

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of the general meeting held on 8 March 2016

1. **Welcome and new members:** Eve welcomed the following new members to the Group – Belinda Pace, Sue, Peter and Pippa Scott, Julie Trafford. At present there are 212 members and 25 overdue subs. Eve welcomed Kay Bruce, chairman and Deborah Batchelor, Communications Officer, from BHS Lancashire committee
2. **Apologies:** Janet Casey, Steve and Linda Hobson, Bev Hodgson, Vicky Murgatroyd, Leslie Owen.
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Ann Rigby, seconded by Kate Lennox.
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Christmas meal – Friday 22 January 2016** – members enjoyed an excellent evening at The Smithy. Thank you to Sheila Kissack for organising the meal.
6. **First Aider training** – the Memorial Hall committee have organised First Aider training. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Eve tel: 01524 824205
7. **Whittington Races 2016** A reminder that this years event has been cancelled.
8. **NLBS Fundraising Ride – Saturday 23 April 2016 - CANCELLED**
Due to unforeseen circumstances the ride is cancelled. The Group plan to hold a ride from the same venue in 2016 and have sent a cheque for £100 to reserve the date.
9. **Bridleway News**
 - (i) *Bolton le Sands Bridleway* The officers and Rights of Way Committee at Lancashire County Council (LCC) have accepted the evidence NLBS submitted (historical and user evidence) for a route through Thwaite Brow Woods and Mount Pleasant, in Bolton le Sands.

The Council have decided to make a legal Order to revise the Definitive Map and mark the route as part-bridleway, part by-way and part-public road. We don't yet know when the Order will be made. It is in a queue in LCC's legal department.

The initial consultation with landowners and notices on site during the application phase hasn't thrown up any major problems. There will be another 6 weeks of public consultation after the Order is made. Any objections made then would have to be based on contradictory solid historical evidence, in order to trigger an inquiry.

It was noted the gate at Crag Bank end needs adjustment which the Group will arrange.
 - (ii) *Tunstall* – the contractor is in the process of repairing and re-hanging the gates identified by members as needing attention.
 - (iii) *Yealand Conyers* – our thanks go to members Nick McCarthy and Cath Woods who have been busy doing some cutting back and clearing work on the bridleway over Warton Crag.
 - (iv) *Yealand Redmayne* – member Shirley Dearden has been liaising with the contractor on gates that need attention in the area with a view to repairs.
 - (v) *Farleton Fell byway* 4 members enjoyed a ride along the byway which Nick had recently completed clearing, this work was started by members of the Group in September. Our thanks go to Nick for putting the new hedge trimmer to good use!
 - (vi) *Ellel – Footpath No.1 upgraded to a bridleway and multiuser path* – Thanks go to Mr and Mrs Bradshaw at Leach House for making land available and contributing materials and time, with Paul Dearden. Also we must thank David Goode, Principal Rights of Way Officer and Tarja Wilson Environment Officer, both at LCC who gave great support. The cost of work came from Wind Turbine funds at Lancaster University. This provides a safer crossing of the A6, an attractive alternative to Lancaster. All due to the tireless work of Michael Helm of Ellel.

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10. **Hoof Wall Separation** – Eve and Sheila attended a talk organised by the Northern Connemara Society – “A farriers experiences with hoof wall separation disease (HWSD)” given by Tom Ryan, farrier. This disease affects many breeds and can be traced back to the dam or sire. The disease is able to be treated effectively (and expensively) but not cured. There is now a test available to prove the presence of HWSD using a sample of hair with follicle attached from mane or tail. However it is important to have a vet take the sample to confirm ID by checking microchip or passport.
11. **Used stamps for Bransby Horses - Welfare and Rescue** thank you to everyone who brought along their used stamps, these have been sent to the charity. Please continue to collect stamps and bring them along to any meeting.
12. **Books for loan** - The scheme will be discontinued as it has not been as successful as hoped.
13. **Any other business:**
 - (i) **Grimshaw Lane development** – Jane Taylor and Hazel Leach brought maps and information about a proposed development which could result in the loss of bridleway and asked for the Groups support by providing evidence of the route being ridden and objection to the development.
 - (ii) **Dates for your diary:**
 - a. *Oxenholme Pony Club Tack Sale - Saturday 12 March 2016, 9.30 – 12.30*
Preston Patrick Memorial Hall, Crooklands LA7 7NN
 - b. *Cumbria Bridleways Society talk “Hincaster Trailway” with Bridget Pickthall*
Thursday 17 March 2016 - 7.30pm start. Crooklands Hotel, Crooklands LA7 7NW
Members £3/Non-members £5.00 Raffle in aid of Cumbria Community Foundation Flood Relief
 - c. *Holker Hall Pleasure Ride – Sunday 25 September 2016*
 - d. *NLBS Famous Tack Sale – Sunday 18th October 2016*
Hest Bank Memorial Hall, LA2 6JB

Sue Millard gave a very interesting talk on the history of the Fell pony. Our grateful thanks go to Sue who stood in at short notice for Ron Black who was unable to attend due to illness

Next meeting: AGM -Tuesday, 10 May 2016
Hest Bank Memorial Hall, LA2 6JB

Please come along and bring a friend