

SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Sherston Footpath Group held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 23 February 2011 at 7.30.

Present:

Martin Rea
Phylip Harries
Maggie McKenna
Richard Skeffington
Sue McKechnie
Jay Dunn
Nigel Freeth
Pat Bunce
Stan Bunce
Noel Banks
Lesley Bennett
Peter Campaigne - Norton Group

ACTION

1. Apologies.

Steve Dunn, Andy Osborn, Chris Edgecombe, Helen Freeth.

2. Approval of Minutes of 26 January 2011.

The Minutes were approved.

3. Walks Booklet.

No more progress to report.

4. Problem Paths.

(a) LUCK 35 – The tenants of the barn conversion have planted a hedge across the RoW. Steve Leonard has been to see them and spoken to them about the path. Noel reported that it was proposed that a stile/kissing gate should be installed beside the locked main gate (which was locked to prevent vehicular access). Walkers were using a gap in the hedge – but a more permanent solution should be sought.

NB

(b) SHER 20 – The broken manhole had not yet been repaired.

5. Working Party

The situation was still as reported in the last Minutes i.e. Nigel has various plans for the working party but was waiting for an improvement in the weather.

Nigel was planning on adding some way marks to the Easton Grey walk.

NF

Several members reported that The Cliff walk was very dodgy in the wet, muddy conditions.

6. Dog Fouling and Litter.

Martin reported that the Dog Warden was active. Lesley commented on the admirable work that Pat Cooper did in picking up litter.

7. Community Payback.

Martin reported that the Payback Team had nearly finished the footpath through Grove Wood. They would then move to the 'quarry' end and then to the section of the Macmillan Way (an inspection on site was due to happen on Saturday, 5 March). Martin said that if he could arrange it they would go to take a look at The Cliff to evaluate what work might be needed and that this might take precedence over proposed work on SHER 16.

It was felt that The Cliff walk needs urgent attention and the work could be fairly extensive. A path needs to be 'cut in' to the slope with a retaining board and some type of hardcore could be used to form a stable base for the path. RoW should be responsible for the cost of the work - but this needs to be established.

MR

There was discussion as to whether this work could include some planning for the installation of a kissing gate/stile at the Brook Hill end of the walk. There was strong feeling that it was important for the existing stone slab stile to be retained but it did present an obstacle for some less nimble walkers! Noel Banks suggested that a hunting gate next to the existing stone stile could be a better and easier solution than a kissing gate.

Martin said that the leader of the Payback Group was keen to go on working on projects in Sherston as they had established a routine which seemed to be working for everyone. It would be extremely helpful if we can provide them with future projects to carry out.

8. Grove Wood Up-date.

Martin reported that the coppicing should be finished in the next week. Tree planting was the next project to be tackled and it is hoped that this should be completed before the end of March. It will be a tough job – hopefully it will involve the children (and parents) from the school.

9. Regular Walks

Sue reported that despite rather inclement weather she had 7 people on her Valentine Walk on 13 February – and all repaired to the Rattlebone for a sustaining and delicious bowl of soup.

The next walk will be on March 27 and will be the Sherston / Norton walk. Martin said that the PROPS minibus had been organised to bring Nortonites to Sherston for the beginning of the walk and to be at the Vine Tree to bring Sherstonites back home (if they did not feel up to walking back!). Sue will plan the walk with Peter so that they are happy with the route.

10. New Projects.

River Walk

Martin had had a meeting with Steve Cox, who will hopefully be Mayor of Malmesbury next year. Martin said that the Sherston Group was interested in supporting Malmesbury but that it should be Malmesbury who are the 'main players' as the largest centre of population.

Steve was keen to include the Malmesbury Path Watch Group and the Malmesbury Walkers Group although up to now they perhaps weren't as active as our Group in Sherston. He proposed that Malmesbury should produce a Booklet similar to ours. Martin asked various questions – not least who would be paying for this. The Group felt that Malmesbury is a town and should have the resources and be in the driving seat for the project. A Malmesbury resident, the late John Bowen, had produced a bridges walk of Malmesbury, but this did not contain a map that would be very helpful.

Steve Cox was arranging a meeting in Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday, March 9, and Martin encouraged as many Group members as could to attend as this would help to give Steve our support and advice. Lesley suggested that contact should be made with Frances Goldstone of the Malmesbury River Valleys Trust who would be a beneficial person to have involved in the project.

Martin re-iterated that they should be advised to have a realistic idea of the timetable for the project. It may be possible to put together a Town Booklet for next year but the rest of the project it might be sensible to aim for a later date – maybe 4 June 2012 which would be the Queen's 60 Jubilee.

Kissing gates.

Noel reported that he had the kissing gate for Brook Hill and was waiting for better weather to carry out the work.

Maggie reported that she had not approached the landowners of the field on SHER 26 but really would get on with it!

Options for the location of some sort of improved access to The Cliff would need further inspection and Noel Banks said he would give the matter some thought. See 7 above.

Other Parish Footpaths

As stated before in the Minutes, SHER 16 will be looked at for work later in the year.

11. Bus Shelter Notice Board.

Phylip reported to the Group that he had been researching boards to display our maps – both in the bus shelter and in Grove Wood. He said that a board with an oak surround would be preferable to an aluminum frame and he was getting quotes for the job for approval.

PJH

Phylip is also looking at how the display for Grove Wood might work – and he has been looking at the various types of display used at Westonbirt. Noel said that he had some robust frames which could support a board which he had been given by Stephen Leonard as they were surplus to requirements. Phylip would liaise with Noel over their use.

NB /

PJH

12. Matters Arising

Martin reported that there had been an article in the local paper about the problems with the 4 x 4s at Easton Grey.

13. AOB

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 6 April 2011 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

MM
03.03.11

