**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY JANUARY 18 11AM, 2025**

Venue: 7a Linden Walk, Louth, Lincs.

**1. PRESENT AT MEETING:** Tim Newbery Chair, Andrew Townhill Secretary, Ian Prince Chair Cycling UK East Midlands (via zoom).

 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mark Lilly Treasurer, Melanie Carroll Campaigns Officer, Geoff Garner, Francis Kelly, Trevor Halstead, Daniel Nicholson.

**2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Circulated and read. Proposed: Tim Newbery. Seconded Andy Townhill.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:** New laptop to help with secretary's work.

**4. SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Got a new laptop thankfully. Cycling UK launched the Marchers way although seems more suitable for mountain bikes, rather than road or touring bikes. Guy Kesteven has a YouTube video to show it. Roy Redman from Grantham is doing The King John Way and it is to be launched in May. See the copy of the email below:

**The King John Way** – Long Distance Cycle Touring Route Overview and Progress The King John Way (KJW) has been designed to attract cycle tourists to Lincolnshire. The cycle tourism market is worth at least £500 million per year and Lincolnshire benefits from very little of this. Source: [https://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2007\_CUK\_Economic-Benefits Cycle-Tourism\_rpt.pdf](https://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2007_CUK_Economic-Benefits%20Cycle-Tourism_rpt.pdf)

 A large proportion of this income is enjoyed by such routes as The Cantii Way, in Kent, The Rebellion Way in Norfolk and The King Alfred Way in Wessex. These routes have been designed and promoted by Cycling UK, and can attract 50,000 visitors per year, each.

When approached regarding the KJW, CUK responded that they have no budget for this. Not willing to accept defeat, Roy decided to lead this project himself. The KJW is being designed to avoid the shortcomings he encountered while riding the Cantii Way.

**Target Launch date.** Plan to launch with a mass ride is on track for the early May Bank Holiday weekend 1st to 5th May 2025.

**Why The King John Way?** Most will know that unpopular King John spent the final tumultuous days of his life in or close to our county. From losing his treasure in The Wash (believed to be present day Sutton Bridge) to allegedly being poisoned while staying at Swineshead Abbey, Lincolnshire wouldn't have been a county he would want to visit again. In the event, he didn't have to make that choice as he died soon after reaching Newark castle. Cause of death was noted as being the result of eating a 'surfeit of peaches.' Fortunately, while King John might not have been tempted to return, the region has a rich history that tourists from home and abroad can be encouraged to visit.

**Accessibility and sustainability.** The route has been designed with sustainable access in mind. Major rail stations can be accessed in several locations on the route. One major weakness is the restrictions placed on the number of cycles allowed on-board trains. This can vary from 0 to 4. This will place significant restrictions on tourists wishing to arrive/depart by rail. Roy has written to Gareth Davies MP requesting this be raised with the Transport Secretary, which he has confirmed as done.

**Car parking.** It is our aim to encourage local authorities and accommodation providers to offer free or reduced cost parking for the duration of a visit.

**Route Design principles.** To create a route that will provide a multi day tourist ride, including as many places of interest that will provide engagement for visitors. Roy is a qualified British Cycling Route designer so has applied as much rider safety and enrichment as possible.

**The main route.** The main route is 300 miles and uses existing unrestricted routes and the Sustrans NCN network. While there are off road sections, these will be 'non technical', so usable by most riding touring cycles. For those riding high end carbon frames with narrow tyres, an alternative road only route will be added. The support of Sustrans and several Lincolnshire based cyclists has been invaluable in curating the ideal route. Together we are The King John Way Group. The route is currently being test ridden, with the Grantham to Woodhall Spa section completed. During this recce. We identified several sections that needed revision and the current route file includes these. We plan to ride the remainder of the route by the end of December 2024. It is planned to include The Trent Vale Trail once the final off road section is completed.

**Sub Routes.** So that we can encourage as many visitors as possible, we are in the process of designing a number of sub routes. These will be themed and offer shorter day rides for those with limited time or energy. These will include:

The Templar Trail; The Tennyson Trail; Lincolnshire Wolds Bomber County Trail; The Civil War Trail; The Wars of the Roses ride; The Vale of Belvoir; The Humber Bridge; Lincoln City.

All routes will be accessed through a Ride With GPS link. This will enable visitors to download gpx or fit files as well as transfer the route on a paper map. <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/49354342>

 This is the new link Ride with GPS has generously donated free access to their 'Organizational' facility. This allows for much greater flexibility as well as the ability to add points of interest.

Roy has made good progress adding these and will continue to do so as information is gained. If there is anything obviously missed, please advise. In particular: • Climb locations and % incline • Cafe stops where cyclists are supported with basic tools and pump • Accommodation with secure overnight cycle storage and tools as above • Visitor attractions • Free parking facilities.

**Local Authority Support.** Apart from one Grantham Town and SKDC Councillor, Tim Harrison, I have received no support from SKDC or LCC. While Cllr. Richard Davies expressed his interest, the officer he passed me on to was too busy with other projects to help. For this reason, Roy took the decision to exclude local authorities unless they offered meaningful and unfettered support.

**Accommodation.** We are inviting accommodation providers to be included on the website, free of charge. The minimum criteria for inclusion is that they offer lockable, covered, overnight bike storage.

