

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 11th December at 7.00pm at the Morchard Bishop Sports and Social Club

Present: Jackie Patten (P3 Co-ordinator), Sonja Andrews, Karen Hayman, John Kanefsky, (Parish Councillor), David Parker (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Neale Meade, Massimo Proietti, Claire Proietti, and after the meeting Sheila Sinclair.
2. **The minutes** of the meeting of 9th October 2023 (and Appendix) were approved and set aside for signing by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
4. **Finance:** – Funds in the P3 account stand at £2,837.04 having paid Northfield Gardening £848.78. There is another Northfield Gardening invoice to pay of £251.90 which will leave £2,585.14 in the P3 account, this includes the £1000 reserved for the work to the gateway on Footpath 9.
5. **Footpaths Coordinator – Responsibility for reporting** There has been lack of reporting this year from all Footpath Friends including committee members. It was emphasised that it was not the sole responsibility of the Footpaths Coordinator to walk all of the footpaths which was why Footpaths Friends had been set up. It assists if multiple people walk the footpaths as it shows the amount a footpath is used.
6. **Volunteer Reporting** - A reminder to Footpath Friends has been sent out by e-mail asking for people to walk the footpaths and to report that they have done so or risk losing them. The Committee agreed to make an effort to walk the footpaths that are unreported and to report back to Jackie.
7. **Report on Footpaths/outstanding works – see separate appendix for ongoing work.**

Fp2 – Through Morchard Woods at the top of the hill – Jay has installed a new post.

Fp8 – Jay has replaced the steps leading to Broadgate Lane and installed a new hanging post for the gate.

Fp14 – The laminated signs asking dog owners to “pick up after your dogs” were ripped down.

Fp62 – Jay has repaired the gate around the cattle grid so that it is now useable. – When Jay does the gateway at Fp9 he will put some of the stone in the gateway at Fp62. New sign needed here as clearly hit by the hedge flail.

Work to do (see separate Appendix)

Fp12 – David will chase the landowner with regard to a new gate arrangement.

Fp7 - 27791074 The steps in Beardown Copse on the West side have disappeared and become dangerous when wet. Jay has looked at this job and it is quite a big job. It will require 39 x 1m boards of 150 x 50 & plenty of 12mm rebar. Jay estimates 2 man days depending on how close he can get. The Committee added this to the list of Major Projects for next year and will ask for a grant for this major work.

Fp9 – Jay has missed the opportunity to do the work this year due to poor weather, so will treat it as a priority for next year once the land dries out. Jay has spoken to the landowner at Forge yesterday who has already done a lot of work down there in terms of clearing, stoning and installing a pedestrian gate on the footpath. He is talking about running the path closer to the hedge line and maybe fencing the path off. The ground level is lower there and he appreciates that it would need to be stoned. The Committee thought it would be worth cutting the hedge back before the work was commenced.

The job Jay submitted the price for back in March was to stone around the gateway and accessing from the other side across the field.

Given how amenable Andy is, Jay asked if it would it be possible to help him out in the spring with some stone and labour? He has his own digger and track barrows and if Jay and 1 other went for a day or two and a lorry load of crushed hardcore (cheaper to lay in first) and a load of scalpings for the top layer, Jay thinks this would be a result for both the landowner and the parish? The Committee agreed to this suggestion and Neil has offered his services to assist with getting the work done.

BW47 Gollands Lane northern end – land is unstable and stoney Jay passed on his thoughts about remedying the situation. - There is a small section along here that is fairly soggy, mostly around where a small water course runs over the track. You could dig out and lay a pipe in there but this may be prone to blocking up with leaves and silt and then overspilling onto the track again. You could have a digger in there and scrape off some of the muddy section and lay some scalpings in which would help. Once past this section the track is good underfoot with the bedrock forming wearing layer. The Committee thought, that there was little point spending money on this Bridleway as water would continually erode any work done.

BW49 – 27821070 in the valley by Fp33 it is very muddy. Jay passed on his thoughts about remedying the situation. He is not really sure what can be done, it is very wet and seemingly nowhere for the water to runoff. It is a very long run and once you get to the wider part of the track there are more routes for walkers to avoid the mud. I think if you were to spend some money stoning the track it maybe fruitless given that the livestock walk on it probably daily when bought in for milking? Maybe some stone along the higher side of the track pushing the water off to the lower side, thus halving the amount of material you'd need. You would have to consult with the farmer about which material can be used before I could give you an idea on cost. He sent a video on whatsapp. The Committee thought, that there was little point spending money on this Bridleway as water and cattle would continually erode any work done.

8. Mid Devon Walking Festival – 14th to 29th September 2024

The organiser has confirmed that we have been allotted the final weekend of the festival 28 and 29 September 2024.

The committee discussed groups that could benefit from this Festival.

Sonja will speak with Colin about whether the Morris Men could do anything. David mentioned that the village has an apple press and we could do some “show pressing” of early apples. David will mention it to the Playing Fields Committee and the Sports and Social Club. Karen will speak with the shop. Jackie will speak with the London Inn.

9. Any other Business

The Annual Survey forms have not yet been sent to us, that is not surprising whilst the vacancy left by Ros Davies’ promotion remains unfilled. There is no point in us making up new forms based on last year’s version as there would be no one at Devon County Council to receive them. We expect to have something for the February meeting and will aim to complete them at that time.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

**The next scheduled meeting of the P3 committee will be at 7.00pm on
MONDAY 12th February 2024 at the Sports and Social Club**