

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 21 November 2022

PRESENT: Councillor K Wood (Chair)
Councillor(s): S Dickie, D Bradford, M Ord and J Simpson

APOLOGIES: Councillor(s): A Geddes and A Wintcher

RW53 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

RW54 PROPOSED CHANGE TO PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, BRIDLEWAY WHICKHAM 62 IN DERWENT WALK COUNTRY PARK, SWALWELL

The Committee received a report to seek approval to change a Right of Way Bridleway Whickham 62 in Derwent Walk.

The Definitive Statement states that the public right of way “continues North-West under Whickham BW 215; the Derwent Walk (dismantled railway) to Goodshield Haugh down a sunken track to a dead end”. The section of Bridleway Whickham 62 that is under Whickham 215 is now blocked by an embankment as the underpass has been filled in. This would have occurred during the creation of the Derwent Walk Country Park.

The existing Bridleway Whickham 62, between Points A and B and shown with a black line on the plan attached to this minute has created a cul-de-sac in that it does not lead to anywhere but an embankment which prevents access underneath Whickham 215 (dismantled railway) as shown Point B on the plan attached to this minute. Therefore there is no access from Point B to Point C. This effectively created two cul-de-sacs bridlevays either side of Whickham 215 (dismantled railway).

In light of the embankment which has resulted in two cul-de-sac sections of Bridleway Whickham 62 and the fact that alternative routes have been created within the Derwent Walk Country Park, the Public Rights of Way Officer would recommend that it is expedient that Bridleway Whickham 62 be extinguished because it is unsafe for public use and not needed for public use now or in the future.

RESOLVED - (i) That a public path extinguishment order be made to extinguish Bridleway Whickham 62 from Point A to Point C as shown with a black line on the plan attached to the minute be approved.

- (ii) That delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Governance to undertake the following:
 - (a) To consult with the statutory consultees and make a public path extinguishment order to extinguish Bridleway Whickham 62 from Point A to Point C, as shown with a black line on the plan attached to this minute.
 - (b) If no objections are received, to confirm the order or if objections are received and not subsequently withdrawn, to send the order to the Secretary of State for determination as an opposed order.

RW55 PROPOSED CHANGE TO PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, FOOTPATH WHICKHAM 194 IN DERWENT WALK COUNTRY PARK, SWALWELL

The Committee received a report in relation to a proposed change to a public right of way in Derwent Walk Country Park.

Footpath Whickham 194 is indicated with a solid black line, as shown from Point A to Point B on the attached plan to this minute. The existing Footpath Whickham 194 has created a cul-de-sac in that it does not lead to anywhere. The alignment runs across Swalwell Visitor Centre Car Park and is blocked by several boundary fences which would have been erected when Derwent Walk Country Park was created over 20 years ago.

Approval is sought from the Public Rights of Way Committee for the Proposal set out below:

- To extinguish Footpath Whickham 194 from Point A to Point B on the plan attached to this minute, on the grounds that it is no longer needed for use by the public. It is not currently used by the public and will not be used by the public. It is not currently used by the public and will not be used by the public in future as it is unsafe and inaccessible on its current alignment.

- RESOLVED -**
- (i) that a public path extinguishment order be made to extinguish Footpath Whickham 194 from Point A to Point B as shown with a black line on the plan attached to the minute.
 - (ii) That delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Governance to undertake the following:
 - (a) To consult the statutory consultees and make a public path extinguishment order to extinguish Footpath Whickham 194 from Point A to Point B as shown with a black line on the plan attached to this minute.
 - (b) If no objections are received to confirm the order or if

objections are received and not subsequently withdrawn, to send the order to the Secretary of State for determination as an opposed order.

RW56 PROGRESS ON RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

The Committee received a report to provide an update on progress on Rights of Way Case and the principle works carried out between July 2022 and November 2022.

The Committee were advised that with regards to the Legal Matters, Items 1 – 3 on the list were currently be reviewed.

The Committee were advised that the following works which had been undertaken on the Rights of Way Network:

- Low Spen Wood – Blaydon 120 – Steps replaced
- Kibblesworth – Lamesley 72 – Removal of restrictions and resurfacing and drainage work
- Crawcrook, Ryton 33 and 35 – installation of 3 x directional finger posts on A695
- Keelmans Way, Clara Vale – Work has commenced to re-instate the Keelmans Way

The Committee were also advised of the following planned works to be undertaken on the Rights of Way Network:

- Lamesley 72 – Sections 6, 7 and 8 Kibblesworth – Removal of restrictions and resurfacing/drainage work. Installation of restrictions which include RADAR kissing gate, horse friendly boom gate and accessible gap for cyclists.
- Lamesley 69- Section 3, Wrekenton – Removal of restrictions, update entrance and resurface
- Ryton 33 and 35 – Crawcrook – Installation of directional fingerposts near completion of development
- Gateshead 1 – Harlow Green – Resurfacing
- Lamesley 57 – Rockcliffe Way, Eighton Banks – Reinstatement of public footpath

There continues to be ongoing issues with rights of way and anti-social behaviour involving fly-tipping, motorbikes and mopeds.

RESOLVED - That the information presented be noted.

Chair.....

