



Northumberland County Council

TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

12 June 2018

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO. 41 PARISH OF MELKRIDGE MEMBERS UPDATE

Report of Director of Local Services and Housing: Paul Jones
Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services: Glen Sanderson

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the latest developments regarding public bridleway no. 41 and the outstanding judicial proceedings.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report and welcome the conclusion to this long standing issue.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will recall that Public Bridleway No. 41 in the Parish of Melkridge was subject to a Judicial Review application by the landowner. The first defendant to the Judicial Review is the Secretary of State and the Council is the second defendant. A stay in proceedings was agreed by all parties to enable consideration to be given of an application by the landowner to divert the public bridleway.
- 1.2 The application for the diversion of the public bridleway was considered by members of the Rights of Way Committee at their meeting held on 11 July 2017. Members resolved that the Council should not use its powers contained in Section

119 of the Highways Act 1980 to make an order to divert Public Bridleway No. 41 in the Parish of Melkridge.

- 1.3 In January of this year the Council was approached by the landowner's solicitors who indicated that their client wished to explore ways in which the outstanding proceedings could be resolved. The landowner indicated that she was prepared to remove her Judicial Review applications if the Council would purchase, for a nominal fee (£1), the area of land over which the bridleway crosses.
- 1.4 The Leader of the Council was consulted and it was agreed that the Council should accept her offer. The landowner's solicitor and Council officers undertook the work necessary to end the outstanding judicial proceedings and to transfer the land to the County Council.
- 1.5 The Council will now encourage Highways England to bring forward a scheme to improve drainage of surface water from the A69 which will include the construction of a culvert and the reinstatement of the bridleway which was damaged by a previous flood event. Once these works have been commissioned and completed the bridleway will be opened to the public.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 This issue has been long standing and resulted in much disquiet in Melkridge. The satisfactory conclusion to the affair is to be welcomed and it is hoped that the bridleway can soon be used by the public.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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