

SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Sherston Footpaths Group held in Sherston Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday February 25th 2010.

Present:

Martin Rea
Jay Dunn
Steve Dunn
Maggie McKenna
Phylip Harries
Nigel Freeth
Helen Freeth
Andy Osborn
Stan Bunce
Pat Bunce
Chris Edgecombe
Richard Skeffington
Will Connock
Sue McKechnie

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Maggie McKenna and Irene Johnson.

2. Approval of Minutes of 20th January 2010

The Minutes were approved

3. Walks Booklet

Phylip presented the booklet at its present state. The walks text and maps are all done but not all the pictures in place. The general information, introduction, map of area are all in place. Village walk is almost ready; it has been perused by Roger Ashley. Richard to finalise. Jay suggested that the walks text pages should be reversed but after discussion it was decided to leave it as original. Parish clerk's home telephone number for problems needs to be changed to a 0800 number.

All agreed with the names given to the walks. It was agreed that with the walks being laminated plastic pouches were unnecessary.

All agreed that the booklet as designed by Phylip looks brilliant. It should be ready by May.

Action: Phylip to email all Group members with the text and maps for proof reading.

The booklet will need an ISBN number. The PC has spare ones. **Action: Martin to obtain.**

Finance

Martin said that we should be able to receive £3,000 from the Parish for printing. Discussion re retail cost but no final decision made. Ordnance Survey license will cost £300

Problem Paths

Most of these are now resolved. Mainly problems with ploughing and cropping and electric fences. See below

4. Liaising with Landowners

Letters are to go out to the landowners over whose land the walks are planned. They will include A4 text and maps. **Action: Martin to arrange photocopying by P.C., liaise with Nigel over wording (particularly cropping) and send out letters.**

Most of the problems on paths have been resolved as Stephen Leonard has done a lot of work. Jay has produced the latest spreadsheet of problems. Over half are cropping and ploughing problems. Stephen to be asked if he could write to the landowners generally re ploughing/cropping.

5. Working Party

Nigel Freeth is co-ordinator with Chris Edgecombe deputizing when Nigel is busy. Stephen Leonard will lend tools and do a demonstration of safe use. He has 3rd party insurance that does not cover volunteers. PC insurance covers volunteers using tools belonging to PC. All work needs a basic risk assessment which volunteers read and initial. John Lloyd, arborist, will let us have copies of his. **Action: Martin to look into insurance and obtain R.A. forms.**

6. Dog Fouling and Litter

There has been noted an increase in both around the village. Noticeably in Grove Wood bagged dog faeces thrown down. Martin suggested that a bin was provided near Stretchline and another in Sopworth Lane, both places where dogs are walked.

Andy suggested a village litter collection day to try to promote awareness of the problem.

7. Community Payback.

Martin reported that they will finish the fencing of Grove Wood tomorrow. They may return in the summer to improve the path by the river by laying scalplings. They may also help with other paths through the wood at a later date.

Jay suggested that improvements need to be made to the Cliff path which they could be asked to do. Also the stone stile at the Brook Hill entrance to the path. **Action: Martin to liaise**

8. Grove Wood

Coppicing has finished for this year. Snowdrops are to be planted on Saturday. There will be maintenance work and the botanical survey and path mapping will be done on March 21st.

9. Valentine Walk.

Sue reported a successful walk, 13 participants. About 4 miles, 2 hours towards Sopworth with a tenuous Valentines theme finishing with delicious soup at the Rattlebone.

.The next walk will be on Easter Monday – April 5th.

10. Village Green Day

This will take place on 22 May 2010. This has grown from the local environmental groups to 30+ organizations wanting to participate.

11. Matters Arising

Martin reported that he did not know the result Stephen Leonard's intended liaison with Mr Gibson of Willesley House re his query of the route of SHER 27.

Martin reported that replies to letters sent to John Tremayne (Easton Grey), and Sarah Wood (Luckington) informing them of the Booklet and relevant RoW and they had no objections.

Martin reported that the PC had written to Stretchline offering help re distress caused by the gates being locked but they replied that the problem had ceased.

12. A.O.B.

Sue reported that the footpaths in Norton were almost impassable and was advised to speak to Stephen Leonard

12. Next Meeting

Wed. March 31st 2010 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

SMcK
27.02.10