

SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Sherston Footpaths Group held in Sherston Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 22 April 2009

Present:

Martin Rea
Jay Dunn
Steve Dunn
Nigel Freeth
Helen Freeth
Kath Sheard
Steve Sheard
Maggie McKenna
Phylip Harries
Sue McKechnie
Andy Osborn
Stan Bunce
Pat Bunce
Richard Skeffington

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Roger Allen.

2. Approval of Minutes of 4 March 2009.

It was noted that Sue McKechnie had been omitted from list of attendees and that Kate and Steve Sheard's name had been incorrectly spelt. Many apologies from Maggie. Otherwise the Minutes were approved.

3. Walks Booklet.

Phylip reported that he had put together the maps supplied by Steve Dunn and all seemed okay. Using these maps we should be able to save approximately £150/£160, but we would still need to get rights to reproduce in the booklet. The scale of the maps will be looked at later to make sure that the walks will be clear for the user.

As in the previous Minutes, it was suggested that the Walks be divided between Group members for them to do the walks and comment on the condition, possible work or signage needed etc. Also timing could be checked for 'average' walker – say 2.5 miles per hour? PLEASE SEE LIST AT THE END OF THESE MINUTES.

Martin Rea reported on the situation regarding possible grants for the booklet. Cotswold Conservation Board for Sustainable Development said booklet would not be appropriate if surplus income went towards footpath maintenance etc as that was the statutory responsibility of Wiltshire Council. Grant may be possible if surplus income used towards the costs of Grove Wood. Also apparently booklet doesn't meet criteria for Community First. However Martin reported that John Thomson had again reiterated that he would try to help us with grant monies from W.C. .

Phylip made the point that in previous meetings it had been suggested that pubs might be included but he felt we should be careful not to include any information that might 'date' the Booklet.

The Group wanted to minute thanks for the huge amount of work that had been done by Jay and Steve Dunn towards the Walks Booklet so far.

4. Working Party.

Martin Rea reported that the Probation Service had a scheme called Community Payback – and maintenance of Rights of Way was the sort of project they had identified as a possible project for their 'customers'. The Parish Council was quite keen to support the scheme.

Once the Group have assessed the Walks and collated the work necessary maybe we could decide how to take this forward. Noel Banks is extremely busy and it is apparent that his time will be in great demand by other parishes, so this alternative solution might be the way forward.

5. Tree Warden.

Martin Rea reported that through the article in Cliffhanger two people had come forward to take on this role. Irene Johnston and Jo Forrest. W.C. has confirmed that it was permissible to have two Tree Wardens.

The remit seems to include tree management, tree laws, school education, woodworking, coppicing etc. and Parish Council pay for expenses and appropriate courses.

It was agreed the wardens be invited to attend future group meetings.

6. Footpath 13.

Martin Rea reported that there had been no site meeting regarding this matter. Apparently a senior Highway engineer John Dunn had spoken to Mr Meade who had said that the beech hedge would be removed – but obviously nothing had been done yet.

Steve and Jay Dunn reported that they walked the footpath on 19 April and there were several problems, which they had put in an email. Martin Rea said he would forward this onto W.C. .

Martin Rea said he had had a conversation with Ann Hillier, in which she said that there were a good many people walking this path at the weekends.

Martin reported that Colin Lovelock is retiring. NB Colin Lovelock was going to look at SHER20 but another staff member did the visit.

Apparently Rights of Way have said they will provide two stiles for Footpath 13.

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The annual parish meeting was scheduled for 28th May in the Village hall at 7.30 pm and all issues with particular paths, including 13, could be voiced then if they had not been resolved in the meantime.

Martin said that Phil Connors is keeping in touch with Council regarding this matter.

It was felt by the Group that W.C. Need to take enforcement action. In the past when RoW depts. have taken Court proceedings it has been effective. The Parish Council need to press for action from W.C.

7. Footpath 20.

There will be an article about this on the front page of the Cliffhanger and it is hoped that it will be taken up by the local press. It has been approximately three weeks since Richard Skeffington reported this. Richard Broadhead at W.C. had immediately been informed (copied to John Thomson) but nothing has yet happened. Again this could be raised at the parish meeting on 28th May.

8. Liaising with Landowners.

Article will be in the June issue of Cliffhanger. However, Martin will send round a copy of his draft letter for approval and send it out as soon as possible as Nigel Freeth pointed out that any delay in timing could be an issue for the landowners re crop planning and planting etc.

Martin reported that he was not aware of any progress on the County Data Base – again this was an issue for the parish meeting in May.

9. Grove Wood.

This land was held on a 15 year lease from Richard Smith with a covenant to erect a stock proof fence on 3 sides. Parish Council may need to fund this.

The two tree wardens will be involved and run the project. As they will hopefully attend our meetings there will be cross-pollination of information.

The project would be mentioned at the forthcoming parish meeting. A team of volunteers was needed to get the project moving and a group similar to footpaths should be set up. It was not thought that footpaths could take on Grove Wood as the group would become too large and unwieldy.

10. Matters Arising.

(a) Martin has not yet contacted Hugh Thompson Glover for permission to use any of his historical copy regarding the village.

(b) Litter was raised at the last meeting but no-one had taken up the offer from the Parish Council of litter sticks.

11. Any Other Business.

Geo-cache Points.

Steve Sheard raised the question of marking any 'geo-cache points' on our maps for the Booklet. This is a popular sport – rather like a treasure hunt – and we should do some research to see if it would be appropriate for the points to be included.

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Carnival Walk.

Sue had volunteered to take over this event which will take place at 10.30 am on Sunday 5th July starting from the Village Hall

Village History.

We need to do some work on putting together a coherent Village History for the Village Walk.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in the small hall on Wednesday 27th May 2009 at 7.30 pm (please note change of date from 21st May)

ALLOCATION OF WALKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GROUP MEMBERS:

WALK 1 – SHORT	PHYLIP AND MAGGIE HARRIES
WALK 1 - LONG	ANDY OSBORN
WALK 2 – SHORT	RICHARD SKEFFINGTON
WALK 3 – SHORT	NIGEL AND HELEN FREETH
WALK 3 – LONG	STAN AND PAT BUNCE
WALK 4 – SHORT	STEVE AND JAY DUNN
WALK 4 – LONG	STEVE AND KATH SHEARD
WALK 5 – SHORT	MARTIN REA AND SUE MCKECHNIE
WALK 5 – LONG	SUE MCKECHNIE

MM 10.05.2009

