

Notes of the Meeting of the **WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL Rights of Way & Access Advisory Committee** held at **The Old Station, Groombridge** on Monday
1st June 2026 at 7pm

PRESENT: Margaret Harley, Cllr Penny Lawne, Cllr Judi Tuke
Malcolm McDonnell (Chair), Andrea Swindells

In attendance: Kelly Gaynor, Clerk (minutes)

1 ELECT CHAIRPERSON

003450 RESOLVED to elect Malcolm McDonnell as Chairperson of the Rights of Way and Access Advisory Committee.

2 ELECT VICE CHAIRPERSON

003451 RESOLVED to elect Andy Howey as Vice Chairperson of the Rights of Way and Access Advisory Committee. Andy had confirmed he was happy to be re-elected in his absence

3. ENQUIRE WHETHER ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING - None.

4. APOLOGIES - Tim Smith - Family Commitment
Andy Howey Family Commitment
Barry Clark

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST none

6. MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2026

003452 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2026 were correct and would be signed by the Chairman.

6.2 Matters outstanding and arising from those minutes

Completed Items from previous meetings:

Page No	Who	Action
App 1	Clerk	To contact East Sussex County Council re way-mark post W/07464 at the junction of 61/62 Email sent to ESRoW 21/04/26 => completed
App 1	Clerk	Ref FP 2/1/2 ref to Ashdown Forest regarding the removal of some small fallen trees =>Reported to Ashdown Forest Conservators 21/04/26

App 1	Clerk	Ref FP 12/1 refer fallen marker post to East Sussex County Council RoW Reported to ESRoW 21/04/26 => completed (WIT/12/1 leading from the gravelled parking area for the adjacent property, into the woods (on the opposite side of the gate G7402 which leads to the field with a pond).
App 1	Clerk	Ref FP 18/1 Tree fallen across path where the path leaves the wooded area and crosses the access road behind Summersales Farm – very difficult to get through Report to ESCC RoW Email sent to ESRoW 21/04/26 => completed
App 1	AH	FP 73/1/2 This has blocked the normal drainage of the path which has become impassable => AH to discuss with Landowners => Reported as ok
Pg 3353	Clerk	To refer reports and comments regarding RoW to Planning Committee for consideration on Little Wold development => Completed
Pg 3353	Clerk	To refer letter from ESCC RoW re path diversion to Council recommending acceptance => Completed
Pg.3353	Clerk	To reply to the East Sussex Rights of Way Officer to agree Proposed diversion of FP75c With the offer of a further site visit with MM regarding the gully at point B => Completed
Clerk	To provide MH with a new ID and Lanyard	Completed

Matters arising from previous meetings not yet complete:

Page No	Who	Action
Pg. 3198	Clerk	Contact the school about who owns FP34 where the gate needs to be replaced => advise not owned by SVR
App 1	MM	Replacing stile S2027 at the end of FP15 WIT/15/1 > MM advised need to contact Landowner. MM to draft Clerk to send
App 1	Maintenance Team	Ref FP 15/1 refer to maintenance team for clearing sapling across path near the Whitehouse Lane end and vegetation is encroaching -
App 1	AH	Ref FP 30/1 Waymark post W07110 at Hendal Bridge end of path still needs attaching to fence post => AH to do

App 1	Maintenance Team	FP33/1 Temporary unblocking has been carried out, but the ditches require further work => refer to the maintenance team
App 1	MM & Maintenance Team	FP 43 two issues requiring clearance => MM to contact CLM re Horse Chestnut clearance => Maintenance team to do ditches
App 1	AH	FP 57/1 Gate which requires waymarkers => Ref AH
App 1	AH	FP 62/2 Waymark post W07462 at junction FP 53 has been damaged by hedge cutting and requires new waymarker. => ref AH
App 1	Clerk	Thank Monday Volunteers Group for the stiles at each end. => MM provided the Clerk with a Contact name => Clerk to action

Matters arising from this meeting:

