

Footpaths Working Party Meeting 26/05/22 – LM Parish Hall

Present:

Cllr P Cole (Lead)
Colin Tydeman

Cllr Allsop
Barry Pitts (Purton FWP)

Cllr Hacker

Members of the Public:

Amelie and Mark Claydon-Smith Christine and John Philcox Tania O'Halloran
Lynda and Julian Wright Alfie Jones Paul Kohn

Meeting Notes

Cllr Cole welcomed members of the public and introduced the Councillors, Handyman and Footpath Liaison Officer from Purton. He then explained that until 2019 he and another resident used to go out and check/clear the footpaths in Lydiard Millicent every Tuesday afternoon. He was not a Councillor at this point, both were volunteers from the Parish. They managed to keep on top of most things. At the "Meet the Councillors" event in November 2021 the most popular request from Parishioners was to improve the footpaths and access to them and this meeting was one of the outcomes following this. The plan is to set up a group of volunteers who will manage themselves and their workload. LMPC will provide support but the group will be autonomous.

Barry Pitts then explained that Purton have around 15 volunteers and these are split into 3 groups, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Barry is the liaison person for the Monday group. He organises the Monday team and reports back to the Parish Council on their behalf. He sends out an email to the group on Saturday asking who will be available on the Monday. He stressed that everyone is a volunteer and not expected to turn up every week.

Purton PC has an annual budget for footpaths. Originally the Area Board gave a grant of £1,000 to purchase tools and equipment. Purton PC pay for insurance, this was originally part of the normal insurance but is now a separate policy. Training for use of power tools for volunteers comes from this budget.

Wiltshire Council provide the materials to repair stiles free of charge. There is a desire to change stiles to kissing gates in many places but landowners permission is required for this. Sleepers can also be provided for spanning ditches.

Stephen Leonard from Wiltshire Council provides training for repairing stiles. There is a British standard for this.

Cllr Cole handed out Volunteer Contractor Agreement forms which LMPC had created using the ones used by Purton PC. There were some comments about signing the forms as there is mention of risk assessments being required and who would be responsible for these as it would need to be someone qualified to put the risk assessment together.

It was agreed that Councillors would look into the insurance and check what paperwork would need to be signed by volunteers (if any).

Councillors would check with Purton PC as to why they have a separate insurance policy, who they are insured with and what is covered.

Councillors would endeavour to find out whether landowner permission is required to repair stiles. Purton volunteers do not seek it and have not had any problems with landowners.

Councillor Cole to send email contact details to the members of the public that attended the meeting so that they could discuss setting up the group(s) between them and nominate someone to be the point of contact with LMPC.

Meeting Opened at 19.00hrs

Meeting Closed at 19.45hrs