

South Yorkshire and North east Derbyshire Area

Access, Countryside and Rights of Way

6th June 2016

Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield, S1 2EW

Present

Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Terry Howard, Jez Kenyon, Lizzie Joyce, John Newrick, Philip Ryder.

Apologies

Les Seaman, Cath MacKay, Basil Merry.

Minutes of the meeting of 8th February, 2016

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

Network Rail have not responded to the consultation of the Wharncliffe rail crossing, despite an email from lawyer Jerry Pearlman. The matter is likely to be taken to ministerial level.

Access matters

TH reported that path along Derwent Edge, which was appalling last year, is much better this year, except for damage done to nearby boulders used in the path repairs.

There is an increase in cyclists using paths, causing serious erosion. JN has reported this and the Local Access Forum will take up the matter.

Natural England are supporting improvements to the Foulstone Delf bridleway and moorland improvements around the Dukes Road bridleway. Concern has been expressed about vehicles used in this work causing damage to the Dukes Road bridleway and surrounding moorland.

In the Midhope area plastic matting has been put down, ostensibly to allow heavy vehicles to access the forestry area. However the area is used for shooting.

A footpath in the Langsett area is being made wheelchair-friendly.

The farm at Longstone Edge is being improved, with rights of way through the farm being well protected.

Countryside matters

The removal of the switching station at Dunford Bridge and removal of pylons is proceeding. AP is due to attend another meeting on Thursday.

On Kinder the drain-blocking has been extremely successful, with rapid growth of vegetation. A negative factor is the visually inappropriate plastic dams. Burbage Moor is to be treated similarly, but using stone dams.

In the Alport Valley the Forestry Commission want to remove some old trees, but will need a visually intrusive road to get heavy equipment.

Rights of Way matters

TH asked if any progress had been made in requests to local authorities to dedicate woodland and open spaces, thus preventing a future sell-off for development.

AOB

Sheffield: The Outdoor City has been published. It is noted that cycling, rather than walking, is featured prominently. Given the government's plans for regional development, the plans will affect the other towns in the SYNED Area and Ramblers needs to be sure that we are involved.