Page No	Who	Action
Pg 3431 003453	Clerk	Adopt the Committees' Terms of Reference
App 1	Clerk / MM	36/1 B2188 at Hendal Bridge to Ham Cottages B2110 Bottom step of stile loose
App 1	JT	74/1 Birchden Farm to Frant boundary (on to South Farm) To Check FP markers in place
App 1	Clerk / MM	74/1 Birchden Farm to Frant boundary (on to South Farm) Clerk to discuss with MM possible replacement of kissing gate with gate
App 1	Clerk / MM	63 From A264 Heath Place to Oak Lane at Stephnetts Bottom step of stile rotten
App 1	Maintenance Team	64 From A264 Heath Place to Blackham Church Gap in the thicket where 64 goes past W06294 badly needs marking. Footpath is indistinct. Clearance required
App 1	Clerk / MM	67/1 Off BR 65 across railway bridge to county boundary at Kent Water Bottom step of stile needs replacing
App 1	Clerk	69/1 From parish boundary to Great Wood to 'The Sussex Oak Impassable due to overcropping Clerk to write to landowner'

7. **REVIEW AND AGREE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS ADVISORY**
003453 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Terms of Reference for the Rights of Way Advisory Committee with no amendments
8. **TO NOTE UPDATES PROVIDED TO CONDITION OF RIGHTS OF WAY SPREADSHEET**
9. **TO RECORD AND ALLOCATE ANY ACTIONS ARISING FROM ITEM 8 TO INCLUDE PATHS TO RECOMMEND TO PATH MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS**
Clerk, and Committee members as noted in Appendix 1, to report/follow up actions in bold.
10. **REVIEW AND AGREE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE –**
(duplication of item 7 – disregard)
11. **MATTERS OF URGENT IMPORTANCE** for noting or inclusion on a future agenda
12. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** –Monday 5th October 2026 at 7pm at The Old Station, Groombridge

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm

8 List of footpaths as at May 2026

Path No.	Location	Member Responsible	Issues
1/1 Bridleway	Fielden Road to Crowborough Warren	Margaret Harley	OK 17/05/26 Quite rutted at the top of the hill but walkable
2/1/2	Parish Boundary TQ506313 north west to FP 7	Margaret Harley	Trees still down across the path (Ashdown Forest land) Reported
4/1/2	St John's Road to old Recreation Ground TQ503312	Margaret Harley	OK 17/05/26
5/1/2	Off Ocklye Road across Forest to FP 7	Margaret Harley	OK 17/05/26
6/1/2/3	TQ495317 site of New Mill pond to FP 4 and Ocklye Rd	Margaret Harley	OK 17/05/26
7/1/2/3	St John's Road past Horder Centre to FP 6 on Forest	Margaret Harley	OK 02/05/26
8/1/2/3	London Rd/Hoadleys Lane junction, across Smugglers Lane to Inhams Wood and the ghyll and stream	Margaret Harley	OK but badly rutted at the bottom of the hill
10/1/2 Restricted byway	Smugglers Lane to Hoadleys Lane	Margaret Harley	OK early April
11/1/2 Restricted byway	School Lane to top of Mardens Hill	Margaret Harley	OK 04/05/26
12/1	Between FP 11 and FP 13	Margaret Harley	Good news. Thanks for reporting the fallen way marker post which has now been replaced
13/1/2	Hoadleys Farm to FP 14 near Mardens Hill	Margaret Harley	OK 04/05/26
14/1/2	Mardens Hill to Whitehouse Farm Lane	Margaret Harley	OK 04/05/26
15/1	Whitehouse Lane to London Road top of Summersales Hill. Part on drive to Highfields	Margaret Harley	We considered this path for clearing but in the last few weeks the whole area has been totally cleared by the landowner. There is still an issue with a steep drop from the stile into the stream below.
16/1	Off London Road to Dovedale Farm (crosses just one field to the farm)	Margaret Harley	Not walked for a while
22/1	Park Grove Lodge to Park Grove and FP 21	Margaret Harley	OK 04/05/26
23/1	White House Lane through Littlebrook to London Road near Park Grove	Margaret Harley	OK but drainage channel is blocked so path may flood if it rains. Stile appears to be OK now. 04/05/26
37/1 Restricted byway	School Lane east to parish boundary with Crowborough	Margaret Harley	OK end of April.
17/1/2/3/4 Bridleway	Drive to Gillridge Farm	Margaret Harley	OK early April

