

Minutes of Rodington Pathways Group AGM 17/05/2022

Present

Tom Currie (chair) Brian Gaskin (secretary) John Seales, Duncan Maidens, Nicky Stallard, Gemma Crossley (Telford and Wrekin Council) Nick West, Robin Haseley, Eileen Greenaway, David and Sue Brown, Phil (member of public) Tom Hayek (guest speaker)

Apologies

Steve Lowe Sandy Walker, Andrew Careless

Part A - Business Section of the agenda

1. Welcome and Review

Tom Currie said, 'We are particularly pleased to welcome Andrew Careless' new assistants, Nicky and Gemma, and look forward to working together in partnership.' There followed a review of progress in the year and from the floor, Nick West said he was pleased with progress made but there remains much to do to the general agreement of all. TC identified the progress made in the last year:-

- the establishment of a constitution and P3 partnership with enthusiastic support from both Andrew Careless (Telford and Wrekin Council) and Rodington Parish Council.
- the availability of significant funds (£5,000 annually)
- the provision of tools for clearing rights of way
- the installation of gates and way-markers
- the creation of working parties to clear routes
- the creation of relationships with local landowners who have been responsive and supportive
- the start of work clearing the canal towpaths, and working in partnership with Shrewsbury and Newport Canal Trust.

2. Business Items

1. Confirmation of extant post-holders, Tom Currie (chair) and Brian Gaskin (secretary) to continue in post.
2. Confirmation of the constitution to remain for the current year.
3. Confirmation of the P3 agreement to continue for another year.

Part B - Substantive Items for discussion

1. Over-view of Rights of Way and priorities: Rights of Way Team, Telford and Wrekin Council & Partnership priorities for the future.

1. Many thanks to Andrew Careless and his team for the completion of the first phase of installing gates and sign-post/way-markers. These are a clear signal to the public that we are making significant progress in opening up rights of way for them. There has been much frustration and delay, particularly during the Covid pandemic, but we expect the system to work more smoothly in the future with the assistance of Gemma and Nicky, and the establishment of a direct commissioning link between P3 (via Tom Currie) and the contractors. We now need to identify what installations are needed for the next phase.
2. More urgent, however, are the completion of outstanding modification orders. Andrew Careless is making R4B around Rodenhurst industrial estate a personal priority now that planning permission for the associated development has been approved. This requires modifications to R6, R3/R6 through the spinney, R4B, R7 (going along the tarmac road on Graham Davies' land leading to Rodenhurst Lane), and the extinction of R8.
3. The proposed modification of R16 by the Old Smithy needs to be moved forward urgently as the residents of Longdon-on-Tern are very unhappy with the blocking of access there. We need to have an on-site meeting with Phil Davies, landowner at Sugden Farm, to discuss the situation and agree clear workable proposals for modification. A recent intervention from TWC Highways indicated that there would be a requirement that any path on the grass verge must have a tarmac surface, before any other action is taken. This needs to be questioned as there are other options to consider and these need to be discussed in situ. AC is progressing this and will organise a meeting upon his return from leave.
4. We need to develop descriptions of circular and linear routes, some of which lead outside the parish boundaries but represent good medium length routes. John Seales is co-ordinating this and needs input from all. Tom Hayek will also walk some of the routes and add specialist knowledge flora and fauna to input on these routes. In addition, any historical data will add to descriptions RPC web-site and leaflets.
5. We need to continue to clear existing rights of way, as vegetation/ brambles

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etc will continue to ingress so maintaining a schedule of working parties remains a priority.

6. Also, reporting issues such as dog fouling. Left to roam, dogs can create corridors where their smell deters all wildlife and is a danger to children. We need to put up notices explaining the need to keep dogs on a lead and to deal with their fouling and other practical measures including signage on following the country code.
7. Members of the group have taken responsibility for designated routes and working parties will continue to operate (including on the canal) taking account of the needs of wildlife and bird nesting season.
8. In due course, we hope to install a noticeboard to inform the public of all the definitive rights of way in this parish, and their route continuations into other parishes.
9. Partnership resources – AC mentioned in his report to RP3 that total spend on the recent works (reference doc. Priorities for ROW, 13/9/21) was £6,500. As a Partnership, we would need to have a full breakdown on these costs, and TWC will need to invoice Rodington Parish Council for their respective contributions.

2. Address by Tom Hayek on Ecology – A reflection Rodington’s Parish Climate and Nature Champion

Tom has been appointed climate and nature champion by Rodington Parish Council, which has also declared a climate and nature emergency. There is a questionnaire on the Parish Council web-site where you can express your views. Tom has extensive knowledge of local wildlife. He has noticed numerous varieties of moths, dragonflies, damselflies, amphibians, caddisflies, butterflies, beetles etc. He has recently seen 3 pairs of corn buntings, quails and many of us have seen buzzards, red kites, sparrowhawks for example. He intends to add descriptions of which species you might see when using each particular right of way, how to recognize them and to include interesting facts about them. He will also point to phone apps that can be used to recognize flora and fauna. In addition, he wants to enable walkers to report what they see.

3. Next meeting

Wednesday 20th July at 19.30 in Rodington village hall.