

## Bridleway 18

At the parish council meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January Cllr Downes read out the following statement -

1. At the PC meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020, when referring to BR18, I stated Mr Moore, the owner of Breach House believed there was a discrepancy between definitive map and definitive statement.
2. This was recorded in the minutes and circulated in a subsequent mail shot.
3. Mr Moore made a complaint to Herts County Council alleging they had mis-stated his views which I had subsequently repeated believing they reflected his views. They investigated and published a report dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
4. Quoting (selectively) from the report: "I have previously written an article in the Parish Magazine in which I stated: "The owners of Breach House believe there is a discrepancy between the "Definitive Statement" and the "Definitive Map", and using the legal investigation process to which they are fully entitled to pursue, have asked Herts County Council to resolve the issue. It is important to clarify that the responsibility for doing this rests with Herts County Council. Little Berkhamsted Parish Council has no legal powers or responsibility to investigate or make a ruling in this right-of-way dispute." The wording above is the same as the wording within the Parish Council mailshot that Mr Moore provided to me. I can only presume that the mailshot (which is undated) and the parish magazine article are the same. The chair's email referenced Gavin (Harbour-Cooper's) email of 15 January 2020 and he confirmed that he had read it out in the Parish Council meeting of the same day. The phrase above, written by the chair, is incorrect. Mr Moore has never stated (as far as I can tell) that there is a discrepancy between the definitive map and definitive statement. Instead, Mr Moore believes that the used route of BR18 (running through his property) is incorrect. It was the County Council who informed Mr Moore that there appeared to be an anomaly or discrepancy between the definitive map and statement after this issue had been raised by other residents. I cannot find any evidence that Gavin advised the chair of the Parish Council that Mr Moore believed that there was a discrepancy.
5. The report says: There is a further sentence in the mailshot which is also incorrect. This sentence says: "The owners of Breach House has contacted Herts County Council because they believe the map designating the Right of Way is incorrect and does not conform to the Statement designating the Right of Way." I cannot find any emails where Gavin Harbour-Cooper or other County Council officers have made this statement or suggested it. It is not included in Gavin (Harbour-Cooper's) email of 15 January 2020 and nor is it suggested in that email. Given that these statements were made in a document produced by the Parish Council, I do not uphold Mr Moore's complaint against the County Council. There is no evidence that Gavin Harbour-Cooper made either of these statements.

Following the HCC report dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020, I am happy to acknowledge the report confirming I misrepresented Mr Moore's views at the Parish council meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 with regard to these two specific issues, and welcome the opportunity of correcting my factual error.