Path No.	Location	Member Responsible	Issues
18/1	London Road – Summersales Farm to BR 17 Gillridge Farm drive	Margaret Harley	Not walked for several weeks
19/1	Off BR 17 through copse and field to Gillridge Farm	Margaret Harley	OK early April
20/1	Rotherfield parish boundary south east of Rocks Farm to Rockswood Stream	Andrew Howey	
20/2	Motts Mill Lane to Rockswood Stream (north of FP 20c)	Andrew Howey	
20/3	Motts Mill Lane to Rockswood Stream (south of FP 20b)	Andrew Howey	
30/1	By waterworks, Groombridge to B2188 at Hendl Bridge	Penny Lawne	Gate into field by railway bridge replaced before Easter-vast improvement
36/1	B2188 at Hendl Bridge to Ham Cottages B2110	Penny Lawne	No issues – Bottom step of stile loose Clerk to discuss with MM
25/1/2/3/4	Corseley Road by pumping station to Motts Mill	Penny Lawne	No issues
26/1/2	Motts Mill to B2118 near Cherry Gardens Farm via Motts Down and FP 27	Penny Lawne	No issues
27/1/2/3/4	Corseley Rd via Sherlocks Lane to FP 25 by railway arch	Penny Lawne	Footpath under arch smoothed out, remains uneven
28/1/2/3	Motts Mill to B2188 Cherry Gardens Hill at Yew Tree Cottage	Penny Lawne	No issues
29/1	Short path linking FP 25c and FP 28b	Penny Lawne	No issues
75/1	Twitten from Gromenfield to Station Road (by bridge)	Penny Lawne	No issues
31/1 Bridleway	Florance Lane, Groombridge	Andrea Swindells	Fine
32/1 Byway	Gromenfield to Station Road (Back Lane)	Andrea Swindells	Fine
57/4	Willetts Farm on to county boundary	Andrea Swindells	
58/1/2	From Teasley Mead to Willetts Farm	Andrea Swindells	
59	Teasley Mead to A264	Andrea Swindells	
33/1	Groombridge Village Hall to FP 73 via Cattle Arch	Judi Tuke	
34/1	By the school across to Harrisons Rocks drive	Judi Tuke	
73/1/2	Lealands to Frant boundary (on to South Farm)	Judi Tuke	Wood chippings down path on right side
74/1	Birchden Farm to Frant boundary (on to South Farm)	Judi Tuke	? FP markers in place JT to check . Possible kissing gate replacement for gate? Clerk to discuss with MM

Path No.	Location	Member Responsible	Issues
87/1	The Victoria – Withyham Rd to Station Rd	Judi Tuke	
38/1/2	Cherry Gardens to Balls Green, crossing B2110	M McDonnell	
40/1/2	Drive to Fishersgate from B2188 at Friars Gate	M McDonnell	
40/3/4/5	Through 500 Acre wood to Hartfield boundary (goes on to B2026 at Chuck Hatch)	M McDonnell	
41/1/2	Fishersgate drive to B2110 at Withyham	M McDonnell	
41/3/4	Through 500 Acre Wood to B2188 Church Hill at Fagot Stack Corner	M McDonnell	
42	Off Fishersgate Drive FP 41 to Hartfield boundary behind Old Buckhurst	M McDonnell	Cleared
43	From Dorset Arms, Withyham through Buckhurst Park to B2188 opposite Whitehouse Lane	M McDonnell	
44	From Lye Green Corner to join FP 43 into Buckhurst Park	M McDonnell	Still waiting for Estate to clear trees / fix drainage. Our offer to do it was refused.
46	Hale Court to Summerford Farm	M McDonnell	
48/1/2	B2110 at Hamfields Cottages, across Forest Way to county boundary at River Grom	M McDonnell	
49/1/2/3	B2110 at Ham Farm to Hale Court Farm	M McDonnell	
82/1 Bridleway	B2188 at Deerswood Farm TQ476309 to Crowborough Warren	M McDonnell	Bridge still out. Have asked ESCC RoW Officer Ruth Hills for progress report.
83/1 Bridleway	B2188 adj Kings Standing Farm drive to Maresfield parish boundary on Forest TQ481287	M McDonnell	
86/1	Knoll Path, Withyham – opposite Village Hall across field to Churchyard	M McDonnell	
50	Hale Court Farm to BR 56	Barry Clark	
51/1/2/3	Summerford Farm to Hartfield boundary at footbridge	Barry Clark	Fallen tree by river still there but one can walk under it. No sign of the path diversion being confirmed / implemented.
52	Short distance past FP 51	Barry Clark	
53/1/2	Hale Court Farm drive to BR 56 at Bush Cottage	Barry Clark	

