

**REPORT OF INFORMAL RIGHTS OF WAY MEETING HELD IN PURTON VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY 2018 commencing at 10am**

Present: Lesley Miles, Administrative Assistant
Deborah Lawrence, Clerk

20 members of the Public present
Unitary Councillor Jacqui Lay present

1 **To Receive and Accept Apologies**

Cllr Ray Thomas & Cllr Sue Matthews gave their apologies for absence.
5 Residents on the Informal Rights of Way circulation list sent apologies. **Noted.**

2 **Report from the Informal Rights of Way Meeting on 17th July 2017.**
Noted.

3 **Footpath Teams**

Appreciation was given to our two volunteer Footpath Teams for their tireless work and dedication in keeping the Footpaths in the Parish open and accessible.
It was agreed that a meeting with Parish Council Officers, Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer and the Footpath Team would be arranged to prioritize the long term outstanding work on Wiltshire Council's Action List. Admin Assistant to arrange

Footpath 84

Information was given for the improvement of Footpath 84, the section of footpath that is being upgraded runs along the side of the old St. Mary's School building up to the new set of steps into College Road. A grant for 50% of the total cost of this work has been awarded from the Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board for the completion of this work. The work will start on 25th January and will take 2 days to complete.

Copies of the Action Lists were available at the meeting.

4 **Ringsbury Camp**

It was advised that the Landowner was not supportive of the request to allow walkers to have access to the complete circle of Ringsbury Camp during the time Brockhurst Meadow is open. However his continued support and consent to open the Meadow again this year for the viewing of the Orchids from 16th until 25th June 2018 is much appreciated.

5 **Maps and Booklets**

Thanks were given for the outstanding work that has been carried out on the four walk leaflets that have been completed by **members** of the Footpath Team. A huge thank you to the members involved. The Leaflets that are available to buy from The Parish Council Office are Leaflet 4 Ringsbury Camp & Greenhill, Leaflet 5 Canals & Railways, Leaflet 7 Two Churches and Leaflet 15 the Battle Walk for 50p each. Public Rights of Way in Purton maps are also available to order from the Parish Council Office. A3 = £1.50, A2 = £3.00, A1 = £6.00 & A0 = £13.00

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6 **For Information**

Members of the public and the footpath volunteers were informed that any changes to stiles or kissing gates must now be authorised by Wiltshire Council along with a 147 application form being sent to the landowner for consent to carry out work on their land. The forms will be sent via the Council office direct to the landowner. **Noted.**

A reminder was given to those volunteers who had not returned their Unpaid Contractors Agreement Forms to do so as soon as possible. Any queries to be directed to the office.
Admin Assistant to contact those Volunteer with forms outstanding

7 **Question and Information**

Blakehill

A request from a resident was made to ask Wiltshire Wildlife what stage they were at with regards to the Blakehill viewing point.

Admin Assistant to investigate

A request was made to ask Wiltshire Council to contact the landowner to open up Footpath 3 to allow access to Blakehill.

Admin Assistant to action

Footpath 161

Concerns were raised regarding the erection of a fence on Footpath 161, Francomes Hill.

The definitive map and OS details as adopted are not to the route that is currently taken and well trodden. Therefore the land owner has fenced the correct route accordingly to the OS map regardless of the trodden route.

The question was asked who will be responsible when the new route becomes unwalkable due to the correct route of FP161 taking you through a natural watercourse. Wiltshire Council are liable for all Footpaths in the Parish and will be responsible for keeping FP161 open.

A request was made for way markers to be put on the new fence along FP161 to mark the correct route.

Admin Assistant to arrange with footpath team.

Admin Assistant to write to Wiltshire Council to ask if the Modification order for FP161 could be amended to the trodden path, as this was what was requested by residents at the time of the Modification Order and the OS route doesn't relate to the well trodden route.

Foothpath 161 leading to FP110 and FP112

A member of the public highlighted that the Footpath at the end of FP161 leading to FP110 & 112 was dangerous to walk along. It was suggested that this section of path would benefit from a rail for walkers but was rejected as this would be dangerous to the horses that graze in the field. The footpath team will view the area to see if anything can be done.

Admin Assistant to investigate

Footpath 46A

It was reported how disappointed residents were with the landowner stock proofing the stiles making it difficult for walkers to get their dogs into the fields to walk the Footpaths. The Clerk

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reported to members of the public that the landowner is legally allowed to do this and that Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council are working with the Landowners for the best possible solution for all concerned.

Members of the public also raised concerns over the hedge being removed along the byway on Vasterne Hill. It has been confirmed that a new hedge will be planted and planning permission did not need to be granted for the hedge to be removed.

Admin Assistant to write to the landowner to ask for the verge to be reinstated after the removal of the hedge.

A further request was made to ensure that way markers are placed to emphasise FP42 FP44, FP45, FP46B, FP47, FP48 & FP 49.

Admin Assistant to arrange with footpath team.

Footpath 103

It was reported that a fence had been removed on Footpath 103 Mud Lane to discourage walkers from walking the footpath through a resident's garden.

Advice was given to walkers to continue to walk the correct route of Footpath 103 regardless.

Footpath 75

Concerns were raised about the drainage along the B4553 which is affecting the crossing of a stile on Footpath 75.

Admin Assistant to arrange for the ditches to be cleared via the landowner

It was agreed that the trial of a daytime meeting was a success and preferred by those who attended.

The next Informal Rights of Way meeting will be held at Purton Village Hall on Wednesday 18th July 2018 at 10am. Tea and Biscuits will be provided.

The Clerk thanked all those who attended and advised the office is open from 9-5 Monday to Thursday and 9-4 Friday for anyone wishing to discuss items of concern. All those attended were thanked for their support and welcomed to the next meeting.

If you would like to report any problems with footpaths and stiles please contact Lesley Miles at the Council Office on 772646 or email admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

Meeting Ended at 11.15am.

**Report compiled by Lesley Miles
Administrative Assistant**