**Camping.** Official campsites will be listed

**Funding.** This project is being self funded in terms of time and effort by the KJW Group. Our desire is to make this a free resource for tourists and tourist providers alike. There is an option for a guide book to be published, but that is currently outside of the scope of this project.

**Promotion.**The route will be promoted through the 'Ride with Roy' YouTube channel, together with press releases to the cycling and local media. It is also hoped that prominent cycling YouTube creators, such as Richard Lake, The English Cyclist and Amy Cycling Adventures will promote and take part. These creators are long distance cyclists and it is hoped they will complete the route in one ride. Unfortunately Richard can't make it but has provided valuable advice and will check some of the route

**Launch Event(s).** It is planned to hold an official launch event where as many cyclists as possible will ride all or part of the route. We could potentially have several start points, so we can include as many riders as possible and invite media from all areas. Towns wishing to host a start point will be required to make a meaningful effort to show support.

SKDC are interested in supporting a launch event, in Grantham, on 3rd May 2025. To accommodate as many cyclists as possible, and feature towns on the route, it is envisaged that multiple events will be encouraged, to start simultaneously. To ensure that the event provides value for money, SKDC require some idea of numbers. It would be useful if we could get some feedback on which clubs will be supporting us.

**Website.** With no funding or offers of support, Roy Redman is creating a website for the project. This is coming on well, with the tourist attractions currently being added. Help would be appreciated from anyone with web building expertise to check it over and add polish.

Web hosting has been offered, free of charge, by Cllr. Harrison on his 'Grantham Together' website.

**Contact Details:**

Roy Redman

email: thekingjohnway@gmail.com

Mobile: 07486 864378

**5.** **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No report from the treasurer received. £75 for webcam. Defer for AGM to discuss donation to Roy Redman. WIX Website payments: Domain Name £23.25 (for 2 years to 24th January 2027). Wix Website £201 (for 2 years to 1st February 2027).

**6. CAMPAIGNS REPORT:** No report received from Campaigns Secretary. Secretary had received information from Michael Hudson about a proposed cycleway between North Hykeham and Waddington supported by the local MP and Lincolnshire County Council. Unfortunately, this was stopped by a local landowner Roehire, who has a relative as a county councillor.

Tim had received from Cycling UK affiliated group Nottingham Cycle Campaign ‘Pedals’ on their campaign to lobby for better cycle provision on the new fleet of trains on East Midland Railway main line. See Pedals website. Attempted to get a response from Cycling UK National Office. Are Cycling UK involved in any discussion with EMR? E-mails sent in November, December and January to, Members Support, Campaigns Manager Sophie Gordon and Cycle Advocacy Network. No response to date.

Tim also had received from Dianne Brown- Petition for a Bridleway Pegasus Crossing on the A18 between Ashby cum Fenby and East Ravendale. Dianne has asked for support from Cycling UK Lincolnshire to sign a petition that she'll be sending to North East Lincolnshire. She states that "the provision of a 'PEGASUS’ crossing for horses and riders would enable access to the bridleways to and from Ashby Cum Fenby crossing over the A18 to join the bridleway to Ravendale in both directions. The current situation is not tenable and is downright dangerous, horses are having to stick out into the middle of the road from a blind opening to negotiate when it is safe to cross, drivers have no chance of seeing them until too late. The A18 is notoriously dangerous and is seeing more and more heavy traffic in the area, the route is used by walkers and cyclists who would also benefit from a safe area to cross". North East Lincolnshire (NEL) have stated that they have no records of any accidents and that the requested option to install a Pegasus crossing has been assessed. NEL found that following a site visit by a Road Safety Team, both vehicular speed and pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian volume vs traffic volume fell well below DfT threshold figures and that the introduction of a Pegasus Crossing is not justified. HOWEVER, NEL have stated that they will ask local riders and ramblers to report any near misses for a follow up review after Summer 2025.

**7. UPDATES ON AREA ACTIVITIES:** Lincoln: Averaging 5. Rides cancelled due to bad weather and flooding. No rides yet in 2025. Louth: Averaging 5 riders. Good turnouts both Wednesday and Sundays. Rides also cancelled due to weather. More than for a few years. Gainsborough: Sunday numbers going well with averaging over 5 on many rides some rides cancelled due to ice. No Women's rides at the moment.

Cycling UK Gainsborough cheque presentation evening for Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance on 4th November 2024. £2,520.

**8. EVENT ORGANISATION UPDATE:** The King John launch on Saturday 3 May 2025. Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Ride Saturday 31st May 2025. Also, a ‘Louth Day’ where local Louth organisations have been invited on Saturday 24th of May 2025. York Rally 20th-22nd June 2025. Lincoln Imp Audax more entries at this time of year than any time before. Nearly 20 entries. Just one for the Little Imp. Tim to attend North Lincolnshire Tourism Partnership Cycling Workshop ‘Greening Tourism’ Wednesday 29th January 2025. Cycle Lincolnshire (LCC’s Destination) Lincolnshire. Cycle Friendly Charter and Becoming Cycle Friendly free e-course for Greater Lincolnshire businesses.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Nothing to report

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Meeting at 21 Rudgard Avenue, Cherry Willingham Lincoln LN3 4JQ 22nd March 2025 11am.