

**Notes of meeting of Public Rights of Way (PROW) Working Group
6th May 2020, held virtually via Zoom**

Present:

David Press, Catherine Helm, Mark Ravenscroft, Peter Tavernor, Andrew Wallace, Ann Wright (Clerk)

Purpose of meeting: To Discuss Recommendations of Footpaths Report & Other Items

RB 9 – Delamere Loop

It was noted this route runs into Tarporley from the Chester direction to the left of the roundabout and then alongside the by-pass to Utkinton Road. It was noted where the route goes from the roundabout to cross Utkinton Road is not a PROW but part of the Highway and therefore belongs to Highways.

The route is included on the CW&C maintenance list, issues in the past have been created by maintenance (grass/hedge cutting) taking place late in the season as such Mr Press had asked the PROW officer that it be cut early in the season.

It was noted the path is currently clear and accessible.

FP 3

It was noted that Footpaths 1, 2, 3 and 4 all cross over the by-pass.

It was reported that FP3 is quite often flooded and it was understood this may be the result of blocked drains, it was reported that the landowners of the land the path crosses and the neighbouring land are trying to resolve this issue.

RB 5

It was noted garden waste has been dumped on RB 5 , it was agreed this needed to be reported to CW&C either by Councillors or the Clerk.

It was noted the Council had set a budget of £1k for maintenance works on PROWS for the 2020-2021 financial year.

Recommendations

The group reviewed the recommendations made in the 2020 Footpath Report.

1. Ask CWAC to rectify all the leaning and missing signs as detailed in this report.
Agreed.
2. Remain vigilant to ensure the landowner dedicates a route through the underpass at the south of the DWH development when she brings forward development proposals for Tiresford farm.
Agreed.
3. Complete the improvement to the surface of Captain's Walk FP1.

It was noted that the principle had been accepted that where public rights of way provides access to the centre of Tarporley where possible people should be able to walk

in 'town' shoes. It was noted that it was not possible to do so on this path despite some stone being put down on a section of the path.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact David Wilson Homes again and if they were not forthcoming the Council should consider putting stone down to improve the surface.

4. Write to CW&C requesting a bin at the junction of FP6 (Sandstone Trail) and the A51.

It was agreed the Clerk should request a bin but noted that CW&C have implemented a criteria which new bins have to meet otherwise CW&C would charge for the bin and emptying. It was suggested that if this was the case it should be raised with the landowner.

5. Improve the surface of FP10.

It was noted that the path is not suitable for walking in 'town' shoes.

It was agreed to consider putting stone down on the worst sections of the path, Mr Press agreed to mark the sections requiring work on a map.

6. Write to the Heatherways management company asking for effective cutting back of the hedge alongside FP11

Agreed.

7. Ask the landowner to straighten the leaning concrete posts on FP10 where the path enters the narrow section leading to Utkinton Road.

Agreed.

8. Investigate possible source of woodchip and consider using to improve FP2 beside the churchyard and FP13 from Park Road to Cobblers Cross

It was agreed that the Council should consider putting stone down on this path, although it was noted this was not as high a priority as Captain's Path, FP1.

9. Write to CW&C asking for a progress report on diversion of FP17.

It was agreed the Clerk would contact CW&C to receive an update on whether they are now accepting diversion requests and highlight this diversion is in the public interest.

10. Ask the PROW Officer to intervene with landowners to deal with issues identified on FP3, 8 and 23.

Agreed, noting issues relating to FP8 may have already been completed.

11. Incorporate the Tarporley Walks Facebook page routes onto the Parish Council website.

Agreed, it was noted that one of the volunteers supporting the Council may be able to assist with this project and that the various routes need to be made available on the Council's website rather than on a personal facebook page.

It was noted that before laying stone on footpaths landowners' permission will be required as well as agreement from the CW&C Footpath officer.

Mr Press to provide plans showing where stone is needed.

Missing Sign

It was noted that the blades had been stolen from the footpath at Back Lane in Tarporley, CW&C had obtained a quote for the replacement signs which would be one solid blade which would point to Beeston and Tarporley and had asked the Parish Council to contribute to its cost.

The working group recommended that CW&C should cover at least 50%, £129.25, of the cost and the Parish Council consider funding the remainder of the cost, noting a resident had also offered to contribute.

Walkers on PROW

It was noted that there had been increasing numbers of complaints regarding people not controlling their dogs on PROW and not staying on the paths, and this had been worsened by the current covid-19 pandemic as more people are walking on the PROWs.

It was emphasized that the PROWs are ancient walking route across what is private land and that people and their dogs do not have a right of way across this land other than on the designated path.

It was agreed the Clerk should create some temporary notices for laminating and erection in key positions of the footpaths.

Ann Wright
07-05-20.