

MINUTES FROM PERMISSIVE PATHWAY MEETING 3pm 28TH JULY 2020

In attendance:

Stephen Leonard – Countryside Access Officer Wiltshire Council
Stephen Stacey – Chair Avebury Parish Council
Mike Daniel – Councillor, Avebury Parish Council
Mark Saunders – Chair Berwick Bassett & Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council
Helen Ramsay – Councillor, Berwick Bassett & Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council
Apologies - Donna Byatt

This meeting was to determine the next steps for the proposed Permissive (PP) from Winterbourne Monkton to Avebury.

The preferred route for the pathway is a direct link from Winterbourne Monkton to Avebury, running parallel to the A4361 on the north-west side, behind the hedge in the field on Laura Corbett's land and on 13 metres of National Trust land. It was noted that the PP would need to be about 2.5 metres wide if we are to create a footpath/cycle path to enable its use in both directions by pushbikes/mobility scooters and pushchairs/prams as well as walkers.

The alternative is to use the longer distance of the existing footpath that is at the far west of Laura Corbett's field adjacent to the A4361 which would increase the travelling time of walkers considerably and therefore would be less likely to be used by those currently walking along the road. It would also mean seeking a change of use to a by-way to enable cyclists, mobility scooters, prams etc., to use this footpath. Resurfacing and removal or adaptation of stiles would be likely to add significant cost.

Stephen Leonard advised that when pricing the possible cost of the PP we would need to consider whether fencing would be required because Laura Corbett occasionally has cattle in the field in question.

Stephen Leonard suggested we contact Kingston St. Michael Parish for advice on how they put in their pathway. There is also a link from Yatesbury to Avebury where road planings have been used for that pathway. He suggested that road planings would be appropriate to put down for the permissive pathway between Avebury and Winterbourne Monkton and that there is precedent of this covering being agreed suitable for the English Heritage site by the county archaeologist. Geotextile would need to be laid initially and then covered with road planings that can be supplied by Wiltshire Council at £7 ton. The National Trust can help with scalping's. The path would need to be rolled or whacked into place.

Mike Daniel and Stephen Stacey agreed to talk with Laura Corbett to firm up on the initial conversation with Laura, whereby she agreed in principle to the use of her field for a PP. Several points will need to be clarified that were raised in this meeting:

- The Parish Councils would be responsible for the pathway and a formal legal agreement would need to be drawn up with a caveat entered to relinquish Laura Corbett of any liability resulting from accidents along the footpath. A legal agreement would also need to be made with the National Trust to cover the 13 metres of their land should they agree to the land being used.

- Would Laura require fencing alongside the pathway? On occasions there are livestock in the field where the pathway may go, and the best way to protect the livestock and members of the public needs to be discussed. It may be that a temporary electric or ordinary wire fence would need to be put in place on the occasions when livestock were in the field. The cost of permanent fencing along the full length of the pathway would most likely be prohibitive.
- Laura needs to be made aware and agree upon the use of the materials for the pathway suggested above and that she agrees to allow pushbikes/mobility scooters and pushchairs/prams on the pathway.
- Checking the route of the pathway around the BT site.
- Finding crossing and entry points along the road and the field and this researched and checked with Martin Cook (local road engineer, Wiltshire Highways).
- Both parish councils will need jointly to plan for construction and maintenance of the PP.

Other points raised to be actioned/noted:

- Do we need planning permission for the permissive pathway? Change of use?
- Discuss with Martin Cook about safe places to cross along the A361 onto the pathway.
- When discussing this pathway, we need to stress the connection with the local communities/bridle way/natural link to Windmill Hill.
- We need to present 3 or 4 suggestions of where the pathway can be with costings.
- Scheduled Monument Consent - Bryony Clifton, is the lead for the National Trust on applications and might be able to help us.
- Agreement of points raised with Laura Corbett needs to be obtained before contacting anyone for funding.
- An agreement with the National Trust needs to be reached for access along the 13 metres from the bus stop to make it safe and easily accessible for the public.
- Sally Magwick is the person to speak to regarding mapping and the legal side.
- Once points raised with Laura Corbett and agreed upon, discussions can be sought with Martin Cook.
- If agreed, materials can be delivered to Laura Corbett's ground.
- Alternative routes need to be made and presented with the original plan.

Steps to take

1. Mike and Stephen to speak with Laura Corbett.
2. Mark to contact Kingston St. Michael Parish Clerk for information on their pathway.
3. Stephen to contact Martin Cook re crossings
4. Mike to supply drawings of suggested routes with rough costings
5. Stephen to continue dialogue with National Trust at monthly update meetings.

Proposed date of next meeting : 22nd September 3pm Location Dorwyn Manor tbut to be confirmed nearer the time.

FYI there are a number of forms and information sheets that give guidance on creating a footpath at Wiltshire Council website : <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/recreation-rights-of-way>
