

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of the general meeting held on 14th March 2017

1. **Welcome and new members:** No new members. Membership stands at 191 with 27 subs still outstanding.
2. **Apologies:** Steve and Linda Hobson, Beverley Hodgson, 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 Sue Nelson.
4. **Matters Arising:** None.
5. **Equestrians demand inclusion on cycleways** Frances, Eve and Janis met local councillor, Roger Bingham, who promised to support and promote the Groups request. All 4 local MPs have agreed to bring the problem to the attention of appropriate departments. Thank you Liz and Janis for pursuing this. Please continue to write to your MP, see sample letter on NLBS website. Janis has also received a response from Andrew Jones, Under Secretary of State and it was suggested it would be useful to write/email him in addition to local MP's. Please adapt the sample letter and add your own reasons for requesting inclusion on the cycleways. email address: andrew.jones@dft.gse.gov.uk
6. **Trip to Royal Windsor Horse show** – despite Sheila's best efforts it has been impossible to secure accommodation for the proposed dates so the trip will not go ahead this year. It was agreed to make accommodation enquiries sooner for 2018. It was felt there would be sufficient numbers for a 16 seater coach and would be opened up to Cumbria Bridleways members who had expressed an interest. Thank you Sheila for all your hard work.
7. **Bridleway Bridge over the River Lune** Yorkshire Dales NP future plans include exploring the option of putting a bridleway bridge over the River Lune at one of the five locations between Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh where there are bridleway fords shown on the map though funding will have to be sought.
8. **Research to review possible bridleways** – Eve, Liz, Ailsa, Denise, Sheila, Frances, Sue met in February and put together 10 routes for the researcher to investigate. Two of these routes have now been looked into but the researcher felt these would be unlikely to succeed.
9. **NLBS Fundraising Ride – Dolphinholme House Farm, Sunday 21 May 2017 start time between 12.30 – 13.30** Details and entry form available to download from NLBS website. Helpers needed for gates. *There will be a meeting at Dolphinholme House Farm, LA2 9DJ on Sunday 7th May at 11am for those helping at the event.*
10. **Horse count** It is several years since the Group undertook a horse count in the area. Eve asked for a volunteer to carry out a count with the aim of helping the Group in their aims.
11. **NLBS 20th Anniversary May 2017** – a small celebration will be held at the AGM in May. Mark Weston, BHS Director of Access, Safety and Welfare has been invited to speak. There will also be a talk by Katherine Beaumont - Horse Therapy and Meditation. A cake has been ordered and there will be the usual light refreshments. Please bring a photo of your horse too. All welcome.
12. **Any other business**
 - (i) *New Northern Reaches Towpath Trail* A new towpath trail from Kendal to Natland is to be constructed. **There is no mention of access for horse riders.** Lancaster Canal Regeneration Project Manager is Helen Moriarty, email: lcrp.helen@outlook.com. Please email her to let her know how important it is that horse riders are considered in this plan.
 - (ii) *Knott End Charity Ride, Fylde Coast Bridleways Association* – Saturday 17 June 2017. Contact Julie McInerney email: julz1511@yahoo.co.uk for further information or see event page on Facebook. See Forms, maps and posters page for an entry form.
 - (iii) *Update on Bay Gateway bridleway* Lancashire County Council have issued a defect notice to their contractor with the intention to place some much finer material over the worst sections and reroll. Signage has been ordered and drainage issues have been addressed. Thank you Liz for taking this forward.
 - (iv) *Election of Committee members:* If you would like to join the committee or if you are an existing members and wish to stand down please let Eve know before the AGM.

Speaker for the evening was Jo MacRae from The Donkey Sanctuary

Next meeting: AGM and General meeting Tuesday, 9 May 2017

Hest Bank Memorial Hall, LA2 6JB

Please come along and bring a friend