

Minutes of the Footpath and Amenities Group of ARPC held on 1st July 2019

Present: Peter Hetherington in the chair, Di Eaton, Mike Eaton, Tony Hughes, Steven Sowerby, Adam Bernstein, Jan Gooders, Pat Isherwood.

Apologies: None

Minutes of last meeting held 8th April 2019: Agreed and signed.

Fiveways report and future projects: Three trees have been removed by Peter Whipp, one was big and rotten. Three more need removing. The lump of concrete (not a pudding stone) has been removed. There has been a big increase in wild flowers this year which is very encouraging. The yellow rattle is on the increase and should push back the grass growth. Mike to collect more seed to sow this year. Mike will weed kill near the bench to stop nettles growing through it but major strimming needs to wait until August after the seed has set. Mike suggested residents could donate different wildflowers from their garden.

Discussion on Rowan planting for this year and maybe 3 to 5 needed. One for Fiveways and others the location to be decided.

Snowdrop Sunday, cream teas, duck racing: Date for next year is 16th February. Suggestion to publicise teas at the Duck racing as quite a few people walked over and didn't go near the church. Parking cones are required for the bend by the church.

Leading Historical and Nature walks in the Parish. Working with the church and school: Mike to ring school again about taking another children's group to Fiveways. Suggested he go through school secretary. Peter to follow up a possible walk for the Historical churches group run by David Fahey.

Progress with permissive path from Kingston Blount to Crowell: The path needs strimming and will be done by George Stevens. 260metres of mesh to go down in the Autumn. Four to six volunteers required to help the Chiltern Society. A celebration to be organised when completed and maybe the pub will support this.

Improving existing paths and bridleways in the Parish. Better surfaces: George Stevens to strim the lanes in Kingston Blount. Some backfilling of path near the cricket club needed. A more expensive project is the Moors footpath which needs scraping under the trees. It requires better quality scalping. Church lane also needs a top up, George asked to quote. The footpath from Aston Rowant to Postcombe has been weed killed for access. The Aston Rowant Discovery trail from Woodway to A40 has two trees down. Peter to contact N.T.

Parish Walks: 20 Oct 2019 as part of the Chilterns Autumn Festival and 5 Jan 2020 as part of Rambler's Winter Walking Festival.

Replacing and planting Village flower tubs. Simon Coulon's report: Simon has replaced two tubs in Kingston Blount and one in Aston Rowant. Weighted down so no one should steal.

Tree Planting: See Fiveways report.

Litter Picking: The last litter picking was successful but it was very bad. It needs another one in the Autumn when the vegetation dies back. A possible weekend is 12th/13th October. Adam offered to do along the main road occasionally but will need high vis jacket etc.

Clearing out ditches, grips and water courses: Many gullies in Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant are blocked and have been reported on the website but still not done. Some have been done but not Brook St. To be mentioned to Parish Council.

Suggestions for new projects: For information only ; the church has established ownership of the land we know as site of the Pest House beyond Fiveways. The land is overgrown and the Chiltern Conservation Board happy to help with pruning etc. Nick Marriner of the Board is happy to come and look and may be able to help with projects at Fiveways perhaps putting in culverts for the fish.

Declaration of Interests: All members of this group have signed.

Date of next meeting: 28th October 2019, 8pm at Old Stocks, Aston Rowant.