

**Minutes of the Footpaths & Allotments Committee Meeting****Held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 8.15 p.m. in the Bush Room**

**Present:** - Cllrs. Hannah Richmond (HR) (Chairman), Marcus Fry (MF), Steve Blick (SB), John Cutland (JC), Terry Hunt (TH), Mrs Erika Booth (EB)  
Mr. Bob Phillips (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

**2. Evacuation Procedures**

Evacuation procedures were noted

**3. Public Participation**

None

**4. Declaration of interests**

Mrs Erika Booth is an allotment holder and member of the Alveston Allotments Association.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting**5.1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011 were agreed and signed by the chairman.

5.2. Matters arising  
None

5.3. Outstanding Actions

**5.3.1. (5/10/09) Clerk to purchase “no smoking signs” and arrange fitting to all Bus Shelters.***Action to Clerk*

Cllr Terry Hunt agreed to carry out the task after the bus shelters had been cleaned.  
Ongoing (5/3/12)

**5.3.2. FP 110606-1 to arrange for Bus Shelters 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9 to be cleaned by local handyman.***Action to Clerk*

Ongoing (5/3/12)

**5.3.3. FP 110606-3 to obtain estimates for the refurbishment of Bus Shelter 2 at A38 Southbound o/s 70 Gloucester Rd. Rudgeway.***Action to Clerk*

The Clerk recommended that in view of the recent expenditure from Council funds for play space and the future expenditure at the allotments, it may be prudent to consider the availability of funds to carry out this task. No figures were available for this meeting – decision deferred to next F&GP committee (7/11/11).

Refurbishment of Bus Shelter 3 including the replacement of 5 poly sheets was £568.00. Work completed in March 2011. Clerk to follow up.

Ongoing (5/3/12)

**5.3.4. FP 110606-4 to investigate with the local resident the requirement and possible position of a new litter bin at Rudgeway.***Action to Clerk*

The position of the required bin is agreed as next to the northbound bus stop on the A38 and it was agreed that the Clerk should investigate if SG Council would provide a litter bin at this location.

Ongoing (5/3/12)

5.3.5. **FP 110606-8 to collate all past information re. The Footpaths project and share with members of the committee.** **Action to Clerk.**

Some of the information had been distributed but further distribution would be dependent upon discussions under item 9.

It was agreed that little would be achieved by chasing up old reports without them being verified first. This action would be included in the walks development project.

Action closed.

5.3.6. **FP 110905-1 to request from SG that an additional litter bin is provided at Rudgeway.** **Action to Clerk**

Ongoing (5/12/11)

Action closed, see action FP110606-4.

5.3.7. **FP 110905-21 to determine when the allotment water connection would be completed.** **Action to Clerk**

All water supply work completed. (5/3/12) Action closed

5.3.8. **FP 111205-1 to talk with each plot holder and resolve the minor issues identified in the annual inspection including the under use of Plot 33.** **Action to Erika Booth**

Initial approaches made to all plot holders still on-site. There remain some requirements still not met although they will be chased up as spring-time activity progresses.

Action closed

5.3.9. **FP 111205-2 to write to the holder of allotment plot 31 to request adherence to the agreement and fully cultivate the plot.** **Action to Clerk**

It was agreed that this action should be progressed at the earliest opportunity. (5/3/12)

5.3.10. **FP 111205-3 to ensure the general site actions identified during the allotment inspection are completed by the members of the AAA.** **Action to Erika Booth**

Action closed – see item 5.3.8

5.3.11. **FP 111205-4 to arrange for the re-instatement of ground following pipe laying works when the water supply is complete.** **Action to Clerk**

As soon as the water had been connected and no leaks apparent, ADD Plant had spent a further half day filling holes and levelling the ground although it had been agreed at the time that the result would be a balance between levelling and not incurring more mess with the digger.

The Clerk had obtained a large amount of wood chip from Thornbury Town Council and members of the AAA had spread it along the entire length of the pipe route making the path much more easily negotiated.

Action closed

5.3.12. **FP 111205-5 to write to the allotment neighbours.** **Action to Clerk**

An example of the letter sent regularly to the neighbours of the Jubilee Field stating that direct access from their land on to the playing field was not a right, was circulated to the committee.

It was agreed that this type of letter would not be appropriate as in the case of the allotment, the Parish Council as the lease holders have a duty “not to permit any encroachment upon or from the Property or the acquisition of any new right to passage.....”

Having checked the lease, we are now required to take “proper action to prevent such encroachment or acquisition.”

The Clerk will draft a letter in line with the requirements of the lease and circulate to the committee for comment before sending. (5/03/12)

5.3.13. **FP 111205-6 to discuss appropriate actions and responsibilities to progress a new Footpaths involvement initiative.** **Action to Clerk & Cllr Hannah Richmond**

Ongoing (5/3/12)

## 6. Bus Shelters

There are no reported problems with any of the bus shelters.

## 7. Street Scene

The Clerk had taken action on the following reports:

Dec – Dog waste bin in Strode Common not emptied for 2 weeks. Reported to SG Streetscene.

