

Minutes of the Malvern Wells Parish Council PROW Working Group held at 7.30pm Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 at Malvern Wells Village Hall Committee Room

In attendance: Norman Nimmo-Smith (Parish Paths Warden), Peter Clement, Cllr Pam Stanier, Toby Taylor, Richard Winterton

1. Peter Clement chaired the meeting
2. Apologies: Steve Atwell, Cllr Chrissie Gates, John Stiggers
- 3 . The minutes of the previous meeting were approved
- 4 . Matters arising from the minutes:

Peter noted that the footpath report from that he had recommended to new comers, had not been attached to copies of the last meeting minutes. (They will be sent this time)

MW-531 will be looked at by Steve Maund.

A working party had widened MW-555

John Stiggers had asked whether under item 4 on the agenda and re item 8 of the minutes of the last meeting, an official request had been made to the golf course to do a formal risk assessment and if not, who took the decision not to.

Norman made the following points:

He had not yet asked the parish council to take any formal action (we had not had a vote on this in January and had only agreed to consider making a formal request) so we duly gave it consideration at this point in the meeting.

Toby agreed with John that it was a serious matter and we all agreed that is a risk.

Norman has had many discussions in the past about this with the golf course staff, particularly the groundsman Steve Lloyd who has been very helpful and has assessed the risks. He thinks the golf course have taken the matter seriously.

There are warning notices at every point of official access to the course. The official footpaths are clearly marked by white posts with waymarkers.

Golfers are asked to keep an eye out for walkers.

Norman is concerned that an official complaint by the Parish Council would serve no useful purpose given all that has already been done, and the good will and relationship that already exists.

The meeting agreed that it is also the responsibility of walkers to take care to look, listen and walk briskly across the fairways. There is the problem of

people using unofficial paths, and cyclists and horseriders have also been seen on the course, but we can do little about that.

The meeting took a unanimous vote that having considered the matter carefully no formal action would be requested: it is an intractable problem: the footpaths have official routes, while the golf course has its own layout of the fairways and holes which cannot be changed given the layout of the site. However, we noted that individuals could make their own enquiries with the golf course committee.

#### 5. Report of the Parish Paths Warden - Norman Nimmo-Smith

This has been a rather quiet quarter in terms of major problems on the footpaths, although cutting back of the new seasonal growth of vegetation along the footpaths has kept us all busy.

At the beginning of February, a work party of five volunteers performed major surgery on footpath **MW-555**, which had become very overgrown from all sides. A large amount of branches and other vegetation was removed, making the path very much easier to walk along.

A damaged stile on **MW-518** was reported by a member of the public in April, and a new stile was installed by a work party of three volunteers towards the end of the month.

#### 6. Reports from assistant wardens:

Steve had reported that his paths were ok.

Chrissie had no problems with her paths.

John reported that he had cleared vegetation from his paths and all his paths were clear.

Toby had no issues.

Peter Clement report is attached: *Norman noted that MW-526 had been cleared that very day! The County Council view is that water is a seasonal issue*

Pam and Richard's report noted the stile work needed on MW-518 and also a leaning fence on MW-522 which they will investigate further and possibly secure with wire. The path is passable. *Norman will look at it and take his bolt-cutters*

#### 7. Terms of Reference for the group, as required by the parish council.

We agreed the following:

**Purpose** *The purpose of the Public Rights of Way group (henceforth referred to as PROW) is to monitor each public right of way on a regular basis, by walking each path four times a year before the tri-mensual meeting, reporting problems and dealing with them as far as is practicable, either by members or by the Parish Lengthsman via the Clerk.*

**Membership** – *Current members are:*

*Norman Nimmo-Smith who is the Footpaths Warden, liaising with WCC.*

*Steve Atwell*

*Peter Clement*

*Chrissie Gates*

*Pamela Stanier*

*John Stiggers*

*Toby Taylor*

*Richard Winterton*

*The Chair is decided at each meeting and Pamela Stanier acts as clerk, sending notification, agenda and minutes.*

**Quorum** – 3

**Role of the Clerk** – *The Clerk arranges hall bookings and ensures a member has the key. The Clerk receives minutes of the meetings.*

**Meetings** - *The group meets once a quarter, on the third Wednesday of April, July and October and January (the Parish Council year starts in April with the Annual Parish meeting)*

**Finances** – *expenditure incurred comes from the open spaces budget which is delegated to the clerk if the outdoor contractor is required to undertake strimming or other minor works.*

8. AOB

To ask the Clerk if there has to be a Parish Councillor on the PROW.  
To ask the Clerk if we are insured if there are any problems requiring insurance and if so, if there is an age limit.

9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm Village Hall  
Committee Room

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm