

Bike Track Group

10:00am – Thursday 13th November 2025

Present: Councillors Marten, Casson, Porteus & Larkin

Clerks: J Price/N Pape

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Longbottom & Ward

Agreed: that apologies be noted

2. To receive update from meeting with ERYC re commuted sums & make recommendations on next steps

The Clerk summarised the process for applying for commuted sums funding, it may be possible to apply for such funding for improvement works to the track. It was suggested that applications for commuted sums funding could also be considered for youth provision for Abbot's Walk park and Dent Road area.

It was proposed that meetings be scheduled with professional bike track design companies to discuss amendments to the track, quotes to be obtained to change the layout to 2 tracks instead of 3 with new informative signage; Councillors, members of the support group and a representative from British Cycling to be invited to attend the meetings. Whilst the support group will assist in identifying contractors suitable to undertake the required works, the Parish Council will source quotes from a number of companies. It was proposed that riders be involved in any redesign.

Agreed: that meetings be scheduled with professional bike track design companies to discuss amendments to the track

Agreed: that quotes to be obtained to change the layout to 2 tracks instead of 3 with new informative signage

Cllrs Casson proposed members of the BMX Track group visit Parish/Town Councils within a 60 mile radius to view their youth recreational facilities

Cllr Casson reported he has a meeting scheduled with the ERYC Assistant Valuation & Estates Surveyor to discuss reducing the height of the hedging around the track.

3. To consider required actions arising from RoSPA Safety Inspection report & make recommendations to Full Council

RoSPA had undertaken a subsequent inspection of the bike track on 17th October 2025, Cllrs Casson & Marten had been in attendance. The inspector had noted that whilst the remedial works undertaken had reduced the risk ratings, further works were required:

The remedial work to remove external tree growth and create a 3m buffer zone had been done, however there are several places whereby this has not quite been achieved.

The signage is good, albeit the diagram reflects what is there rather than instructing with clarity a clear/safe direction of travel. At its core the risks remain threefold:

- **Converging tracks, increasing risk of collision**
- **Variable earth quality and erosion**
- **A tree line that prevents passerby line of sight**

The following issues/risk scores had been identified within the report:

The equipment is not designed so that the risk involved is apparent and foreseeable by the user - risk score 12

Surface needs repair – risk score 12

Ground erosion present – risk score 9

The signage is confusing – risk score 8

The ground has worn in and around the berms – risk score 8

The equipment is not designed so that the risk involved is apparent and foreseeable by the user – risk score 9

Encroaching vegetation or trees – risk score 8

Risk Assessment – risk score 8

It was agreed that that track remain closed until all required remedial works have been undertaken, with Cllrs undertaking a weekly inspection of the track

Agreed: that it be recommended to Full Council that the track remain closed until all required remedial works have been undertaken with Cllrs undertaking a weekly inspection of the track

4. To consider proposal for budget requirement for the 2026/2027 financial year

It was noted that if a commuted sums funding application was submitted, the Parish Council would be required to match fund 10% of the value of the sum awarded; the Parish Council may wish to consider using funds currently held in reserves towards redesigning the track. Full Council will discuss the budget requirement for the 2026/2027 financial year at a future meeting

Agreed: that Full Council will discuss the budget requirement for the 2026/2027 financial year at a future meeting

Meeting closed at 10:45am