

## **South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area**

### **Access, Countryside and Rights of Way**

8<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Present:** Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Terry Howard, Les Seaman.

**Apologies:** Philip Ryder, Cath MacKay, Basil Merry.

### **Minutes of the meeting 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**

These were agreed as being correct.

#### **Matters arising from those minutes**

TH's letter to *walk* magazine re some companies charging to lead groups onto Kinder Scout was the 'star letter' in the Autumn issue of the magazine. DG wrote to central office making the same point, the reply expressing agreement but accepting that charges may be made to cover expenses/refreshments for one-off events.

#### **Review of Access Matters**

It was noted that the government has committed to completing the England Coastal Path by 2020. Some scepticism was expressed, bearing in mind that this parliament is drawing to a close. TH said that Sheffield City Council have agreed that all woodland in the city shall be open access land.

The Holling Dale Plantation, on Bradfield Moors (SK2292), has been cleared to be returned to moorland. However the intention is that it will not be declared open access land until a review in 2019.

Rod Moor (SK2688) is open access land with only one point of access. TH has pursued this with Natural England and pointed out that no consultation took place prior to a new fence being installed.

Long Causeway has been granted a full TRO.

TH reported that Benedict Southworth is coming to Sheffield on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September to talk with local MP Nick Clegg. They will discuss RoW issues on a short walk, with three constituents (including TH and LS) in attendance, who will have the opportunity to raise issues.

#### **Review of Rights of Way Matters**

Regarding 'Lost Ways' TH has made a list of white roads within SCC whose status is unclear. The list has been passed to the RoW Dept, who have determined that several have no status and need to be claimed. An example is the path along the top of Wharncliffe Crag (SK3097), which is a permissive path. This land is owned by the Forestry Commission, but should any future government decide to sell off forestry land this permission could be withdrawn. Hence claiming it is very important. TH intends to ask Sheffield Group members to sign claim forms at the Group AGM.

#### **Review of Countryside Matters**

Cattle have been introduced onto the Burbage, Houndkirk and Hathersage Moors to control the vegetation, mostly the bracken. There are no bulls or calves.

#### **AOB**

None.