

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

### NOTES OF A MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING PARTY HELD IN EXMOUTH TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 4.00 P.M.

#### **Present:**

Cllr. B de Saram (Chairman)  
Jan Gannaway  
Terry Knights (P3 Coordinator)  
Tim Clatworthy (Volunteer to P3 Coordinator)  
Helen Bennett (Interested party)  
Sue Cody (Office Manager)

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Brenda Taylor, Mark Williamson & Jeff Trail, John Petty & Lisa Bowman (Town Clerk)

#### **Election of a Chairperson**

Councillor B De Saram was elected as Chairman.

#### **Notes of the Last Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

These were accepted and signed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising from the last notes and not included in the current agenda**

- **Watersports Centre – cycle path route**

The Chairman would ask Councillor M Williamson for feedback on Grenadier's response to the possibility of re-routing the cycle path behind the Watersports Centre.

- **Wild Exmouth Project**

The project had been submitted and a decision as to its acceptance was due shortly.

#### **Introduction of Volunteer footpath walker**

Helen Bennett was welcomed as a new volunteer who had in recent months walked many of the paths in the Littleham area and submitted photographs to evidence some areas of concern.

#### **Devon County Council grant application and work identified for use of allocation**

With the help of the photographs submitted by Helen it was decided that a smaller group of members of the Rights of Way Working Party would meet to scrutinize the photographs and firstly identify any glaring Health and Safety repairs that may be needed.

Work had been carried out at Green Farm towards Randalls Lane with the footpath being slightly diverted to run along the brook and a new path created up to Maer Farm. There was also a bull in the field but not obvious signage.

Helen asked if there would be SANGS funding available from the Plumb Park development or CIL money to enhance the footpaths around that area.

Sue, Tim and Helen would meet as a smaller group to match the photos with locations on the Rights of Way map. Sue would contact Richard Spurway to ask about funding to support the paths around the Plumb Park development.

### **Footpath between Buckingham Close and Green Farm**

Richard Spurway, DCC Rights of Way Warden, had been asked if there were to be any improvements to the footpath from Buckingham Close to Green Farm. To date there had been no response.

### **Footpath 6 – relocation of kissing gate to connect Footpath 6 to the permissive path**

Richard Spurway had responded that it would not be a priority of DCC in terms of time and funding particularly as the tenant and landowner would be required to give permission however the Town Council could follow it up.

### **Update from Terry Knights, P3 Co-Ordinator**

Terry advised the working party that he had been unwell this year and unable to walk for quite a few months. He had decided that he was no longer able to carry out his commitment to overseeing Exmouth's public rights of way so would step aside for someone else to take the position of P3 Co-Ordinator. He did remind members that he did hold the legal documents to support the new definitive map when Exmouth were asked for their contribution.

A recent article in the Sidmouth Herald had reported on the annual meeting of the Rights of Way Group in Sidmouth and its volunteers. Could Exmouth produce an article to attract new volunteers and advertise for a replacement P3 Co-Ordinator.

### **Any other business**

Footpath 9 had been cleared by the Town Council's operatives.

The holes that had appeared on the Littleham to Budleigh were still unfilled. It was thought that Natural England were still to respond in respect of the badger sett nearby. An email to be sent to DCC to ask what progress had been made and alert them to the possibility of badgers producing young in the spring which would stop works being carried out.

A request was made for consideration of an Exmouth Circular Walk. Exmouth is now 3/4's surrounded by cycle paths and footpaths. They run from the new National Trust path on the Exeter Road to the bottom of the Liverton 2 Industrial Estate. Is it possible to link from there via St Johns and Bystock and Goodmores Farm to Summer Lane? Good history of Permissive paths granted by landowners in Exmouth. Would give more outdoors access for

North Exmouth.

Would it also be possible to create a footpath linking Exmouth with Bystock Ponds and the Pebble Bed Heaths? St Johns Road crossroads access is very dangerous. It would be helpful to get a response from Devon Wildlife Trust, EDDC's Countryside Team and Clinton Devon on their thoughts on this request.

**Date of the next meeting**

A date to be arranged for a smaller group meeting which would address current identified issues on some footpaths.

Meeting finished at 5pm.