

# **Notes from Charlcombe Parish Annual Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm**

**At Lansdown and Langridge Village Hall**

## **Present:**

Charlcombe Parish Council Chair Councillor Hilary Macklin, Vice-Chair Councillor Kate Bravin, Councillors Toby Jones, Donald MacIntyre, Julian Nash and John Rippin

Clerk Mrs Kerr

## **Apologies:**

Councillor Stewart Chorley

Mr Keith Weller – Cotswold Voluntary Parish Warden

No members of the public were present.

Councillor Macklin welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

A report had been received for the meeting from the Cotswold Voluntary Parish Warden and this is appended to the meeting notes.

As no members of the public were in attendance, Councillor Macklin drew the meeting to a close soon after 7.10pm.

## **CHARLCOMBE PARISH**

### **COTSWOLD PARISH WARDEN REPORT FOR MAY 2024 AGM**

The paths within the parish are generally in good condition, with little work being needed. My colleague, John Kerr has continued to walk all the paths in Charlcombe Parish regularly. From his reports, and those of others, as well as my own observations, we have been able to pay good attention to the maintenance of all the paths in the parish and their structures. I have sent regular update reports to the Parish Council.

The Cotswold Warden work parties have continued with further improvement work on BA5/15, down to Woolley. Despite clearance of the additional width, a “trench” did develop beside the handrail and it became very slippery. Following the surface improvement on BA5/31, above Weston Rec, we explored a similar solution on a steeper path beside a handrail on BA5/25, above Primrose Wood. This seems to have been successful and we are due to deploy a similar system on BA5/15. The wet weather has meant that it has been too slippery to get materials down to the site yet this year but I am hopeful that the work might have been started by the time of this Parish Meeting.

Last year I referred to the creation of an “easier-access” circular route which is being created as part of a Cotswold Wardens scheme, by agreement with the Racecourse. This has involved the replacement of various gates with more easily accessible gates, as well as some footbed improvements, including some levelling, as a result of a Disabled Rambler’s “tramper” trial.

Also at the racecourse, we have assisted in providing additional waymarking to the footpaths in order to assist them in encouraging walkers to use the lines of the paths. Unfortunately, contrary to verbal assurances that they gave me previously, the racecourse management subsequently decided to fence in the whole of the footpaths, which has resulted in some very confined walking routes.

Clearance have continued at Prospect Stile, Shiners Wood, Primrose Wood and BA5/32\* and by the bench on BA5/16. We have carried out minor works to steps on BA5/9, BA5/23 and BA5/34 together with some additional revetting on BA5/15.

Just outside the parish, a distorted gate has been replaced and we have completed footbed improvements on BA5/57, below Beckford’s Tower. The Walling Team have been particularly busy, rebuilding much of the stone walls around the Beckford paddocks, following initial clearance by work party teams.

Our BathNES PRow Officer, Cheryl, has now retired and there has been a hiatus in a new appointment. We are hopeful that a replacement will be in place soon, especially to assist us with landowner liaison throughout the area, materials provision, project identification (and also pressing “Structures” to reinstate the bridge at BA5/5).

The Cotswold Wardens guided walks have continued this year, with several in the local area.

If there are any “members of the public” who are interested in learning more about the Cotswold Wardens and our work then I will be pleased to be put in contact.

As always, I remain grateful to the Parish Council for their enthusiastic support. Thank you.

Keith Weller - Cotswold Voluntary Parish Warden for Charlcombe Parish