

Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Grass Areas

July Report

- Meeting was held with footpath contractor to discuss issues with the implementation of the cutting schedule. AB talked through each footpath with contractor and discussed requirements. AB agreed to issue contractor with an adapted parish plan with exact requirements detailed. This has now been done. AB requested that the newly fenced field corridor alongside the school field be added to their cutting list. Following the meeting, contractors immediately cut the footpaths that had previously been missed. (AB)
- Footpaths were inspected following the contractors visit. (ALL)
- CC have responded to say that field corridors can legitimately be added to next years LMP. They have also informed us that these field corridors should be at least 2m wide. Councillor to check both sections comply with this stipulation. (AB)
- Electric fencing on PRoW has been inspected by CC and 2 weeks notice for its removal has been issued to the landowner. (AB)
- Stonechair Lane - See CLUP application update (RP)
- SWCP Sennen to Gwenver – CC have responded. The path was inspected by the Countryside Officer and an instruction has been raised to install oak waymark posts at either end of this section to encourage walkers to use the inland route. It was not considered appropriate in this instance to install fencing as the very nature of the coast path it that it is on the cliff and close to the edge in many places. (Clerk)
- Contact was made with grass cutting contractor regarding the Cove Hill verge. He has agreed to take on the additional cutting area and will tie it in with his schedule of visits. Price for cutting this additional area is £30 per visit – 4 cuts proposed. Verge was cut within the next few days. (AB)
- WG discussed the gorse growing over onto the cycle path/pavement on Cove Hill from the car park entrance down to Marias Lane. Landowner has now kindly carried out the required cut back. (KS)
- AB has researched how other parishes are now dealing with areas which were formerly sprayed to eliminate weed growth. Some Parishes have employed a 'Lengthsman' – This is a reincarnation of an old concept, whereby a locally employed person carries out highway maintenance tasks identified by the Parish Council, enabling an enhanced local service with local priorities. A Legthsman duties could cover the following areas;
 1. Cut back vegetation overhanging road or footway
 2. Clearing footways of weeds
 3. Sweeping pavements

4. Reporting defects to Parish Clerk
5. Repairing stiles
6. Litter picking
7. Removing fly-posting
8. Removing unauthorised signs
9. Removing graffiti
10. Cleaning street name-plates and village entrance gates
11. Cleaning bus shelters
12. Cleaning Parish Council owned street furniture e.g benches, notice boards, telescopes, interpretation boards
13. Minor repairs to street furniture e.g apply wood preservative to bench
14. Clearing drainage ditches
15. Cleaning road signs (non-illuminated)
16. Minor repairs to road signs e.g tightening brackets.
17. Monitoring of VAS signs for possible defects and reporting to Clerk.

Other Councils have carried out pilot schemes and have sought a contribution from Cornwall Council. The Lengthsman duties are designed to be fulfilled by a council employee but under some circumstances they may be performed by a Councillor or Volunteer. Many Lengthsman tasks are carried out on the highways curtilage which presents specific dangers. Formal risk assessments of all tasking must be undertaken. The employee must have appropriate training for the tasks. Prior to undertaking any works on the highways curtilage, appropriate temporary road signs must be in place to warn drivers of the work in progress. This is a legal and insurance requirement.

(AB)

Action

- Public questions re footpath cutting (suggested action – clerk to prepare website page for working group to check before uploading). Have we made any progress with this? AB to provide Clerk with updated Parish Footpath Plan.
- Check widths of fenced off field corridors.
- Dealing with growth on formerly sprayed areas (suggested action - working group to identify areas/pavements which are in need of action and appoint appropriate contractor to attend this season).
- WG to research how much we have paid previously for weed spraying so we can allocate a similar amount to employ someone to carry out tasks such as weeding and minor maintenance jobs. Research to be carried out, into how much other similar sized parishes spend on these works, and how much contribution they seek from CC. Decide how many hours per year we may require this service and bring a proposal to a pre-budget meeting for agreement.

(WG/Clerk)

(AB)

(WG)

(WG)