

**REPORT OF INFORMAL RIGHTS OF WAY MEETING HELD IN PURTON VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 18th JULY 2018 commencing at 10am**

Present: Lesley Miles, Administrative Assistant
Deborah Lawrence, Clerk
Stefanie Halpin, Deputy Clerk

7 members of the Public present

1 **To Receive and Accept Apologies**

Cllr Sue Matthews, Jamie Hurwood, Julieann Hurwood & Cllr Jacqui Lay gave their apologies for absence.

8 Residents on the Informal Rights of Way circulation list sent apologies. **Noted.**

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

Noted.

3 **Footpath Teams**

Appreciation was given to our two volunteer Footpath Teams and The Ramblers for their tireless work and dedication in keeping the Footpaths in the Parish open and accessible.

It was **Noted** that the Footpath Teams Action List can be viewed on The Parish Council Website.

Attendees were given an update on the concerns that were raised at the meeting held on 17th January 2018.

a) Wiltshire Council's outstanding work

A meeting was held on 7th February with Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer to produce a list to prioritise Wiltshire Council's outstanding work on footpaths in the Parish of Purton.

The list was available at the meeting.

To date due to limited resources Wiltshire Council have only completed one item, this was to install a Fingerpost on FP16 Pond Lane. **Noted.**

Admin Assistant to contact Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer for an update on the following 3 items.

FP3 to Blakehill – currently unavailable. Stephen Leonard to speak to the landowner to say the team want to open this footpath and install stiles to allow walkers access to the viewing point.

Wiltshire Wildlife has advised the work on the viewing point will be completed by March 2018.

FP2 – Locked Gate – Stephen Leonard to contact land owner.

FP124 – Currently unavailable. Stephen Leonard to contact landowner to say the team want to open this footpath to provide access to Blakehill reserve from the top of Stoke Common Lane.

b) Footpath 161

The Footpath Team added way markers along the new fence as requested. **Noted.**

Residents requested that the Parish Council contact Wiltshire Council to ask for the Modification Order for Footpath 161 be amended to the trodden route.

Wiltshire Council confirmed that for a modification change to take place it would require a request from the landowner and the change would be at the landowner's expense. **Noted.**

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c) Footpath 161 leading to FP 110 & 112.

This footpath was highlighted to be dangerous and a suggestion was made for a rail to be installed for walkers. Discussions are ongoing between Wiltshire Council and the landowner. **Noted.**

d) A request was made to contact Wiltshire Council with regards to the removal of a hedge on Vasterne Hill.

Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer visited the site and confirmed the landowner has not breached any regulations by removing the hedge and a replacement was already in hand. **Noted.**

e) Way Markers.

A request was made for way markers to be placed on FP 42,44,45,46B,47,48 & 49. to emphasise the footpaths. The Footpath Team have actioned this request. **Noted.**

f) Ditch Clearance.

Concerns were raised about the drainage on the B4553. To date this work has not been carried out. Admin Assistant to contact the Landowner again.

Retirement.

Recognition and appreciation was given to a member of The Footpath Team after 21 years of voluntary work on the footpaths.

First Aid Training.

Attendees were informed of the First Aid Training that was given to members of The Footpath Team along with Parish Council Staff by ABCD Care Training. **Noted.**

5 Kissing Gates

Gratitude was given by The Parish Council and the Sponsors to the Footpath Team for the installation of 7 new Kissing Gates making walks in Purton more accessible for all abilities. **Noted.**

6. Maps and Leaflets

The four walk leaflets below are available to buy from the Parish Council Office for 50p each.

A fifth walk leaflet will be available soon. Thanks was given to the creator of the leaflets.

Leaflet 4 Ringsbury Camp & Greenhill.

Leaflet 5 Canals & Railways.

Leaflet 7 Two Churches.

Leaflet 15 The Battle Walk.

The following Public Rights of Way in Purton maps are available to order, please contact The Parish Council Office. 01793 772646 admin@purtonpc.eclipse.co.uk

A3 = £1.50.

A2 = £3.00.

A1 = £6.00.

A0 = £13.00

7. FOR INFORMATION

Village Walk – The Village Walk will take place on 2nd September, meeting in the layby by the vets for 2pm, distance will be approximately 4 miles. The route is to be confirmed. **Noted.**

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8. QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION

To take question regarding rights of way and open spaces within Purton and where necessary refer to the Full Council meeting to be held on 10th September 2018

Concerns raised by the attendees.

FP 90 – Harvest Water, Locked Gate. Admin Assistant to contact landowner.

FP 143 – Bradon Forest School. Overgrown hedgerow. Admin assistant to contact the school.

FP 104 – Nettles to be cut back. Footpath Team to carry out this work.

It was suggested that this footpath should be regularly walked to keep the foliage down.

West Marsh Farm – Mopes Lane. Way Marks need to be added to emphasise the footpaths in this area. Footpath Team to add way markers.

Bridleway 15 – Ham Lane. Bridleway in need of clearance. Footpath Team to investigate.

Ringsbury Camp Information Board. Attendees were advised that a member of the Parish Council will contact the landowner to discuss the siting of the Information Board.

FP 118 – Lower Pavenhill. A section of this footpath is not accessible. Footpath Team to investigate.

FP 144 – Battlewell to Dogridge. Overgrown foliage. Footpath Team to carry out this work.

On a positive note - Thanks was given to: -

The Footpath Teams for their improvement of FP 131 Church End and their consistent hard work on the footpaths, the work that has been done by the landowner on FP 94 and Wiltshire Wildlife for the work that has been done at The Firs.

It was agreed to continue with the daytime meeting.

The next Informal Rights of Way meeting will be held at Purton Village Hall on Wednesday 16th January 2019 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**