

Members are requested to:

- APPROVE funds to be allocated for insurance and PPE items required by group.

Volunteer Footpath Group

The footpath volunteer group was set up in 2022. Councillor Cole helped to set up the group with one of the Parishioners as the Co-Ordinator of the group. The group is completely autonomous but is supported by and provides updates to the Parish Council.

Councillor Cole liaised with Stephen Leonard, Rights of Way Office for Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will provide supplies to enable the group to mend stiles and fences but a pre-requisite is that the group has 3rd party insurance. There was some confusion when this was raised originally in that it was understood that insurance could be arranged through Wiltshire Council and that full cover would be required. Councillor Cole has since left LMPC and Councillor Allsop is now the point of contact between the group and the Council. Councillor Allsop has discussed the insurance requirement with Stephen Leonard and he has stated that only 3rd party insurance is required. Wiltshire Council would prefer it if insurance is arranged through LMPC as it would be more complicated for both the footpath group and Wiltshire Council if the insurance is arranged through them.

Stephen Leonard suggested that the Lydiard Millicent group manages itself in the same way as the group in Purton. The Purton footpath group is also autonomous but the Parish Council have £1,000 pa in their budget to cover the cost of 3rd party insurance (approximately £350) and to cover any PPE (gloves etc) that the group need. They have more volunteers than Lydiard and more footpaths to look after. Volunteers fill out a contractor form, the attached form proposed by then Councillor Cole is attached and is the same as the one used by Purton PC.

Unless the insurance is put in place, the current Lydiard Millicent footpath group will not be able to continue their good work. We are now coming to the time of year when we need the footpaths to be maintained and kept clear for walkers. There is an item planned for the newsletter to request more volunteers but this will not be required without the insurance.

Recommendation

The Clerk has sourced 3rd Party insurance through Zurich for the Volunteer Footpath Group.

Members are requested to APPROVE an amount not exceeding £200 for 3rd Party Insurance cover, met from the allocated budget

Members to APPROVE and DELEGATE to the Clerk/Chairman/Vice-Chairman the purchase of any PPE requirements for the Volunteer Footpaths Group, costs met from the allocated budget.