

Rodington Parish Pathways Group

Annual Meeting, 22nd September 2026 7.00pm at Rodington Village Hall

Present

Tom Currie (Chair) Brian Gaskin (Secretary)
Andrew Careless (TWC Senior Rights of Way Officer)
David & Sue Brown Debra Woodward John Seales

Apologies

Gemma Crossley- Beech (TWC Rights of Way Officer)
Nick West Steve Lowe

Election of Officers

Tom Currie expressed the wish to stand down as chair. John Seales said he would rather not take on the post because of other commitments, as did David Brown. Andrew Careless offered if absolutely necessary but it was thought not ideal for someone from TWC to take on this role. Brian Gaskin also offered if necessary but pointed out that he would have to relinquish the role immediately if his house sale went through. Tom Currie agreed to hold the fort for 6 months when the post will be reviewed. Brian Gaskin agreed to continue in his role as secretary for now.

Review of Constitution

No changes were proposed

Review of Rodington Pathways P3 Agreement

Andrew Careless agreed to continue the current funding arrangements, with £4000 from TWC and £1000 from RPC. This is an extremely generous arrangement. Rodington has become the best resourced area outside of Telford and has seen the most developments to improve the network of pathways.

Over-view of Rights of Way and priorities:

Rights of Way Team, Telford and Wrekin Council

1. Andrew Careless said the work to build the steps on the B5063 opposite Longdon-on-Tern Village Hall will start tomorrow.

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2. The Rodenhurst Lane DMMO Hearing will take place on 15th and 16th December in Longdon-on-Tern Village Hall. It is important as many of us who can attend do so. The objectors will be notified by the Planning Inspectorate but not anyone else. Brian Gaskin asked Andrew Careless to provide details of the application so we can look up all submissions on the Gov.UK Planning Inspectorate Portal. A quick check reveals there is nothing displayed there at present, however.

Action

*Andrew Careless agreed to send the TWC submission to the P3 secretary.
Brian Gaskin to search the site nearer that date.*

3. There will be a Local Access Meeting on Friday 25th September where guidance will be given to landowners on their legal responsibilities regarding Rights of Way and a clear process for enforcement. Several members pointed to the recent failures of enforcement on R7 approaching Rodington Heath when repeated reports of obstruction and requests for enforcement produced no results although a letter had previously been sent to the landowner without a response. Also, we inquired into the status of enforcement on L1 with the shooting butts.

Action

Andrew Careless agreed to ask Gemma about both these issues and report back to the P3 secretary.

4. Andrew announced he would seek flexible retirement in the new year, possibly reducing to 2 days a week. The group wished him well and Tom Currie suggested some sort of recognition of his efforts would be appropriate at that time.

Review of the year – by Tom Currie, Chair

Tom Currie gave a presentation showing how the Pathways project, which began in 2019 and evolved into a P3 partnership with TWC and RPC in 2021, has developed over the years. We started by identifying and mapping the rights of way, making them accessible and maintaining them. We have instigated 3 Definitive Map Modification Orders and have produced a very popular booklet of walks which is also available online. In the last year, we have organized community walks and completed all the items on our list of works, bar one, with 2 in progress at this moment.

Partnership plans for the next 12 months

1. The booklet of walks needs to be reprinted and photos upgraded to present the walks in a more attractive light. ie. When they do not show a sea of mud or broken stiles.

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Action

All members to take photos to use in the booklets as they walk round.

2. We need to put the booklet of walks in a more accessible form for mobile phones. When this is complete, we can move towards using QR codes on waymarkers to help walkers.

Action

David Brown to contact Sarah Windridge to get data on the number of hits on the Rodington Walks on the RPC web-site and from what platforms they come.

3. There has been less emphasis on walks in Longdon-on-Tern of late and they need reviewing.

Action

A work party to meet at Longdon-on-Tern Village Hall at 1.00pm. on Saturday 24th October

4. Community walks need to be relaunched and participants encouraged to join our group.

Action

At the next meeting, we will arrange a date for these in 2027. We will encourage a member of RPC from Longdon-on-Tern to join our group.

5. The last waymarker needs to be installed by the exit of R9 on Drury Lane. Despite assurances that this was merely overgrown, a quick search and report from the neighbour on the adjoining property, confirmed it was not there.

Action

Steve Lowe and his brilliant team from Withington to be requested to complete the installation.

Next meeting 12th January