

Minutes from NLBS general meeting

14th May 2024, 7:30pm

1. **Welcome and new members:**
2. **Apologies:** Bridget Pickthall, Frances Clisham, Kate Lennox, Suzanne Davis, Sheena Robertson, Leslie Duncan, Anna Twiname
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**
 - a. **Proposed: Carol Dial Seconded: Ann Rigby**
4. **Matters Arising:** none
5. **Bridleway News:** Signs have appeared on Morecambe prom regarding riding in a particular area on the beach between May and September. It has been confirmed by the council that this is more of a request than legally enforceable. They have been put up as a part of meeting requirements for recommendation/recognition in terms of cleanliness of the beach for visitors.

Hannah Gardner went to investigate the bridge at Whale which allows access to a quieter lane around Askham Common. The ford is unusable due to a change in shape. The only option is the bridge which is the legal bridleway route. Westmorland and Furness council have put the sign up as foundations of the bridge need work. The current bridge does not meet the BHS guidelines. Current agreement is that individuals need to decide for themselves whether they are happy to go across the bridge. Hannah suggests the state of the wooden surface is not great and it is due for replacement in 24/25. There are also awkward gates at either end of the bridge. W&F Council will remove the current sign and replace with a more appropriate sign. Hannah will try and encourage the national park authority and the council to submit an application for a grant to support the funding of an appropriate update to this infrastructure.

6. **Membership update: Report to NLBS ordinary meeting 14 May 2024**

Three new members have joined since the March meeting so 'Welcome' to Jen Birtchnell from Penrith, Dawn Morgan from Lancaster and Elen Rees from Leek.

Please note: Annual Membership of £5 is now due (beginning of May 2024). If you have already set up regular membership payment thank you! If you haven't yet and would like to, please see "How to join us" on [our website](#) and the link at [top of our FB page](#).

7. NLBS and members responses to consultations

Members were alerted to a planning application near Askham where there was a proposal to tarmac a bridleway. A number of members sent letters of objection to the council.

As above in item 5, the bridge at Whale had a sign to say it was a footpath only, which was incorrect as it is a bridleway. Members contacted the council about the matter.

UPDATE: The bridge is now going to be closed for a few months as the decking is going to get replaced.

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

8. Any other business

- a. **Speaker ideas** - reminder to send these to vicechair@nlbs.org.uk

Speaker:

Our speaker for our AGM on Tuesday 14th May was 'the Great British Vet'..Kate McMorris.

In April 2022, 50 year old vet Kate and her home-bred horse Marilyn.. set off on an epic 1330 mile trip from John o' Groats to Lands End. A life-long ambition, the 3 month adventure took a year to plan, and was not without its fair share of experiences, but £20000 was raised for charity, and the people that Kate met on the journey renewed her faith in humanity.

Kates's talk will be about her preparation before she set off and the journey itself. Which hopefully "will inspire many of you to get out and have your own mini adventures".

The talk was very much enjoyed and members were curious to see some of the lightweight equipment that Kate used on her adventure!

For information: Kate is now at Street Farm Horse Holidays (search for this on Facebook) and the website is www.staystreetfarm.com.