Dec – Fly tipping in Forty Acre Lane. Reported to SG.

Feb – Dog mess in Costers Close – Reported to SG.

## 8. Allotments

8.1. Water Supply - All work has been completed and all invoices paid.

8.2. Annual Inspections – As the last of the actions from the 2011 inspection are completed, it was suggested that we should also hold a less formal inspection in the late spring. It was agreed that it should be held in July. Date and inspecting “team” to be decided later.

8.3. Formal Opening of the Allotments – It was agreed that the Parish Council should host a formal Allotment opening event which could be combined with the “Open Gardens” weekend in May. HR & EB will discuss and agree the detail.

***FP 120305-1 to arrange the detail of an Allotment Opening Event.***

***Action Cllr Hannah Richmond & Erika Booth***

## 9. Footpaths

9.1. Footpaths Report

No new reports had been received.

9.2. Footpaths Walks Revision Project

The meeting discussed the Yellow (No.1) and Green (No. 2) walk books produced in 1988 and 1993 and were in agreement that the content of each book should form the basis of any revised walk information we produce. Ideas included:

- Produce revisions to the walks one at a time.
- Publish on “Alveston.org”
- Publish on other web sites.
- Publish a new book.
- Publish individual walk “cards.”
- Include more historical, geographical or environment information.
- Make walks specific to an interest, eg. Walking with young children, jogging routes, walking with dogs, walking for the less able, etc.
- Grading the walks.
- Introduce Geo-caching. (see Appendix A)
- Add GPS information.

It was agreed that all the committee would acquaint themselves with Joan’s and Steve’s walks in book No. 1 (Yellow) to assess what updating is required, what additions could be made and how well the walks could lend themselves to additional information or as “specific interest” walks. Some committee members offered to take a specific action.

***FP 120305-2 to walk Joan’s walk to determine updating needs.***

***Action Cllr Hannah Richmond***

***FP 120305-3 to walk Steve’s walk to determine updating needs.***

***Action Erika Booth***

***FP 120305-4 to walk Joan’s and Steve’s walk to determine suitability as a “part” jogging route.***

***Action Cllr Marcus Fry***

**10. Correspondence**

None.

**11. Any other business**

JC reported that the verge at the side of the footpath across Alveston Down from the Londis shop on Down Road to the old Methodist Chapel in The Down was very overgrown and being extremely dry was liable to burn. The problem would be reported to SG.

***FP 120305-5 to report the overgrown verge at Alveston Down to SG.***

***Action Clerk***

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

### What Is Geocaching?

Imagine a pastime which can be enjoyed by the whole family and:

- Gets you out into the fresh air.
- Gets you walking either a long or a little way.
- Introduces you to unusual/interesting/beautiful locations.
- Encourages the kids to ask, "Can we go for a walk today?".
- Is so much fun, you will want to go out for a walk too.

**That is Geocaching !**

**Geocaching (pronounced geo-kash-ing) is an activity that encompasses all of the above and much more.**

### So, how does it work?

A Geocacher will go to a location which has usually some special interest or beauty. This is often one of their favourite places to visit. At the location, they will hide a small waterproof box containing a few varied bits and pieces (usually of little value) a logbook and a pen or pencil.

Using their GPS receiver, the cacher records the coordinates of their cache and returns home to log its existence on a website.

Another cacher will see the listing about the cache, enter the coordinates into their GPS receiver and go in search of it.

When they find it, the finder may take something from the cache and leave something in return, and for posterity, enter a log in the logbook.

When the seeker returns home, he/she should log on the website that they have found the cache and pass any comments they wish. These logs are important to the cache hider, it is part of their "reward" for hiding the cache.

Of course, in order to keep the game going, the seekers must also hide some caches too.

### What do you need to play the game?

A sense of fun and adventure, a GPS receiver and some method of transport.

A **GPS receiver** (often referred to as simply a GPS) is a device which 'listens' to the signals broadcast from satellites orbiting the Earth. From those signals, a GPS is able to calculate its location on the planet to typically within about 5 metres. Once a GPS knows where it is, and where you want to go, it can point you to your destination. GPS receivers are available from around £80 in the UK up to several hundred. A simple base model is sufficient for Geocaching, but the more expensive models offer many varied facilities.

**Access to the Internet.** Geocaches (often abbreviated to 'caches') are listed on websites, the most prominent being [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). This is where you find information about, and the coordinates for, the caches you will go hunting for.

**A sense of adventure** to go out and find places you might never have otherwise known about and see things which would have passed you by. Imagine sitting on a small hill watching two young foxes 'playing' together in the field below you while a Red Kite wheels and performs aerobatics over your head.

**A form of transport.** Most caches are hidden in the countryside and away from public transport routes so a method of getting to the locality is helpful. It is also true that many cachers do use public transport/cycles and hiking.

**A few bits and pieces** to use as swaps in the caches you visit. There is no compulsion to swap anything, but often you will find an item of interest in a cache, it is only fair play that if you take something, you should leave something in exchange.

A technology-based treasure hunt!