PROW group report to Parish Council meeting, 28th March 2022

The group's energy is currently directed to the production of the Walks Guide. We have identified 18 local walks and produced directions and maps. We are in the process of a final double check of the routes to hopefully identify errors and confusing directions.
As the guide has grown since we set out on the project, production costs have probably increased. However we are hoping to get sponsorship from local businesses and already have one offer of £50. We won't have adverts but we will acknowledge their support. Some of the walks visit The Fox, Winyards Gap Inn or Halstock Village shop, so we might get them more customers!
We are meeting in the first week of April to finalise the design of the guide and preferred options for production (depending on how much we do ourselves). We will then re-visit our budget estimate and let you have a report for your May meeting.
Installation of gates to replace stiles has stalled over the winter months and James Stagg the ranger was hoping to get in two more before the end of March. I have suggested two in Corscombe, the one in Lovelands which councillor Roger Hallet requested, and the one at the bottom of the field off Court Lane (on the left heading for the Fox) which the landowner has ageed.
James is now leaving us to take on responsibility for the coast path, but we have a new ranger, Stuart Semple. Thank you to James for his support.
The last few weeks have been difficult for users of the ROWs with mud everywhere and fallen trees but we are looking forward to spring. Don't forget problems can be reported online at https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem but sometimes talking to the landowner is more helpful.

Diana Staines

Minutes of Corscombe, Halstock and District Parish Rights of Way (PROW) Group

Meeting 17th February 2022 - Corscombe Village Hall

Attendees: Diana Staines (DS) (Chair and PROW Liaison Officer), Rachel Hamlin (RH)(Minutes), Maxine Balch (MB), Freda Hennessy (FH), Deborah Childs (DC), Heather Ward(HW), Richard Harding (RiH), Ros Kanter (RK), Bridget Dearlove (BD).

Parish Clerk on Copy: Tessa Safadi (TS).

Agenda

1. **Apologies:** Simon Dalton (SD), Sue Soames (SS), Mark Soames (MS) Jennifer Dalton (JD).

2. **Agree minutes of last meeting held on the 11th Nov 2021 (e-mailed by Diana on 4th Feb)** Minutes were agreed.

3. **Matters arising** Manor Farm - DS and RH have each walked through Manor farm; on both occassions the geese were not a problem. The bridleway gate that leads onto the gravelled track is too narrow for riders, exacerbated by bare electric fencing either side of the gate. This has already been reported so further action deferred until MS and SS are able to comment.

   BD pointed out there is an offensive sign attached to a gate on the Halstock Leigh road.

   Contractor Working (7) - Using Contractors, either paid or volunteer parties. The Common Lane project funds of around £800 might be used for work bordering or accessing Common Lane. **Action: DS to ask Parish Council for funding.**

4. **Report from Greenspace Team - stiles to gates** No member of the Greenspace Team present. DS has received email response stating more gates will be fitted when weather conditions permit. Also a reminder that stiles are the responsibility of landowners and therefore Dorset Council will only assist if their manpower and resources are available. DS has identified and reported bridges that need attention. Still awaiting response from GST.

5. **Problem Reports Update** Hardcopy circulated and discussed.

6. **Walks Guide Progress** Hardcopy Walks Guide Tracker circulated. Volunteers needed to test walk routes. Ask DS/SD for the latest version of a walk. (Post meeting SD has emailed the latest version of walks 1,2,3,4,6,17) Pictures also needed; agreed these need to be clearly defined as finished print will be approximately 5cm x 7cm. The cover is still under review. Walk initiators to refer to tracker to check if draft text has been received by SD. The following walks are ready for QA -

   Walk 1 **Action DC and BD**

   Walk 2 **Action DC**

   Walk 3 **Action RK**

   Walk 4 **Action RH**

   Walk 6 **Action MB**

   Walk 17 **Action DS and RK**

7. **Walks Guide, finance including costing and sources of funding** SD has made preliminary costings based on a folder design with loose A4 sheets, and he will report at the next meeting. It was proposed that potential local sponsors be approached with an offer of acknowledgement on the rear cover (but no ads) plus a donation sought from the parish council.

8. **Green Lane Consultation - to decide whether to respond as a group** It was decided to draft a group response to review at the next meeting as the submission needs to be made by April. **Action FH and HW**

9. **Group Walks** Corscombe has a walking group but Halstock is without. It was unilaterally agreed that promoting the varied health benefits of rural walks is a good idea and worth trialling. It could also showcase our walks in the guide. it was propsed that a short and fairly easily traversable walk should be publicised for a date in early April. An article to go in Chimes and flyers on noticeboards. **Action RH and MB**

10. **Membership of group** It was agreed to keep membership open as attendees fluctuate and extra help is especially welcome whilst the guide is in production. Following the success of the post Christmas members walk, it was suggested that another outing in the summer would be a good idea. To be followed up.

11. **AOB** FH asked whether 'purple' arrows were available for the relevant tracks. **Action DS**

12. **Date of next meeting** 24th March 2022 at 6pm, Corscombe Village Hall **Action DS to book hall.**