

Duffield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Footpaths Committee held on Tuesday 15 March 2005 at 7.15pm in the Committee Room, Hazelwood Road, Duffield

Present: Chairman: Councillor Mrs P Buckle
Vice Chairman: Councillor J Rice
Councillors: Knibbs, Sartin, A Woodings and Mrs B Woodings

Also in attendance: P Boardman, D J Crowson and T Hodson
D R Bostock – Parish Clerk & R F O
Mrs S Bygraves – Assistant Clerk/Treasurer
W Lenton – Risk Advisor

Apologies: Mr & Mrs C Tonks

FP/01/05 Minutes

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Footpaths Committee held on 19 October 2004, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FP/02/05 Matters Arising

25/04 the Clerk confirmed that he had still not received reply from Wyvern Rail, regarding stiles accessing the railway line.

41/04 the Assistant Clerk reported that modifications had been made to the existing stile on the Glen, but she felt that this stile was still far from satisfactory. The Clerk reported that he felt that at a time when the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway is to re-open, consideration should be given to replacing the stiles with self closing gates on Footpath No's 9 and 10, where they cross the railway.

Resolved: that arising from 41/04 the Risk Advisor provides the Clerk with details of self closing gates that would be suitable for using in close proximity to the railway line.

FP/03/05 Annual Footpath Reports 2004/05

The Clerk confirmed that the SE area footpath report for 2004, had still not been received and the Clerk confirmed he would check the paths involved.

He confirmed that all other matters requiring action by the County Council had been reported and that he had received the following responses from them:

- a) All missing roadside signposts are to be replaced.
- b) The way-marking of FP No.31 has been altered, making it clear that the footpath does not go through the gate.
- c) Regarding our complaint on FP No. 40, where beasts can walk through the stile, the County Council have sent a letter and plan for copying to the land owner, indicating the actions he can take to remedy this matter.
- d) The highways section have also confirmed that they are aware of all the highway footway problems in Duffield, however they do not have the funding available at the moment to implement repairs of this nature.

Resolved:

1) that the Clerk advises the appropriate land owner on Footpath No. 40 of the County Council's response regarding the provision of a stock proof stile.

2) that Area Advisors carry out their Annual Footpath Surveys after the next Footpaths Committee, which is to held on 7 June 2005.

FP/04/05 2004/2005 Budgetary Control

The Clerk reported the budgetary control situation regarding the Footpath Committee's budget of £3,000.00 for the current year, as follows:

	2004/05
	£
Budget	3,000.00
DCC/Minor Maintenance Fund	430.00

Total Income	£3,430.00

Footpath Clearing 2004/05 to date	565.16
Stiles Walk (tree removal)	524.00
Stiles Walk (footpath repairs)	3,668.00

Total Expenditure	£4,757.16

Resolved: that the Clerk's Budgetary Control Statement be noted.

FP/05/05 Budget Requirement for 2005/06

The Clerk confirmed that at the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 November 2004, the Footpaths Committee's Budget for 2005/06 was reduced from £7,000.00 to £4,000.00.

FP/06/05 Stile Requirements for 2005/06

The Clerk advised members that only two positive responses had been received from land owners regarding replacing stiles and also that establishing ownership of some of the stiles was proving difficult.

Resolved: that the Clerk proceeds with providing new stiles on FP No. 19 – GR 3320/4405 and FP No. 36 – GR 3500/4290.

FP/07/05 Paths for People

The Clerk circulated members with copies of the Ramblers Association Leaflet,
“ a guide to public paths for members of parish, town and community councils”

FP/08/05 Amber Valley and Erewash Walking Festival 2005

The Clerk confirmed that he would be prepared to lead a walk again in this year for the above festival and circulated members with a copy of the possible 8 mile route up the Ecclesbourne Valley, starting again from the Eyes Meadow Car Park.

Resolved: that the proposal of a Duffield – Ecclesbourne Valley walk as part of the Amber Valley and Erewash Walking Festival be supported by the Parish Council.

FP/09/05 Cockpit Lane

The Clerk reported on the receipt of the Order and Public Notice, amending the County Council's Definitive Map and Statement, to include the entire length of Cockpit Lane as a Public Right of Way, representations or objections can be made regarding this order up to 11 March 2005.

Resolved: that once the above Order is approved, the Clerk arranges for footpath signs to be erected and the eastern end of Cockpit Lane to be resurfaced subject to County Council approval.

Page four

FP/10/05 Stiles Walk Project

The Clerk confirmed that Stiles Walk had been resurfaced, and that it was now necessary to reinstate the boundary fence that runs between the path and the River Ecclesbourne.

The Clerk also reported that he had sent a copy of the Stiles Walk Public Footpath Agreement to the County Council as they were suggesting that it was not a Public Right of Way. This evidence however seems to have convinced them and they have accepted the situation and promised to give it a Footpath Number, in due course.

Resolved: that the Clerk obtains competitive quotations for the reinstatement of the Stiles Walk plastic coated chain link fence.

FP/11/05 Chapel Street to Kings Head Footpath

The Clerk reported that the Government Office for the East Midlands had turned down the Parish Council's Appeal against the decision of Derbyshire County Council not to make an order modifying their Definitive Map and Statement to add a public footpath between Chapel Street and the Kings Head Public House, Town Street, Duffield.

Resolved: that the above decision be noted.

FP/12/05 Footpath No's 13 & 18, Duffield

Members noted the continued closure of the above footpaths on the Miller Homes Development.

FP/13/05 Other Business

a) the Clerk read out a letter received from Mr & Mrs Tonks reporting that the Ecclesbourne School fence is broken down again on FP No. 11, near the bridge parapet.

b) the Assistant Clerk reported that the roadside fences on Makeney Road are in urgent need of repair.

c) Councillor Rice reported that the Sleeper Bridge at the junctions of FP No's 9, 15 & 16, was still in a very dangerous condition.

Resolved: that the Clerk reports the above matters to the appropriate authorities, as a matter of urgency.

Page five

FP/14/05 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: that the next meeting of the Footpaths Committee will take place on Tuesday 7 June 2005 at 7.15pm.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed ----- Date -----

Duffield Parish Council

Terms of Reference of the Footpaths Committee

1. The Committee is responsible for carrying out the policy related to Footpaths and the inspection of pavements, within the Parish of Duffield, as determined by the Parish Council and any other matters referred to it by the Council.

The policy includes maintaining all footpaths in a usable condition, ie clearly defined, free from man made obstruction and not overgrown by vegetation.

2. The Committee shall ensure that all paths are walked at least once each year and a report on their condition shall be made to the Council together with a report on the monitoring of the condition of pavements.
3. The Committee shall have delegated powers to direct the activities of any Contractors including the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, who are engaged on any authorised works. Instructions to Contractors will normally be issued by the Clerk. In exceptional circumstances, instructions may be issued by the Chairman of the Committee and / or the Chairman of the Council.
4. The Chairman is responsible for reconciling annually that there is sufficient funding allocated in the budget plans set by the Council to meet the objectives set out in paragraph 1.
5. The Committee shall be responsible for the management of the Public Footpath Minor Maintenance scheme, in partnership with Derbyshire County Council.

Reviewed at the Footpaths Committee held on the 15 June 2004.