

SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Sherston Footpaths Group held at Sherston Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7 October 2009

Present:

Martin Rea

Jay Dunn

Steve Dunn

Maggie McKenna

Nigel Freeth

Helen Freeth

Andy Osborn

Stan Bunce

Pat Bunce

Chris Edgecombe

Richard Skeffington

Guida Bryant

Sue McKechnie

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Phylip Harries.

2. Approval of Minutes of 9 September 2009.

The Minutes were approved.

3. Walks Booklet.

Martin reported that he had now received the up-dated descriptions and maps from Phylip. Jay, Steve and Phylip had done a great deal of work pulling all these together. Martin suggested that we could now give these out to the Guinea Pig walkers – we should perhaps give each of the twelve volunteers 2 walks – one long, one short – and ask them to report back (to Maggie) any comments they have, preferably by the end of November. Obviously they can walk more if they want and less if they find it a problem – but please to let us know in good time if they would not be reporting back to us. Maggie to email the maps/descriptions to them. Jay/Steve/Andy kindly agreed to compose a covering letter to the walkers so they know what the reporting procedure will be.

Andy will send the distances for each walk to Phylip for inclusion on the maps.

Martin said that he thought each of the walks should eventually have a name referring specifically to the route (instead of our current numbering system). Richard/Martin to speak to Joyce Glead, and give her a set of the maps/descriptions, to see if she can give us some historical/colourful names.

Richard reported that he had sent the Village walk draft to Phylip. Maggie will circulate it to the Footpath Group and Cilla for comments.

Problems

At our last meeting Martin had reported that John Thomson had made the suggestion that we could work through the Malmesbury Area Board via the 'Issues' system. However Martin has discovered that, although the Wiltshire Council site is active and there are some 300 plus issues registered from other areas in the county, nothing from Malmesbury appears to be registered. So he believes it is a 'blind alley' at least for the moment.

Martin suggests sending problems to RoW (Richard Broadhead, Alison Stewart, and Stephen Leonard) and also to John Thompson, pointing out what we need to fix for the relevant walks that will be in the Booklet. They should be invited to attend our next meeting so that these route and problems can be discussed.

Finance

Martin believes that the probable split will be 50% Area Board and 50% Parish Council but he is hopeful of £500 from organisation called Solve. Area Board still don't want us to make a 'profit' – even if this might be spent on RoW repairs. Costs appear to be £3,000 for 500 copies – i.e. £6.00 each. Maybe if they were to be sold at £4.99, the Area Board might make up the difference?

MARTIN ASKED THAT ALL MEMBERS THE GROUP CONTINUE TO SEND HIM THE RELEVANT HOURS THEY HAVE SPENT ON THIS PROJECT.

4. Community Payback

Team had arrived in the village and had done a job at the skate park, which Martin reported as being a pretty good job. Therefore he thinks we should proceed with using the Team. Apparently they are moving to Grove Wood – Mary Johnson and Irene Johnston are to be trained as Probation Supervisors. Specification for that work has been done with Richard Smith and they think most could be done by end of December. Should be worthwhile for them to move onto Footpaths and Jay suggested that SHER 13 and 15 would be suitable candidates. LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED BEFORE THE COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM ARE LIKELY TO BE WORKING ON THEIR LAND.

5. Liaising with Landowners / County RoW Department

Martin reported that the initial letter to Landowners would go out shortly. This will be followed by a letter in respect of the specific paths that will be included in the Walks Booklet that will need to be in satisfactory condition for the public use. John Matthews and Martin will be the points of contact for the landowners.

County RoW

Already dealt with earlier in the Minutes – i.e. they should be contacted and invited to come to our next meeting.

6. Grove Wood

This had been discussed earlier and Irene will be attending our next meeting to report on progress so far.

7. Michaelmas Walk Report / Regular Walks.

Sue reported on the walk – some 25 people of various ages and abilities joined the walk. It was a lovely morning and everyone enjoyed themselves. Sue did report that it was a bit problematical having such a difference in walking speed – one group with children in the party got rather behind and felt a bit abandoned. Next time Sue suggested that there could be two groups with leaders so that people don't feel held up – and there should be a 'shepherd' who knows the proposed route to help the slower group. Stan Bunce volunteered to help with the organization.

It was felt that perhaps when the next walk was publicised in Cliffhanger, it should be emphasized that these are friendly, family walks to be enjoyed by all abilities.

Many thanks to Sue for organizing, Irene for stewarding and - not to be forgotten Jason at the Rattlebone for the delicious blackberry and apple crumble (and custard!) and Martin's wife for supplying the apples and blackberries.

NEXT WALK – ALL HALLOWS – SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER

8. Matters Arising

Martin will follow up progress regarding the map in the bus shelter – again!

9. AOB

Maggie had only recently sent an email to Noel Banks to see if he could help with the estimated costs of Kissing Gates – no information yet received. Richard pointed out that not all stiles would be suitable as they had historical interest.

10. Next Meeting

THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER, 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

MM

09.10.09