

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of the above group held on Monday 28th January 2013 at 7 Old Croft Close, Kingston Blount.

Present: Peter Hetherington (in the Chair), Di Eaton, Jan Gooders, Tony Hughes, Julian Knight, Matthew Day, Paul Rooksby, Stephanie Johns (Parish Clerk)

- 1) **Apologies** – None
- 2) Jean Trotman has resigned from the Committee. A letter of thanks has been sent by PH.
- 3) **Minutes of previous meeting** were read and approved.
- 4) **Matters arising** - None.
- 5) **Better Ways to School** – Footpath 7: One short section near the cricket pitch still needs raking and plating. Kavan Ring (Contractor) is taking responsibility for this., with no further charge.
- 6) **Request for a Footpath from near the Lambert Arms to the Oxford Tube:** This is outside of the Parish but a quote has been obtained from Kavan Ring of £16,000 which unfortunately, is outside of our remit. OCC (Oxfordshire County Council) can't help. Peter Gibbons has written to the Oxford Tube but has had no reply to date.
- 7) **Request for more salt bins for the icy roads in our villages:** PR is to write to Tetsworth Parish Council requesting salt at the bottom of the Postcombe to Sydenham Road as the road slopes down to the A40 and is very dangerous when icy. A request was made for a salt bin to be located at the junction of Brook Street and The Rise, close to the allotment side of the park. This request is to be made to the PC (Parish Council) at their next meeting.
- 8) **Request for a 20mph speed limit for Aston Rowant Village:** Oxfordshire County Council are against putting a limit of 20mph due to its inability to Police. SJ suggested the school get involved with making 'cautionary' signs though OCC permission may be needed. MD also added that there are now problems with parking on the corner of Brook Street and that there is a need for more signage. This is to be discussed at the Parish Meeting.
- 9) **Proposed new Parish Circular Walking Route from the Church to Woodway** , up Juniper Bank, across the A40 all in NT woods, then across to Natural England Reserve and back down to the Ridgeway. And thence back to AR.
 - i. This is a 5.3 mile circular walk 'Discover the Countryside' and has no stiles.
 - ii. The walk is along a lot of permissive paths which are not highlighted on the OS map..
 - iii. PH has applied for funding to the TOE2 (Oxfordshire Trust for the Environment) for £4000.00. The application has been reviewed with the assessor and will hopefully be approved at their next meeting on 28th February 2013.
 - iv. £2000.00 has already been received from OCC
 - v. £1000.00 maximum has been promised from the Chiltern Conservation Board
 - vi. In addition, a management fee of 10% also has to be paid. The PC has put £500.00 into the pot to cover this.
 - vii. Costs include leaflets, waterproof metal dispensers and improvements to a bridle path. The walk will also be posted on several websites.
 - viii. The National Trust and Natural England are supporting PH in the application and are offering volunteer help in putting up all the signs

- 10) **Cycle Path Network:** Linking Lewknor, Aston Rowant Parish, Sydenham and Chinnor to the Phoenix Way. PH reported that almost all landowners that previously objected have either moved or are selling. The new land owners are thought to be supportive of the Network. Discussion will continue attempting to develop the route in stages linking Lewknor, Sydenham and Chinnor through our Parish on the Lower Icknield Way, initially without a Phoenix Way link.
- 11) **Parish Walks:** There was a very good turn-out for the last parish walk. 24 people (6 from the parish) turned up in all. This was advertised on various 'Rambler' websites and Facebook.
- 12) **Planting and Maintenance of Village Flower Tubs** – These all seem ok and the Parish are continuing to support and keep watered. The next planting is scheduled around May. Thanks was paid to Michelle Harding who continues to do all the planting.
- 13) **Improving Bridleway surfaces in the Parish** – Costs for one of these by Woodway Farm has been included in the Circular Walking route funding. Improvements to the Lower Icknield Way have been discussed with OCC Countryside Services but this is a low priority on their agenda.
- 14) **Other Business:** Thanks to Mike Eaton for all his help on the Digital Map for the Circular Walk information boards.
- 15) **Date of the next meeting:** 8pm on 16th September 2013 at PH's House, Brookside, Brook Street