

**Minutes of the Footpaths & Allotments Committee Meeting****Held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 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), Mrs Ann Wilkins (AW)  
Mr. Bob Phillips (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Ann Wilkins to the meeting and asked that members accepted her co-option with her particular interest in the review and development of the Parish Walks. This was unanimously agreed.

**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> March 2012

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 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 (11/6/12)

**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**

The Clerk reported that as soon as the period of holiday cover had been completed in early July, the local handyman would be starting on the bus shelter cleaning one at a time. He would start with Bus Shelter 2 o/s 70 Gloucester Rd. RudgeWAY. Ongoing (11/6/12)

**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 (11/6/12)

- 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 (11/6/12)

- 5.3.5. **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**

No action taken as when inspecting plot prior to writing letter it was obvious the plot holder had already taken action. Action Closed

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

The draft letter had been agreed and copies signed ready for sending on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June.  
Action Closed

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

See item 9.2 Action Closed.

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

**Action Cllr Hannah Richmond & Erika Booth**

The very successful Allotment Opening and Naming Ceremony had been held on Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Action Closed.

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

**Action Cllr Hannah Richmond**

Report sent to Clerk. Action Closed

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

**Action Erika Booth**

Report sent to Clerk. Action Closed

- 5.3.11. **FP 120305-4 to walk Joan's and Steve's walk to determine suitability as a "part" jogging route.** **Action Cllr Marcus Fry**

To be reported

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

**Action Clerk**

Upon further examination, the Clerk suggested that the local residents who bordered this verge would be very unhappy if the "wild growth" was cut back as it provided additional security and a wildlife haven. It was agreed to close the action.

## 6. Bus Shelters

- 6.1. Bus Shelter 2 o/s 70 Gloucester Rd, Rudgeway - Cllr Phil Squires had asked that urgent renovation work was undertaken on the bus shelter as he didn't believe any work had been done on it for some time.

It was agreed to progress the outstanding action and obtain an estimate for the work.

- 6.2. Request for seat/bench in bus shelters at Rudgeway.

The Clerk reported that each type of shelter had a different bench style and he could make enquiries re. the availability and costs of bench provision.

***FP 120611-1 to establish availability and costs of provision of benches in the bus shelters at Rudgeway.*** ***Action Clerk***

- 6.3. "Art Trail" decoration in Bus Shelters 6 and 8 – members of the public had reported the wallpaper, furniture and decoration in the bus shelter o/s the Old Vicarage, Alveston and the art decoration in the other stone built bus shelter opposite the Ship Hotel. Enquiries had been made with the organisers of the Severn Vale Art Trail who had expressed horror at the "vandalism" and assured the Council that it was none of their members who had carried out the work. The decoration would not last and already was looking very distressed but without identifying who had carried out the activity, any work to return the shelters to their previous condition would have to be at the Council's expense.

***FP 120611-2 to establish the work necessary and obtain estimates to return Bus Shelters 6 & 8 to their previous decorated state.*** ***Action Clerk***

## **7. Street Scene**

- 7.1. Dog & Litter Bins

None

- 7.2. Notice Boards

None

## **8. Allotments**

- 8.1. Opening and Naming Ceremony – the committee congratulated the AAA on the occasion, it was well organised, well attended and a delightful afternoon.
- 8.2. Inspections – EB reminded the meeting that the next allotment inspection was due and should be an informal one. HR agreed to represent the Council and would liaise directly with EB to make the arrangements.
- 8.3. Flower Show Prize – EB reported that the AAA were delighted that the Flower Show organisers had agreed to have a new prize, that of "Best Allotment." Criteria were being established, a cup was in place and a judge would be appointed. All members of the AAA would take part.
- 8.4. Alveston Open Gardens – EB reported that the AAA had agreed with Pam Forrest to "Open" the allotments as one of the Alveston Open Gardens on 17<sup>th</sup> July.
- 8.5. Allotment Rents 2012 – the Clerk reported that all bar one plot holder had paid their rent. The outstanding plot holder who had previously queried the rent and requested a reduction because of flooding would be emailed with a demand for the rent to be paid.

- 8.6. Allotment set-up Costs – EB asked to be given a copy of the itemised allotment set-up costs to circulate to AAA members who were concerned about “paying back” the amount owed.

It was pointed out that the Council committed its reserve funds to finance the setting up of the allotments on the proviso that it would be able to recover those reserve funds through rents charged for the plots. This is a very straightforward situation performed by Councils all over the country and as the allotments are in the “ownership” of the Parish Council, it’s a perfectly safe way of conducting local authority business. There is no requirement on members of the AAA to pay back a loan.

Summary statement of the setup costs.

<b>Allotment Set up Statement</b>		<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>
2010/11	Set up costs	1188	
		<u>1188</u>	<u>0</u>
2011/12	Set up costs	5935	
	Legal	1177	
	SGC Grant		2600
		<u>7112</u>	<u>2600</u>
2012/13	Set up costs	350	
	Legal	800	
		<u>1150</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>9450</b>	<b>2600</b>
<b>Net Costs</b>		<b>6850</b>	
<b>Operating Budget</b>			
	£25 x 35 rent		850
	Misc	150	
		<u>150</u>	<u>850</u>
<b>Net operating costs</b>			<b>700</b>

Estimated ROI  $6850 / 700 = 8$  years

## 9. Footpaths

### 9.1. Footpaths Report

Report from Hilary Severn – OAN/28/10 & OOL/49/80 footpath along the edge of fields growing rape seed in the valley leading to Sheepscombe Farm. Crops have overgrown the path making access almost impossible. Mrs Severn asks if we could write to the landowner requesting the crop cultivation next year could make better provision for the footpath.

***FP 120611-3 to write to landowners re. report of problems on footpaths OAN 28 and OOL 49.***  
***Action Clerk***

## 9.2. Footpaths Walks Revision Project

For clarity, these notes were included in the minutes of the last meeting:

*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. 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.*

The Clerk commented that he had received a number of reports from members and others who had already added information the original walk descriptions.

It was agreed that we now needed to move to a more organised approach where we had dedicated responsibilities and developed the revised walks in a structured way.

HR agreed to organise a parish Walks sub-committee and initially concentrate on Joan's and Steve's walks to set the process and procedures for the whole project.

***FP 120611-4 to organise a Walks Project sub-committee.***

***Action Hannah Richmond***

## 10. Correspondence

None.

## 11. Any other business

SB reported that the surface of the steep part of Wolfridge Lane was extremely slippery and the side verges overgrown. He was also concerned about the blocked gully at the bottom of the path that frequently becomes flooded.

***FP 120611-4 to report surface of Wolfridge Lane and the blocked gull.***

***Action Clerk***

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

**The next meeting of the Footpaths & Allotments Committee is on  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 8.15pm.**