

Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting of Rodington Pathways Group 15/09/2021

Present

Tom Currie (chair)	Denise Davies	John Seales
Brian Gaskin	Stephen Lowe	Keith Smith
Andrew Careless	David and Sue Brown	

Apologies

Sandy Walker, Nick West

1. **Tom Currie** started the meeting by explaining the purpose and functions of the group. He also explained why it was imperative to a) adopt a formal constitution and b) confirm our formal agreement with the draft Parish Paths Partnership Agreement. The constitution will ensure transparency of process, and accountability to the wider public. An annual general meeting will be held with the wider public. At any point, any member of the public can take up membership provided they adhere to the constitution and provide relevant details. The Partnership agreement will ensure that we work in formal partnership with both Rodington Parish Council and Telford and Wrekin Council and this will ensure access to resources.
2. **Andrew Careless** explained his role in Telford and Wrekin Council as Senior Rights of Way officer, and expressed his strong support for the group which he sees as a possible template for other groups in the area. He is keen to support despite being the sole officer and having a heavy workload. In addition to funding the diversions planned, he has committed £4000 to match the £1000 from Rodington Parish Council for 2 years, and will also fully fund the projects from the last financial year that remain to be done. These are: A kissing gated by the cemetery and in Church Road R3. A way-marker in Hunkington Lane at the start of R2
3. **Adoption of Constitution** - Brian Gaskin proposed adoption of the constitution with a minor amendment from John Seales (“whichever is the greater” to the quorum required for meetings), who seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.
4. **Election of Chairperson for the coming year** - John Seales proposed Tom Currie as chairman for the current year and Brian Gaskin seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
5. **Appointment of Secretary** - Denise Davies proposed Brian Gaskin as secretary and Tom Currie seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. **Partnership Working: Adoption of the Parish Paths Partnership Agreement** - Brian Gaskin proposed we accept the P3 agreement between Rodington Pathways Group, Telford and Wrekin Council and Rodington Parish Council. Tom Currie seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

7. **Priorities for 2021**

In the coming year, from joint funding, we intend to focus on the following way-markers on highways, as these are the first signs of progress visible to the public:

L1 Way-markers needed at the entrance opposite Millers Row

- L2** By the church on B5063
- R7** At stile in Rodington Heath
- R4** At both ends
- R9** At Somerwood end
- R15** At Sugden Lane
- R7** Kissing gate at Rodington Heath

Denise Davies requested the route numbers be routed into the posts and Andrew Careless agreed to arrange this.

When asked the cost of these, Andrew Careless estimated around £110 for way-markers and £750-£800 for the gates, including the cost of installation.

Andrew Careless will set up a site meeting for interested parties in the diversion from The Old Smithy (R16) as an urgent priority.

The legal process to establish the Rodenhurst diversion (R6) is already being started, and the R3 diversion through the spinney is the next priority in order to enable the siting of the new kissing gate.

The diversion of R7 to Rodenhurst Lane will follow in due course.

In addition, Andrew Careless has undertaken to write to the owners of Longwood Farm and Old Manor Cottage to restore access for walkers on L1 and L3.

8. **Volunteer Working Group** - Volunteers will be required for path clearing and other light tasks but not for heavy work. They will be automatically insured from the list of names provided to Andrew Careless by the Chair, and to ensure compliance under GDPR the Chair requested agreement from those present (unanimous). He will also arrange for interested members to go to purchase tools which Tom Currie will store in secure premises.

9. **AOB** John Seales has produced an excellent template for a brochure giving

information about local walks. Tom Currie will arrange for a group to trial a walk and provide information on points of interest before Christmas.

It was also pointed out that the numbering system we are using to identify the rights of way may not match those on the definitive map. As this can be a source of confusion, this will need to be researched by the steering group and actions discussed to remedy this if necessary.

10. The next meeting will be at Rodington Village Hall at 19.30 on Wednesday 10th November 2021.