

SANDBACH FOOTPATH GROUP (SFG)

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016

Present: Isobel Bennett, Trevor & Pat Boxer, Ralph Browes, Greg Cooper, Jan & John Cooper, Rodney Daniels, Joan Davies, Bernie & Janet Davis, Keith Dean, Keith Haines, Janet Jepson, Carolyn Lowe, Kath & Dave Millington, Lynne Park, Dave Peever, Claire Pickford, Gina Rowe, Christine Smedley, David Sproson, Harold Sproson, Graham Whitehouse, Phil Wyatt, Richard Hoffman, Derek Forster, Maeve Kelly, Daniel Williams, Joan Griffiths

Apologies: Dick Macaulay, Bob Baxter, Jane Stanway, Glynn Robinson

AP = Action Point, FP = Footpath, FB = Facebook, CF = carried forward

1. Welcome and introductions (TB): TB welcomed everyone to the meeting and dealt with the housekeeping, including pointing out the fire exit and toilets, as the meeting was held in a different building from the last meeting held on 12th October 2015.

It was noted that unfortunately this building had no disabled access, so Craig Bayley was unable to attend.

TB advised the meeting that the minutes of the inaugural meeting and the constitution were on the website. Further TB briefly went through parts of the minutes including the various AP (action points). The 2nd AP (making one or more circular walks with no stiles, only gates) had not been achieved CF. TB also confirmed that Open Street maps were free if the printed maps were accredited to them on any map/walk descriptions. TB raised the question as to whether SFG should publish on paper or in Newspapers? TB confirmed that Phil Wyatt is the Named Person. All matters referred to at 7g in the minutes are included in today's agenda.

2. Progress to date:

- a. Constitution – TB re affirmed the core purposes of the constitution and suggested that we try to stick to them.
- b. Website – TB introduced KD who talked the members through the website, the majority of whom confirmed that they had looked at it. KD stated that the items on the right were under development. The circular walks can be found under Local Footpaths including the

names given to the paths by Cheshire East Council (CEC). These walks are all documented including a narrative and maps.

A member stated how easy the website is to use.

TB handed out slips for suggestions, which he requested members complete and return to him.

There are 50 people shown as interested in SFG by email and the website.

- c. Facebook (FB) – GW confirmed that the FB group now had about 123 members and had generated some open discussions. In particular the closed footpath (FP7) from Congleton Road, has stimulated interest on FB, including the fact that the diversion has now been blocked by parties unknown. GW also stated that the circular walks had been posted in the FB group.
- d. Waymarkers – have been purchased and Brook Wood now marked with waymarkers plus others in the town and adjacent area.
- e. Published Circular Walks – there are now 8 walks on the website, with each walk having extensions and short cut alternatives.
- f. Adopt A Path – Greg Cooper [he is also a member of Congleton Ramblers (CR)] asked for the names of all the people who have agreed to adopt a path and the relevant path number. This is in order to avoid duplication of work by a working party from CR, who also review the footpaths in Sandbach.

AP: List of members with details of path numbers they have agreed to adopt to be forwarded to GC

- g. Liaison with Sandbach TC and CE council – CL reported that a liaison meeting was held last week, where it was confirmed that there are 3 people responsible for our area:
 - 1. Maintenance & protection
 - 2. Legal matters
 - 3. Future development

CE communicate in different ways:

- 1. Consultative group (SFG have been invited to join)
- 2. Access Forum

3. PROW meetings – next meeting to be held on 14th March 2016

Any proposed changes to a PROW to go to the NP (named person).

If any member has a problem with any path then these need to be reported through the CEC website (Cheshireeast.gov.uk/PROW). Also any problems with electric fences should be reported.

AP: CE website to be linked to SFG website.

Any incidents with dangerous dogs should be reported to the police (for non-emergency calls the number is 101), where you should obtain the incident number before reporting to CEC.

- h. Accessible routes – this matter needs more investigation with Craig present CF.

3. Financial Report:

Income £	Expenditure £
400 (Waitrose)	184.50 (Waymarkers)

Balance held <£600

Greg Cooper is now named on the bank account and the charges have stopped being applied to the account.

4. Tasks to be undertaken and ongoing work:

- a. Any suggestions for other routes – Dave & Harold Sproson suggested Moss Lane canal to Warmingham, Moston and the moat.

AP: Details to be provided to TB

b. Publicity – TB conducted a quick show of hands and established that about 25% of members read the local paper, whilst 100% had looked at the website. A member suggested that the library is a good place to leave leaflets for the public, also SFG should use the various notice boards, which are located around town including the station, which has a large footfall to publicise the map showing all circular walks.

- c. See earlier AP, under 2 g)

d. Planning applications – FP 7 is closed for 6 month with a diversion in place.

A member asked where do closure notices need to be put? TB stated that he doesn't believe there is any obligation to post them early. The meeting then discussed various diversionary paths.

FP 14 will be affected by the Persimmon development. It is not known if a diversion will be made.

The meeting also discussed the development between Park Lane and Abbey Road and questions were raised about whether any new paths will be included in the plans and in particular with access to the Wheelock Rail Trail?

Arclid FP2 & 3 – ideally these should be linked without having to use the main road.

TB stated that if it can be proved that a path has been walked for 20 years, then it may be possible to have it approved as a PROW.

e. Care of paths – if a member makes a report on any path to CE please send a copy to TB.

CL suggested that individuals should report any problems or faults on paths to CE, rather than as a group. She further confirmed that reported faults do get actioned eventually.

All volunteers who have agreed to adopt a path should complete the appropriate form for CE, copies of which were handed out at the meeting. Upon receipt CE will send out a Letter of Authority. Risk assessments from CE are on SFG's website.

f. Some members have expressed an interest in weekend walks and come the spring also evening walks.

Both Christine Smedley and Graham Whitehouse volunteered to lead walks.

There is no limit on the length of a circular walk, but some part of it must be in Sandbach and a 5 mile walk can be done in half a day.

AOB:

AP: walks with no stiles

Publish a book? Cost would be a factor and unlike the website it cannot be updated and extended without reprinting and further cost.

AP: ring binder of walks to be placed in the library, so that they can be added to. CL to deal with this.

AP: Links to the SFG website from other websites to be actioned by Maeve Kelly

AP: fund raising to be CF

AP: how to get children involved in walking and the outdoors? Liaison officer required. Gina Rowe volunteered and will submit her suggestions to TB

A question was raised about parking – usually this is included in the description of the walks, but the map could also show the relevant parking places.

GC raised the matter of the definition of terms, for example –

- Right of way
- Permissive paths
- Urban paths

Different forms need to be used to report problems, dependant on which type of path. Some faults may need to be reported to the Highways Dept.

AP: clarify the above and add to website

Date of next meeting: Monday 6th June 2016 @ 7pm
Venue to be advised.