

## SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Sherston Footpaths Group held in Sherston Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 9 September 2009

Present:

Martin Rea

Jay Dunn

Steve Dunn

Maggie McKenna

Phylip Harries

Nigel Freeth

Helen Freeth

Andy Osborn

Stan Bunce

Pat Bunce

Chris Edgecombe

### 1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Sue McKechnie and Phylip Harries. Sadly, Kath & Steve Sheard have resigned from the Sherston Group as they have recently moved to Malmesbury. Martin and the whole Group wanted to minute thanks for all their work for the Group during their time with us. (For information - Kath has asked that they should be kept on the circulation list so that they can keep abreast of our progress.)

### 2. Approval of Minutes of 29 July 2009.

Sue McKechnie had pointed out that she did not think that the 'guinea pig' walkers were her idea. Otherwise the Minutes were approved.

### 3. Walks Booklet.

Maggie handed out folders that Phylip had prepared, containing re-worked Maps and Descriptions. It was suggested that we all go through these and make sure that the routes were the acceptable and clear – descriptions matched the route etc. Obviously, Many problems remain on these walks, but at least the routes for the booklet would be decided. Andy very kindly volunteered to do the measurement of length of walks. Once the Group was happy with these documents we can give them to the 'guinea pigs' to walk and they can report back to us that they are clear to follow etc.

Regarding the descriptions, Jay suggested that it should be included in the main preamble to the walks that: **All these walks start from the bus shelter in Sherston Village High Street.**

### Problems

Jay, Steve, Andy and Martin (Problem Sub-Committee) have identified a long list of problems. It was suggested that for the moment there should be two lists – one concentrating on those walks that will be in the booklet and one for future attention.

### Problems (contd.)

Martin said that he was keen to try to invite John Thomson to come to a meeting with us, and the new RoW officer, to see if this could improve our liaison with the Council.

### Liaising

Martin reported that Parish Council were pleased with the progress we had made so far. John Matthews will approve the letter that will be sent to Landowners, explaining the basis of the footpath group and how by working together problems can be more easily resolved than at present.. Once that letter has gone out a separate letter will be prepared directed to the specific Landowners that are relevant to the Walks Booklet routes. This would be accompanied by relevant Map and Description.

(Martin will let Phylip know how many maps are required.)

As had been mentioned in previous meetings, Martin raised the point that some of the routes involved neighbouring parishes – Luckington, Sopworth, Easton Grey. We need to give consideration to them and he suggested that maybe the project could come under the auspices of the Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership Board. Apparently there are 20 Boards over the County with 4/5 Councillors on each Board – they have budgetary powers and are there to ‘serve the community’ i.e. the Councillors are accountable.

The Group felt that this could be a bit cumbersome for our ‘Sherston’ booklet. However, the parishes should be contacted with a letter saying that ‘we would like to approach the relevant Landowners in your parish asking for their co-operation’.

### Finance

Phylip estimates that cost would be approximately £3,000 for 500 booklets, including a plastic pouch.

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

This information is needed for him to send to the Cotswold Conservation Board who hopefully will be our main source of funding. We are moving towards a December printing/February launch.

#### 4. Community Payback

Martin reported that the Community Payback Group would be coming out in mid-September to sort out the Skateboard Park. In November they would start fencing work in Grove Wood. They will be working every Thursday. They are keen to carry out RoW maintenance and Martin asked if Jay, Steve and Andy could select 2 footpaths where they could work – and subsequently they would hopefully move on to other footpaths

5. Liaising with Landowners / County RoW Dept.

This had been covered earlier in the meeting.

6. Grove Wood

Martin reported that apparently Richard Smith had not heard any more about grants.

7. Michaelmas Walk / Regular Walks.

Sue McKechnie had very kindly agreed to lead the Michaelmas Walk – which would take place at 10.00 on the morning of Sunday, October 4. It was hoped that it would be an opportunity for lots of seed-collecting – brown paper bags would be useful! Martin suggested that a notice should be put in the school magazine to encourage participation from them.

8. Matters Arising

Martin will follow up progress regarding the map in the bus shelter.

9. AOB

Martin said he would remind Richard to contact Joyce Gleed for local historical names for buildings, streets etc. for the booklet.

Andy suggested that Chris Edgecombe might take over responsibility for WALK 4 LONG - WILLESLEY, which had been the walk covered by Kath and Steve Sheard. Chris kindly agreed.

Maggie had heard from Martin that in Pembrokeshire they had been replacing their stiles with kissing gates, in order to provide more ‘user friendly’ access to their RoW. She suggested that perhaps we could follow the example and that the cost could be funded by people ‘adopting’ a kissing gate for a particular occasion - engagement/birthday/wedding/memorial etc. and plaques could be placed on the gates with the appropriate dedication.

The Group thought this could work. Maggie will find out estimates of how much a stile (metal or wood) would cost.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7 October, 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

MM

14.09.09