

Minutes of the Footpath, Conservation and Allotments Committee meeting held on Monday 18th January 2010 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr T Cook, Cllr N Cooper, Cllr J Davies, Cllr R Milner-Gulland, Cllr M Shaw.
Mrs L Quirk (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence**
None all members present
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
Minutes from the meeting held on 23rd November 2009 were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - 2.1.1 A24 Bridge - Bridge no.1488 St Mary's Bridge. A meeting has now taken place with Will Green WSCC Engineer, Cllrs Cooper and Cook. Follow up letter has been written by the Clerk, *Cllr Cook will follow this up if no response is received in the New Year.*
 - 2.1.2 Vera's shelter – A notice has been put up asking for suggestions of the colour it should be stained internally- 42 responses received and it has now been decided. Preferred colour will be purchased and bill sent to PC. *On going*
 - 3.1 The red phone box in Sanctuary Lane will be painted in the spring.- *On going*
 - 4.2 Footpath 2698- Beggars Lane- Unstable banks, will be checked on 30th November. *Cllr Cook to speak to John Lower to ascertain the ownership, as a hand rail has been suggested to aid the descent on the footpath during inclement weather.*
 - 4.3 Home Farm bridleway- Cllr Milner-Gulland pointed out that it was the main East-West footpath. It was agreed to ask the cost of making an appropriate surface. Clerk to enquire. *On going*
 - 4.4 Ashington Parish Council had been approached by WSCC regarding a footpath/bridleway link, which it is thought would come through Washington parish. It was suggested that a meeting may be appropriate; the Chairman will email the Clerk. On going. Clerk was asked to thank Vic Oliver for his prompt action during the recent bad weather with clearing the footpaths and assisting with the lanes clearance.
 - 4.5 A request was made by Cllr Cook & Cllr Milner-Gulland a copy of the footpath maps, Cllr Britt will ask if Cllr Turley can arrange. These were distributed.
 - 4.6 Footpath 2699- It was noted that this footpath needed cutting back where it abuts Tilleys Cottage. Reported
 - 4.7 Bridleway 2623- Georges Lane- Clerk to be asked to write to the National Trust again about the pot holes which it was thought could cause injury to horses. On going
1. Allotments – Cllr Britt to look at the allotment that has been overgrown recently and report back to the Chairman. Part of the plot is now being worked. The slide still remains on plot on right inside gate, tenant has been asked on several occasions to remove it, Clerk to write again.
2. Budget requirements- cost of supplying a tap for drinking water at Vera's shelter & The Street to be explored- budget £1500. Finance Committee considered that as the budget requirements were very tight, that this project should be postponed this year.

4. **WSCC proposal not to transfer Rights of Way to New National Park Authority**
 Cllr Britt, who took part in this item, said the recent notification regarding the Finger Posts maintenance was very relevant to this item, if they can't fund the fingerposts what will happen to the R.O.W. budget. Cllr Milner-Gulland added that it makes no sense that the Authority who looks after the National Park will not be responsible for R.O.W. in their area. The SDJC will cease when the Park Authority takes over and the Park Authority would keep the existing staff of the SDJC which provides continuity. Cllr Cooper said that the decision had been called back in by WSCC Cllr Deedman for further discussion. It was agreed that an email should be sent to the Cabinet Member Deborah Urquhart and copied to Frank Wilkinson expressing concern and asking that the matter be reconsidered and at least held over until the new NP Authority is in existence.

5. **Footpath Maintenance issues- including WSCC proposals for the replacement of Fingerposts**
 An email had been received which had been circulated to members from WSCC who say they are unable to continue to fund finger repair/replacement of finger posts, and that it is proposed to provide a 50% grant on a first come basis, to assist parishes. Members agreed to write back to WSCC saying that the parish is unable to take over this responsibility due to financial constraints, asking if WSCC are the responsible Authority for doing these repairs.

6. **Allotments**
 The Chairman Cllr Davies and Cllr Shaw will visit the allotments over the next few weeks.

7. **Any Other Committee Business**
 The Chairman asked that members log any problems they find whilst walking footpaths etc within the parish.
 Cllr Cooper reported that the footpath from the Frankland Arms to the bus shelter had a number of shrubs that were growing over the pavement, once it is ascertains which properties these are they will be asked to cut them back.

8. **Date and time of next meeting**
 Next Committee meeting to be held in March

Meeting finished at 7.40pm

Signed Date 24th May 2010
 Chairman