



Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Parish Paths Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday 27th March, at 5.30 pm, at the Council Chamber, Market Street, Crediton

Present: Mr F Letch, Mr M Szabo and Mr R Wright

In Attendance: Mrs E Anderson, Assistant Clerk
Heather Sansom, Parish Paths Volunteer
Graham Chudley, Parish Paths Volunteer
Ros Davies, Devon County Council Public Rights of Way

32. To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Mrs L Brookes-Hocking. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

33. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Letch & Wright declared that as members of more than one authority, that any views or opinions expressed at this meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

34. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

35. Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

36. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

There were no announcements.

37. Parish Paths Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Paths Committee Meeting held on 15th November 2017, as a correct record. Copies had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Paths Committee Meeting held on 15th November 2017, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

38. Matters Arising.

Heather Sansom:

- Page 4, minute number 24: The works to footpaths 8 & 12 have been completed.
- Page 5, minute number 27: The new sign by the signal box looks great.

Ros Davies arrived at the meeting at 5.34 pm

39. To receive an update on the Parish Path Scheme from Mrs Ros Davies, Devon County Council.
Mrs Davies explained the current focus is finishing off the P3 grant applications and after this the focus will turn to the practical work on the footpaths.

40. Financial Report – To receive the financial report relating to Crediton parish paths. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that there is £1,267.50 in the P3 Parish Paths budget.

41. **To discuss the condition of Crediton's footpaths and agree any works that may be required.** The Assistant Clerk drew attention to the report produced following the site visit on 19th February 2018. The following recommendations were discussed:

- *Obtain quotations for scalplings to be laid on footpath 2 (from the junction of footpath 1 to the right-hand bend).* Mrs Davies had discussed this with Sam Jeffcoat, Crediton's path coordinator, prior to the meeting and he suggested having the path scraped back. There is a firm base underneath the muddy surface so scraping it back should solve the issue. Mrs Davies provided the Assistant Clerk with the details of a recommended contractor who could carry out this work.

It was **resolved** for the Assistant Clerk to obtain quotations for footpath 2 to be scraped back. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

Cllr Wright expressed concern that the bench located on the junction of footpaths 1, 2 & 10 would need moving back to allow the access for the machinery needed to scrape the footpath. Members agreed the footpath is already accessible by mini digger or similar machine.

- *Explore the option of installing a new pedestrian gate with it being located on another section of the fence (indicated in red below) in order that separate access is used for the cattle.* The recommendation from both Mrs Davies and Sam Jeffcoat was to avoid making any changes here. It was agreed that although this area is particularly muddy there is no obvious solution that would not result in creating further issues.

Cllr Sansom highlighted the steep gradient at the start of footpath 2 and suggested installing steps to the steep section, concreting around the bench and installing a noticeboard to make the area attractive to walkers. No further ideas were discussed.

42. **To consider using signage to promote Crediton's footpaths within the Town, including the following, and agree any actions:**

- Producing signs for use in prominent locations.** A copy of the quotations received had been issued with the agenda. Heather suggested producing signs that could be used at the entrances to the town for example Wellparks roundabout, St Lawrence Green and Exhibition Road roundabout. Members agreed this would be a good idea. It was agreed that before making a decision on the size of the signs and the fixings used, the idea needed to be discussed with Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Steve Tucker, to find out what permissions are required as the signs would be located on the highway.
- Obtaining permission for a DCC Public Footpath sign to be installed at the bottom of Footpath 33.** Heather had pointed out that currently there is no signage from the High Street indicating the beginning of footpath 33. The Assistant Clerk had received an email from Sam Jeffcoat explaining that on fully surfaced Public Rights of Way (PROW) such as this there is no DCC policy to ensure they are signposted. DCC would be able to screw a sign onto the wall if the Committee were to obtain permission from the owners of the property. Sam did not recommend installing a separate post due to the underground services and cost involved.

It was **resolved** to contact the properties on both sides of the footpath to request permission for a footpath sign to be erected. (Proposed by Cllr Sansom)

ms

Cllr Sansom explained that both the Devonshire Heartland Way and Mary Michael Pilgrims Way travel through Crediton. There are currently two signs promoting these, on the boundary at Salmonhutch and the boundary by the Sandford Millennium Footpath. It was **resolved** to contact both organisations to request additional advertising for these routes. (Proposed by Cllr Sansom)

- 43. To discuss the Redvers Ramble promotional walk being held on 21st July 2018 and agree any actions.** The Assistant Clerk confirmed that Bishop Sarah would not be available for the walk due to her move to London. Invitations were sent to Mel Stride, Helen Drever and the Lord Lieutenant of Devon. Helen is unable to attend, and Mel's Assistant advised he would not be able to confirm until nearer the time. The invitation to the Lord Lieutenant will be followed up.

Cllr Szabo suggested inviting a member of Redver's family to the walk and everyone agreed this was a great idea. It was **resolved** to send an invitation to Henry Parker inviting him, or any members of his family, to attend the walk. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

- 44. To review the "Redvers Ramble & Other Walks" leaflet and agree any actions.** Further information relating to this item had been issued with the agenda. The Assistant Clerk confirmed there is still a stock of approx. 500 leaflets. It was **resolved** to approve the amendments circulated prior to the meeting, with one additional change:

- Back page, panel 3 - change from "this route is not suitable" to "these routes are not suitable".

(Proposed by Heather Sansom)

Heather also requested for another 12 leaflet stands to be purchased. The Assistant Clerk confirmed she would find out how much these would cost and circulate the information to the Committee.

- 45. To review and evaluate the Committee's aims and objectives against the Council's Strategic Plan.** A copy of the Committee's aims and objectives had been issued prior to the meeting.

Heather drew attention to the site visit report discussed previously, specifically the recommendation relating to the installation of a handrail on footpath 29. As one of the Committee's aims is to increase accessibility, Heather strongly believes a handrail is required.

Mrs Davies advised members that because of the hand digging involved, Sam Jeffcoat estimates this would cost approximately £5,000. She also confirmed that she could propose that funds be set aside for this project.

It was agreed to wait to hear from Mrs Davies regarding whether or not funding would be available from the P3 Scheme and, if not, look at submitting an Awards 4 All application to obtain funding for the installation of a handrail on footpath 29.

Heather also discussed the promotion of Crediton's footpaths and explained that two businesses in the town, Crediton Cobbler and East Town Café, had agreed to put up an A2 map of Crediton's footpaths in their premises. It was **resolved** to get two A2 posters printed by Hedgerow Print at a total cost of £49 + VAT (Proposed by Heather Sansom). Members also agreed for the Assistant Clerk to get a quote for Hegderow to print A3 maps, as these could be circulated to other businesses with less available space.

ms

Members also discussed the possibility of installing a noticeboard to the outside of the Liberal Democrat Bookshop. It was **resolved** to approach the Liberal Democrats and request permission for a noticeboard to be erected on their property. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

Graham Chudley expressed the importance of getting kids to enjoy the footpaths in Crediton. Graham suggested purchasing 65 saplings from the Woodland Trust for £65 and approaching the local schools to get the children to plant the saplings. Plaques could also be used so that the children's names can be next to the tree they planted. Members agreed to think about possible areas for a project such as this.

46. Close

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm

Signed
(Chairman)

[Redacted signature]

Date:

26/6/18

nms