolled water runoff from the carriageway (A6395) was resulting in the muddy condition of the PROW adjacent to the south margin of the carriageway near its junction with the road up to the Castlefields Estate.

### iv. BW 11 - near Mickley Golf Range

TF reported that the rubble which had been dumped on the way had now been removed.

### v. Kepwell Footpath

DC reported that this was sometimes flooded due to a blocked gully. Tobe reported as a highways problem via the NCC website.

### vi. Footpath 66 - Western Avenue - Bullshaugh Wood

JB reported that the downhill section of FP 66 (Western Avenue to junction with FP 34) was difficult to use. (Apologies from Secretary: my notes do not reveal the nature of the problem!)

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

## 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Originally agreed as Monday 27th May (but please see revision [i] below).

Meeting closed at 4:00pm.

### i. Postscript - Date next meeting

Two days after the meeting, TF emailed PB to say that the 27th May is a Bank Holiday. Room-booking for the "May" meeting has now been confirmed at the Spetchells Centre for Monday 3rd June 2019 at 2pm. Apologies to colleagues for any inconvenience.

**END** Typeset in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X- by Pete Barrett