

SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Sherston Footpath Group held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 26 January 2011 at 7.30.

Present:

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

Kieran Daly – by invitation and representing Peter Campaigne, Norton Group

ACTION

1. Apologies.

There were no apologies from members. The Group welcomed Kieran Daly who had come to attend the meeting to speak for the Norton Group.

2. Approval of Minutes of 1 December 2010.

The Minutes were approved.

3. Walks Booklet.

Martin reported that approximately 450 copies had been sold.

4. Problem Paths.

(a) LUCK 35 – the members reported over-cropping and a locked gate. Martin said he would speak to Steve Leonard and ask him to help with the above.

MR

(b) SHER 20 – there was a broken ‘manhole’ – Richard Smith is attending to this problem.

(c) Pinkney – Sue said that she had had another incident with the dog. She had reported it to PC Humphries, who had spoken to the owner. PC Humphries has asked that all incidents should be reported to him so he can build up appropriate evidence.

(d) SHER30 – Nigel has the matter in hand.

Andy Osborn reported that he had received the way mark ‘badges’ from Steve – and he had brought them to the meeting. These are appropriate for stiles, fences etc. and members can get in touch with Andy to obtain them if necessary. It was reported that EGR4 needed way marks.

(e) SHER4 – Steve and Jay reported over-cropping on Macmillan Way.

(f) SHER17 – members reported that the landowners had put in stiles and way marks, but there was still some over-cropping.

5. Working Party

Nigel has various plans for the working party but was waiting for an improvement in the weather.

6. Dog Fouling and Litter.

Martin said he would put yet another article in the Cliffhanger.

7. Community Payback.

Martin reported that the team had returned now the weather had improved to work on the footpath through Grove Wood and also the path beside the river.

8. Grove Wood Up-date.

Martin reported that the clearing of the middle of the wood was nearly complete. There were around 130 trees in the school free nursery awaiting planting.

9. Regular Walks

Sue reported that on her last walk – January 2nd – 16 people attended, with about 11 having soup in the Rattlebone following their efforts.

The next walk will be Sunday, February 13.

10. New Projects.

Kissing gates.

Maggie reported that there had been no responses to the various articles as yet. However, spring might bring some better reaction! It was suggested that we might put another article in the February issue of Cliffhanger to coincide with Valentine’s Day.

Kissing Gates (contd.)

Stan reported that Centrewire can deliver to Wiltshire County Council – 4 gates to a pallet which would decrease the delivery charges. He also suggested that the gates should be installed ‘close to home’ for the benefit of local walkers.

Martin reported that the kissing gate for the Brook Lane site by Stretchline had been delivered to Noel Banks and that the Cotswold Wardens had said they would install this with improved access into the field.

The two sites that would seem appropriate to try to get permission for gates would be in the middle of the field owned by Mr & Mrs Wiles at Easton Town Farm and the end of the Cliff Walk. Martin said that the Cliff location might prove to be a problem because of limited space at the site to install a gate whilst retaining the old stone stile.

River Walk – Sherston / Malmesbury

Martin has asked for definitive maps for the proposed route of this project but that we could proceed without them for the time being.

Sue said that in fact the work so far carried out by the Sherston Group did cover most of the ROW on our part of the walk up to Easton Grey/Foxley. We also had covered the route up to the Ford at Luckington.

Martin said he would contact the Malmesbury Group for more information.

MR

White Walls Bridleway.

Martin reported that this was suffering serious damage by ‘off road’ users. Police wanted to put in concrete blocks. English Heritage is prevaricating. There is to be a meeting in March at County Hall to try and resolve the issue.

Other Paths

The Group thanked Kieran Daly for his patience in waiting until this stage of the meeting for him to report from the Norton Group. He said that Peter Campaigne was keen to publicise a walk to the Vine Tree pub with the thought that this would help for them to keep their paths open and accessible. Kieran said that they would appreciate our help in this project. George Lynham wanted to encourage people to go to Alderton to see the work that has been carried out on restoration of the fish pond as well as the duck pond. Andy suggested a specific walk towards the end of March to the Vine Tree – and maybe a lunch could be arranged to end the walk. So that the walk was not too onerous for some, it might be possible to arrange for transport to bring ‘Nortons’ to Sherston High Street for the start of the walk – and to return ‘Sherstons’ back to the village afterwards. Apparently ‘PROPS’ – the charity – have such a conveyance and Martin said he would approach them to see if they might be able to help. Perhaps there could be a collection for their charity on the day.

MR

Bus Shelter Notice Board

Phylip said that he had been looking at the various options. He felt that aluminum did not look very nice and that an oak frame would be more suitable. He will get dimensions and quotes and report back to Martin. He also said that we should remember to put the new permissive path on our map.

PJH

Grove Wood Notice Board.

It was suggested that there should also be a display board in Grove Wood. Phylip would also investigate the options for this. It was also discussed as to whether it would be appropriate to have a board in Hunters Field.

PJH

11. Matters Arising

There were no points raised.

12. AOB

Martin reported that on Sunday June 5 there would be a picnic in Grove Wood with various crafts to be demonstrated – wood-turning, bush craft etc.

Martin also reported that permission had been given for a Memorial Bench to be placed in the wood for Ron Shortridge. John Lloyd will be making this from oak.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 23 February 2011 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

MM

11.02.11