

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of general meeting held on 14 January 2020

1. **Welcome and new members:** Eve welcomed everyone to the meeting. There have been no new members since the last meeting. Five members said they were not renewing either due to no longer riding or having left the area. The membership total at January 2020 was 166 however 10 subscriptions are still overdue from 2018, all have been sent reminders. Nine subscriptions are overdue from May 2019.
2. **Apologies:** Sue Armitage, Suzanne Davis, Sheila Kissack, Diane Richmond, Sheena Robertson, Helen Wilkinson.
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Ann Rigby, seconded Frances Clisham.
4. **Matters Arising:** there were no matters arising.
5. **Christmas meal – Friday 24 January 2020 at Smithy Inn, Holme** – if you would like to attend contact Frances email: secretary@nlbs.org.uk or tel 01524 752920. Menu choices and payment must be made in advance.
6. **Used Postage Stamps** – thank you to everyone who brought their used stamps along to the meeting. Eve will forward them to Bransby Horses Rescue and Welfare Charity after the March meeting so if you have any more please bring them along to the next meeting.
7. **Bridleway Research –**
 - (i) *1-31 BW5 - Rakes Head Lane, Hest Bank* – the bridleway (BW) ends abruptly though strangely not at a parish boundary as is often the case and becomes 1-31 FP5a , after about 20m FP5a goes through kissing gates and over the railway line and on to Morecambe, the parish boundary is about 200m further along this footpath. The route was walked and thought it might be worth investigating for upgrading to a BW thereby allowing an off road link between Hest Bank and Morecambe. David Goode, Public Rights of Way Manager, Lancashire County Council was contacted but he considered it a non-starter as Network Rail would be unlikely to agree to the removal of the kissing gates.
 - (ii) *1-6 BW14 Highfield Lane, Bolton le Sands* – this BW ends at the parish boundary and then leads on to various FPs. We were trying to find an off road route to link Bolton le Sands with Nether Kellet. As part of this we looked at the recently created 1-3 FP32 and 34. A response from David Goode indicated there was no evidence for a bridleway but as the northern half of the footpath (FP32) was soon to become a housing estate that might be a suitable time to request a multiuser path through the site. In the meantime kissing gates were to be installed to prevent access by bikes at the northern end. Although the southern half (FP34) would make a good bridleway there was little evidence of BW rights so landowners would need to dedicate such rights. On contacting one of the landowners we were advised that they would not be willing to allow a bridleway across their land.
8. **Any other business:**
 - (i) *Ideas for speakers* – we continue to seek ideas for speakers so if you have any suggestions please let Julie know - email: vicechair@nlbs.org.uk

Speaker for the evening was Gillian Carlisle, CEO of The British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre who brought us up to date with the work of the centre.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 10th March 2020

Hest Bank Memorial Hall, Hest Bank LA2 6JB

Please come along and bring a friend