

South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Area

Access, Countryside and Rights of Way

8th June 2015

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Terry Howard, Les Seaman, Basil Merry, Philip Ryder, Jeremy Kenyon.

Apologies: Cath Mackay

Minutes of the meeting, 9th February, 2015

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

All trees have been removed from the Burbage Valley. Planting and protective fencing will be started after the nesting season. The 'Green Drive' is being re-surfaced with crushed sandstone, which will darken.

Part of the path along Derwent Edge is being remediated to control erosion.

Area Council's letter to the Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley councils had drawn a very positive response from Doncaster MBC. TH said that Sheffield maintains that it has an open access policy and doesn't need to dedicate its woodland and open spaces. It was agreed to send a 'Dedication' letter to Rotherham MBC.

Consultations regarding the replacement of the Stanage Pole are continuing.

Review of Access Matters

No issues at the moment.

Review of Countryside Matters

With the recent election of a Conservative government the HS2 rail project is very likely to return to the scene.

A considerable sum on money has been ear-marked to bury power lines and hence remove pylons from areas of beauty.

AP had been involved in consultations regarding the power lines in the Tintwhistle area but feels that, for technical and financial reasons this is unlikely to take place. On the other hand consultations regarding eight pylons around the Dunford Bridge area could well lead to the removal of these pylons.

Janet Davis, at Central Office, had been asked by the Ramblers Derbyshire RoW committee to write to Derbyshire CC regarding the ploughing and cropping of public rights of way. A polite reply had been received, essentially saying that all issues were being dealt with within their Charter Target time of 14 weeks – by which time, of course, most crops had been harvested and the problem had disappeared. The letter also said that in 2008 a farmer was successfully prosecuted but he only received a conditional discharge and a £200 fine towards costs, but this process was considered to be 'resource heavy'.

Review of Rights of Way Matters

BM said that progress was at last being made with Eckington 34, with an order for three gates being placed.

AOB

None