

## SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Sherston Footpath Group held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 10 September 2008 in Sherston Village Hall

Present:

Martin Rea  
Jay Dunn  
Steve Dunn  
Kath Sheard  
Steve Sheard  
Andy Osborn  
Phylip Harries  
Maggie McKenna  
Stan Bunce  
Pat Bunce  
Sue McKechnie

### 1. Apologies

Received from Nigel and Helen Freeth, Graham Hayman, Graham and Sue Morris, Roger Allan.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting.

The Minutes were approved. It was agreed that any Matters Arising from the Minutes would be dealt with at the end of the meeting.

### 3. Current action re paths.

Martin Rea reported on the current situation in respect of the following paths:

SHER 20 – Grove wood

The Parish Council are in touch with the County in respect of the on-going problems with this matter – the continued use of barbed wire across the path and escaping livestock.

SHER 13 – Ladyswood

There is obvious obstruction of the original Right of Way in respect of the new pond and the location of the polo field. These issues need to be resolved. SHER 11 and 14 also linked to the above.

SHER 12 – Park Farm

The path has been re-located and the allowance made for the walkers is narrow. The electric fence that forms the boundary of the path is a cause for concern.

Martin Rea stated that there were certain paths that the Parish Council had informally chosen to maintain:

SHER 26 (strimmed three times a year);  
SHER 22 (not cleared – needs to be discussed);  
SHER 30 (one section strimmed)

All the Walks listed in the last minutes have been walked and some reports have submitted. There were serious problems on quite a few of the walks and it was decided that the reports should be collected together by Martin Rea and Phylip Harries who would assemble them and prepare a document for general distribution and comments in time for the meeting with the County.

It was suggested that it would be helpful if we could find out who the various relevant landowners were. Martin Rea said that Nigel Freeth might be able to give this information to the Group.

There were several issues that the Group felt should be raised at the meeting with the County:

- a) if anybody is injured on a public footpath or bridleway, because of the condition of the pathway or stiles or fences or vegetation, whose responsibility is it?
- b) what is the legal position in respect of the over cropping of a footpath/bridleway?
- c) would it be possible for the Parish Council to have funds and the authority to take more responsibility for the maintenance of the Rights of Way which could then be carried out at a more local level?
- d) currently how is the funding allocated for upkeep of the fabric of Rights of Way, stiles, gates etc.

#### 4. Walk Booklet.

The Group discussed the booklet and it was suggested that we should focus on three attractive circular walks to start with and try to make sure that these were in good walking condition. Following this we can then try to resolve the problems on the other walks and add them to the booklet if appropriate.

Andy Osborn pointed out that there were several other footpaths/bridleways that did not appear in the Walks Around Sherston book, and he undertook to circulate a list of these so that the Group could walk these and report on condition and suitability for forming part of the walk network for the booklet.

Martin Rea and Phylip Harries have agreed to co-ordinate the production of the booklet.

## 5. Matters Arising.

Martin Rea reported that County representatives, Colin Lovelock/Richard Broadhead, had proposed several dates for them to come to talk to the Group. After discussion it was thought that, although there would be some members of the Group unable to attend, the most suitable date would be Wednesday October 9th. Martin Rea would suggest this to County.

Grovewood Community Wood - Martin Rea reported that the stock-proof fence was to be erected in the autumn. Volunteers are required for the work!

Steve and Jay Dunn reported that they had come across some walkers with a map of one of the Sherston Walks that they said they had found in the Sunday Times. Jay and Steve unable to track the article down so far.

A basic page for the Footpath Group does appear on the village website. Martin Rea suggested that the Walks Around Sherston should be added to the information, with the warning that the booklet was some 25 years old and walkers should 'be prepared'!

Martin Rea agreed to contact the Scout Group again to see if they were prepared to get involved with any of the Group's projects.

Steve Dunn suggested that if the quality of submitted photographs was appropriate it might be possible to produce a Sherston calendar, which was thought to be a good idea. Some other suggestions were postcards, jigsaw puzzles and possible 'sponsorship' of a kissing gate.

## 6. Any Other Business.

Martin Rea proposed that Noel Banks, the Cotswold Conservation Warden, should be invited to our next meeting which was agreed would be an excellent idea.

## 7. Next Meeting.

Wednesday 9 October – 7.30 pm. To be confirmed