Path No.	Location	Member Responsible	Issues
55 Bridleway	From Beech Green Lane west to Perryhill Farm	Barry Clark	
56,/1/2/3/4/5 Bridleway	Blackham A264 to Lodgefield Farm, Blackham Court and to Beech Green Lane at Lyewood Common (top of Summerford Hill)	Barry Clark	
78/1	Beech Green Lane TQ489379 west to Hartfield boundary (on to Perryhill Farm)	Barry Clark	
79/1	From Tophill Farm to Hartfield boundary (on to Perryhill Farm)	Barry Clark	
79/2	Skirts north edge of Tophill Farm buildings	Barry Clark	
79/3	Tophill Farm to FP 51 at Summerford Barn	Barry Clark	
80/1	Tophill Farm drive to Beech Green Lane	Barry Clark	
81/1	Tophill Farm to Hartfield boundary (on to B2110 at Hartfield)	Barry Clark	Overgrown where path leaves Ash Corner Wood south of Top Hill. Clearance job for us in August? AH to talk with landowner
21/1	FP 20 Rockswood Stream to Park House	Andrew Howey	
21/2	Park House to London Road TQ511333	Andrew Howey	
57/1	Beech Green Lane to Lodgefield Farm	Andrew Howey	
57/2	Lodgefield Farm to Ashurst layby on A264	Andrew Howey	
57/3/4	A264 layby to Willetts Farm and on to county boundary	Andrew Howey	Waiting to be diverted but walkable
60	A264 Ashurst to Blackham A264	Andrew Howey	
Permissive path	Joining 61/1 to A264	Andrew Howey	
61/1	Ashurst weir via Medway to FP 62/1 & 2	Andrew Howey	
61/2	Junction of 62/1/2 to junction of BW 56/3/4	Andrew Howey	
62/1	Blackham Court to FP 61	Andrew Howey	
62/2	FP 61 to FP 53 Hale Court drive	Andrew Howey	
35/1	Forge Lane Old Birchden Farm (near) to Leyswood Lodge on Corseley Road	Tim Smith	

Path No.	Location	Member Responsible	Issues
76/1/2/3	Park Corner to Pinstraw Farm past Harrisons Rocks to Eridge Road near Birchden	Tim Smith	
77/1	Forgebank towards High Rocks Road	Tim Smith	
84/1	FP 76 to Rotherfield parish boundary at river	Tim Smith	
85/1	Normans Cottages eastward 200 yards to parish boundary	Tim Smith	
63	From A264 Heath Place to Oak Lane at Stephnetts	Tim Smith	Stile 3820 bottom step badly rotted, needs replacing. Clerk to discuss with MM re stiles
64	From A264 Heath Place to Blackham Church	Tim Smith	Gap in the thicket where 64 goes past W06294 badly needs marking. Footpath is indistinct. Clearance required
65/1/2/3/4/5/6/7 Bridleway	From Oak Lane via Nore farm then west to Hartfield boundary.	Tim Smith	Slurry lagoon construction continues. Slowly.
66/1	Off BR 65 past Nore Farm, across level crossing to county boundary at Kent Water	Tim Smith	
67/1	Off BR 65 across railway bridge to county boundary at Kent Water	Tim Smith	Southern end where it meets 65. Stile 3834 bottom step of this stile needs repairing
68/1	Follows county boundary along Kent Water, under railway arch to Hartfield boundary (Sussex Border Path)	Tim Smith	
69/1	From parish boundary to Great Wood to 'The Sussex Oak'	Tim Smith	Impassable due to overcropping Clerk to write to landowner
70/1	From BR 65 south west to Hartfield boundary (on to Lower Holywych)	Tim Smith	
71/1	Drive to Tollhurst farm from Oak Lane to BR 65	Tim Smith	
72	From triangle with path 65b and 65c		

Last Updated May 2026