

## **ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP**

### **MINUTES of a meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Nethercote, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant**

**Present:** Peter Hetherington (in the chair)(PH), Diane Eaton (DE), Lynn French (LF), Tony Hughes TH), Julian Knight (JK), Paul Rooksby (PR), Stephanie Johns (Parish Clerk), & Mike Eaton (ME) as an advisor on Five Ways.

1. **APOLOGIES** : Jan Gooders
2. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were approved.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** – LF mentioned the garden scheme from the last minutes where homeowners could let keen gardeners have a piece of their garden for an allotment in return perhaps for some of the produce in return. The Clerk is to write to the Allotment Committee to ask whether there is currently a waitlist and to ask for their thoughts. If they are happy then LF will put a notice in the next Parish Notes.
4. **ASTON ROWANT DISCOVERY TRAIL**- PH reported that this continues to be successful. The Leathern Bottel are pleased with the additional custom that the walks bring, PH is leading a London HF Group on the 29<sup>th</sup> May in the morning. ME suggested leaflets could be placed on the Oxford tube. PH will action this.
5. **PARISH WALKS** - The New year walk was terrible weather but still there 7 walkers altogether for an eight mile walk! The next walk is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May from Kingston Blount Village Hall at 10am for approximately 8 miles (Quite an easy walk).
6. **PLANTING OF VILLAGE TUBS** – PH reported that Simon Coulon is now taking care of the village tubs on his own and as a way of thanking him, the Parish Council bought him a bottle of wine at Christmas.
7. **UPDATE ON WORK AT FIVEWAYS** –
  - a. ME reported that 5 English Willow Trees have been planted in the last year. They all seem ok but they will be left to grow for the time being. English & Welsh daffodils and many other wild bulbs have also been planted. The response from the school was very positive following their visit there and the duck race was a huge success, attracting around 120 visitors. Another one is planned for next year. JK mentioned that he wasn't sure about the placement of the logs but most of these have now gone. The Next planting is between the bridge and the picnic area. The black poplar has ringed again and a better job has been done to prevent re-growth.
  - b. PH reported that the commemorative plaque is currently in manufacture and Southern Power Distribution Co have paid for this. This will be placed on the front of the Village Hall. He also thanked ME for all of his help so far on the project.

8. WORKING WITH ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL – ME will contact Aston Rowant School to talk about doing another tour with years 5 & 6. He will also mention Jim’s allotments to enquire as to whether the younger children still visit on an annual basis.

9. IMPROVING BRIDLEWAY & FOOTPATH SURFACES IN THE PARISH

a. PH reported that more planings are needed (again) for various reasons but partly due to the agricultural vehicles pushing the planings out to the side. PH will investigate the cost of another 2 loads. The cost is approximately £700 for 2 loads every 2 years.

b. **Upgrading the surface of Footpath between Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant**

**AR7:** PH reported that grant applications had been made to TOE2 which is Oxfordshire's Trust for the Environment ( £8000 ) and Rugby Group Benevolent Fund ( £2000). We have also been promised almost £1000 from OCC Countryside Services and £2000 from the Parish Council.

An initial enquiry concerning a possible grant from Western Foundation revealed that they will not fund Parish Council led projects.They advised us to apply either through a charity or the school. Hillwerke Trust subsequently agreed to head up the project.

If successful these grants will enable the path to be upgraded from Stert Road to the Aston Rowant end of the cricket pitch. We will continue to patch the remaining length of the footpath each year with planings funded by ARPC and laid by Aston House Stud.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS –

a. Litter Clearance - Kingston Hill has finally been litter picked by Biffa. There was a report of litter opposite the Lambert Arms on the corner of Butts Way. DE will check and report to the Clerk exactly what the problem is.

b. Footpath Warden (PH) – It is currently a struggle to register open spaces with the District Council. Historical evidence is not considered when deciding whether land is eligible.

**11. Date of next meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November at Pippin house, 2 Aston Gardens, Aston Rowant.**