

# NORTH LANCS BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007

1. Eve Hall, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed the following new members to NLBS:- Maureen Wardle (Bolton), Dorothy Whitton (Halton), Julie Stansfield (Preston Patrick), Anne Robinson (Austwick). Faith Billington (Kendal) and Anne Oakley who had re-joined.
2. Apologies for Absence:- Sheena Robertson, Jane Parkinson, Heather Park, Kath. Richardson, Gill Stephenson.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007. These were proposed by Celia and seconded by Christine.
4. Matters arising other than those on the agenda:- none
5. Tack Sale. Many, many thanks to everyone for their help. The event raised over £700, and special thanks to Hilary for organising it again.
6. 'Think Horse' signs. These now cost £15, so please ensure they're used to their best potential. It appears some are being removed, so any information on this would be welcomed.
7. Correspondence:- Eve and Vicky gave a talk to Abbeyfield residents on their riding the Sabina Way, and a letter has been received from one of the elderly ladies enclosing a £5 donation, with a promise of more to come. Also a letter has been received from Cumbria Bridleways Society congratulating NLBS on our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
8. Cantsfield bridleway. Some years ago there was an investigation into making this route rideable and our members suggested diverting the route to ford the river. However, the authorities decided a bridge was required, and have now reported that because this would cost £360,000, it has been put on hold. However, instead they are looking at diverting the route to ford the river!
9. Sustrans-Connect2. On December 7<sup>th</sup> on ITV there will be the chance to vote for 4 schemes, one of which is a bid from Sustrans to provide 79 routes for walkers, cyclists and riders. Unfortunately none are within our area, but we may wish to support the scheme anyway.
10. Road Rage. After one of our members was involved in such an incident, it has come to light that if there are at least 2 witnesses, the police will take action.
11. Gates. If you know of any gates on bridleways that are difficult to open or in need of repair, please pass details, preferably including a grid ref, to Eve or Vicky
12. Mary Towneley Loop. There are plans to build a quarry on the route, which will involve wagons driving over the ancient setts. If you feel strongly that this will ruin the route, please write to Rochdale Council. There is an example of such a letter on the back of the November Agenda.\*
13. BMW. BMW have won their application to extinguish a bridleway in Oxford, despite the valiant efforts of the BHS. The BHS are asking their supporters to complain to BMW (example of letter on back of November agenda\*). BHS has run up massive costs in their campaign, and NLBS members agreed to donate £100 towards these costs.
14. The 10-year celebration. Eve asked everybody to support this event, which still has tickets available. There have been some wonderful raffle prizes donated, so please make a big effort.
15. Any Other Business.
  - i) Congratulations to Liz Davidson who was awarded 6<sup>th</sup> prize at the recent Trec competition.
  - ii) Eve outlined her proposal to go into primary schools to promote road safety relating to horses. Our President Lady Reay is apparently supportive of the idea.

- iii) There have been parking problems on the Settle Loop, but there is now a new car park at Stainforth, and a map produced.

There then followed a presentation by Annie from Cumbrian Heavy Horses, who in September and October 2006 completed a 500-mile ride with their 12 Clydesdales from The Isle of Skye to their present home in Cumbria. Covering 12-24 miles each day, it took them over 5 weeks. The move was necessary due to inadequate conditions at their previous location, and they opened their new riding centre in March 2007. During the journey they experienced spectacular scenery and a very diverse range of weather, and all the horses and riders arrived in good shape.

Annie was keen to stress the versatility and wonderful natures of the heavy horses, which jump and race as well as hacking. Anyone booking a ride at CHH is assured of a really enjoyable fun time! Their contact numbers: 07769 588565 (mobile) 01229 777764 (home) between 9a.m & 6p.m please. E-mail: [annie@cumbrianheavyhorses.com](mailto:annie@cumbrianheavyhorses.com) or [www.cumbrianheavyhorses.com](http://www.cumbrianheavyhorses.com)

**Date of next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 7.30pm at Hest Bank Memorial Hall.**

The speaker will be Julie Robinson from The Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre so don't miss it!  
Everyone welcome and please bring a friend.

**Additional information:**

Wanted – sensible, first horse to give confidence to young rider. Approx.14.2 -15.2hh Any age or type considered but must be safe in traffic & easy to handle. Kind, loving home assured. Tel. Helen Caton 015242 71509

\*For further info. re. the BMW issue, please contact Vicky on 01524 832526 or e-mail [vicky.lowe453@btinternet.com](mailto:vicky.lowe453@btinternet.com) An example of the MTL letter follows:

Example letter re. MTL (use some or all of it or write your own – **but please write**)

Dear Mr. Whale,

I rode the MTL & had a .....time. **Or** I intend to ride the MTL but am worried that part of this route may be used by wagons going to & from the quarry.

The proposal to re-open Ding Quarry in Rochdale, using Rooley Moor Road, part of the Pennine Bridleway, to bring out stone is not acceptable. This is an ancient mediaeval highway. It has escaped being surfaced with tarmac. & is a wonderful example of a stone sett road. It is totally unsuitable for use by heavy wagons at any time. The environmental impact will be huge/disastrous etc.

This road is part of the MTL, as well as being a significant section of the Pennine Bridleway, & is a huge tourism attraction to walkers, cyclists & horse riders, who inject thousands of pounds into the local economy. If/when I come/ I came to ride the MTL I would spend/did spend £300 - £400 in your area. Multiply this by thousands (I understand up to 50 horses riders a month ride the MTL) & you can see the income which will be lost if Rooley Moor Road is used by wagons.

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Send to Development Control Manager, Rochdale Council, PO Box 32, Telegraph House, Baillie St. Rochdale OL16 1JH

We would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas with family, friends and animals and look forward to meeting again in 2008.

Very best wishes to everyone!