

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of the general meeting held on 10th January 2017

1. **Welcome and new members:** Eve welcomed Cath Blackwell and Barbara Rothwell to the Group.
2. **Apologies: Hannah Gardner, Ailsa Gibson, Steve and Linda Hobson, Kate Lennox, Susan and Peter Scott, Julie Sico, Julie Trafford, Anna Twiname.**
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** - The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Anne Rigby, seconded by Sheena Robertson.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - Item 6 - Equestrians demand inclusion on cycleways** NLBS member Janis Ashworth has written to her MP which has resulted in a meeting to discuss the inclusion of equestrians in the plans. The BHS have drafted a letter which anyone can send to their local MP to ask that equestrians are included, a link to the relevant page of BHS website is available on News page of NLBS website (www.nlbs.org.uk).
5. **Think Horse Signs** – we have now received a small supply of these signs. They are available for display. Contact Eve for further information.
6. **Christmas Meal** – Friday 20 January, Smithy Inn, Holme. Sheila distributed menus and collected payment at the meeting.
7. **NLBS 20th Anniversary May 2017** – there will be a small celebration at the AGM in May where Mark Weston, BHS Director of Access, Safety and Welfare has been invited to speak. A cake has been ordered and we will have the usual light refreshments. All welcome.
8. **Trip to Royal Windsor Horse show** – Sheila is awaiting prices from the travel company. Initial enquiries were for a 16 seater coach to travel down on Friday 12 May, overnight stay and return on Saturday 13 May. Following discussion at the meeting it was agreed a further enquiry would be made for alternative dates Saturday 13/14 May. The trip is open to NLBS members but if there are insufficient numbers it will be opened up to other groups.
9. **Research to review possible bridleways** – it was proposed to commission a respected historian who has successfully identified routes in the Rossendale area, to undertake research on our behalf within a 20 mile radius of Lancaster. The proposal was approved by members in attendance.
 - (i) *“Have you got any tracks that are maybe defined as footpath that you would like checked to see if they were a higher status on older maps?”* To assist in this research it would be very helpful if all members would check the routes they regularly ride to ascertain how/if they are recorded on the Ordnance Survey map and let us know if they are not designated for equine use eg bridleway, byway etc. Also if you think there may be possible routes that could be recorded let us know especially if they would provide a link to other routes or complete a circular route. We can then pass these on to the researcher to help focus the search.
10. **Any other business**
 - (i) *Led rides* – Hannah Gardner has offered to lead rides for members.
 - (ii) *Bransby Horses Rescue and Welfare Charity* – thank you to everyone who brought along used postage stamps. Eve will forward them on to the charity.
 - (iii) *Quiz Night in aid of The Gambia Horse & Donkey Trust, 7.30pm Thursday 19th January - North West Equine Vets* Fundraising and fun quiz night, teams of 5 people, £10 entry fee. Need to register your team with the Practice beforehand – contact tel: 0808 168 5580
 - (iv) Julie Sico, our vice chairman and speaker co-ordinator is recovering from a short illness, Eve wished her a speedy recovery on behalf of the Group.

Speaker for the evening was Helen Wain who gave us an entertaining introduction to map reading

Next meeting: -Tuesday, 14 March 2017

Hest Bank Memorial Hall, LA2 6JB

Please come along and bring a friend