

Agenda

Present: Peter Bate, Chris Stevenson, Mike Hanson, Peter Horry, Esther Clarke, Tom Littlehales, Sue James

- 1. Welcome and apologies.** Apologies received from Steve Lakin and Malcolm Oliver
- 2. Chair's report – Peter Bate.** Main success this year was the announcement of a £1million budget for cycling and walking infrastructure for Central Bedfordshire. This is in response to the meetings we held in 2017/2018 with Andrew Selous and the leader of CB Council Cllr Jamieson. Another sign of the tide turning once again in favour of cycling is £22million from the DfT to Sustrans for the next few years. And in the town there is still an increase in the number of people cycling. Thanks are due to Malcolm for his diligence with checking and responding to planning applications. Over the next year we will be focusing on the ongoing development of the Green Wheel with CBC and the Greensand Trust as well as publishing a new version of the town's Cycling Map. There is also the aim to have more of a presence on social media and to continue to 'make cycling the norm'. Overall the picture for cycling is looking better.
- 3. Treasurer's report – Chris Stevenson.** We have £1509.13 in the bank account.
- 4. Reports from other members of the Committee:**
 - a. Membership – Peter Horry.** To date there are 21 members paid up. Renewals are due on 1st July.
 - b. Rides – Peter Horry.** Despite interest at all the events there have been no new riders for the Cycle Sunday Rides and numbers on the rides remain low. But as we know people are out their cycling anyway we are not too worried. As the Green Wheel comes on line this will need promotion and the Rides will be a good way to do this. The Wheel will also create opportunities for new, traffic-free routes as it is developed. Can we leaflet the new homes that are being built with information about the rides and with routes to the station?
 - c. Events – Peter Horry.** The May Fayre went well, especially the Road Safety Quiz – even the Mayor had a go. Next is the Canal Festival on 27th July.

- d. **Campaigns & Strategy – Esther Clarke & Peter Bate.** Most of the work this year has been on the Green Wheel which is going really well although slowly. The Cycling Strategy will soon be sent out to all the newly elected local councillors. A new project Peter B is working on is the historic Rights of Way and anomalies – the deadline for getting routes registered is 2026. The Close Passing campaign has not progressed at all due to lack of a contact at the police regarding using their Close Passing Mat. We have been given a VR headset that would take a smart phone if we can find one suitable for uploading the CyclingUK Close Passing VR video onto for use at events.
 - e. **Communications – Esther Clarke.** A BikeBits newsletter is overdue. The website needs a new layout to be mobile compatible but this probably can't be done using the current BT format. Ideally we need a new volunteer to take on the website overhaul and management.
 - f. **Planning & Developments – Malcolm** sent apologies so no report available.
 - g. **Rushmere & Aspley – Mike Hanson.** Things are improving at Rushmere now that a different Ranger (Chris) is in charge of cycling. At Aspley the Longslade Trail that was damaged during tree felling has had to be repaired and is not yet re-opened. The new Danesborough Trail is about one-third complete but won't be finished until at least March 2020. Aspley is very busy with riders but not many people help out with building and repairs. There is a Dig Day every Saturday as well as Monday evenings at the moment. Staff from The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Milton Keynes did a volunteer day digging the rides which they thoroughly enjoyed.
- 5. Election of Committee:** The Committee for 2019-20 were elected as follows:
- a. Chair – Peter Bate
 - b. Secretary – Esther Clarke
 - c. Treasurer – Chris Stevenson
 - d. Membership Secretary – Peter Horry
 - e. Rides – Peter Horry
 - f. Events – Peter Horry
 - g. Planning & developments - Malcolm Oliver
 - h. Communications – Esther Clarke
 - i. Other members/positions – Mike Hanson (Rushmere & Aspley) and Tom Littlehales
- 6. Membership Fees.** It was agreed these would remain at £5 each or £7 per household.
- 7. 2020 AGM date:** June 18th or 25th tbc nearer the time
- 8. Committee business –** see other minutes