

Date of Meeting: 15th February 2018

22 people present - 10 apologies - Nigel Brown, Chris Page, Janet Buick, Andy Fowler, Vaughan Rees, Gwen Jarvis, Linda and Terry Rose, Keith Collins, Maggie Thackway



Chair: John Foster

John made a brief introduction to the meeting.

David Arthur outlined his ideas for adopting a footpath in the parish where volunteers would keep an eye on one or more footpaths, carry out light basic maintenance (trimming back brambles etc with secateurs) and reporting bigger jobs and concerns back to John Foster, the Parish Council footpaths officer. David had captured the Rights of Way map from the Wiltshire website and it was felt this should be more readily available perhaps with more detail or circular routes included.

Melanie Holihead said that maps were difficult to follow for many and would like to see better signage for paths and circular routes.

Nick Holland has a quantity of footpath arrows for use now - he is happy to repair styles and would also consider helping with kissing gates where they can be provided.

Styles could be made a lot easier to use if they had an upright hand post to hold onto while navigating.

Adam Oakley agreed to look for possible sources of funding for kissing gates.

Charlene Ridler thought it would be good if the Footpath group could "tie in" to the planned explorer trail.

It would be good if paths had names rather than numbers. Field names could be preserved and perhaps the history group could help with this.

Jamie Shore was keen to set up an informal walking group to share the routes and experiences with other villagers (subsequently named Chicken Chasers walks).

Neil Miller stressed the importance of the countryside code and the need to respect the landowners and farmers and their animals and crops.

Dog poo was discussed with possibly more bins or not. Also better education of footpath use.

It was felt that this was a large enthusiast group of volunteers with a lot of ideas but the first course of action was to survey the footpath network in the parish.

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 4th April 2018**

**The following ACTION points were noted:**

1. Share the map and a table for all attendees and those who gave apologies to fill-in in terms of which paths they are happy to adopt. The following are now available to view and print on the village website at: <http://www.chapmanslade.org.uk/index.php/our-community/public-footpaths>
  - Chapmanslade path adopters List
  - Adopted a Footpath Survey Table
  - Link to Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way map (showing all footpaths)
2. John Foster to collate the data together on separate path sheets.
3. Engage with Wilts Council and the Ramblers to identify possible funding options for kissing gates. (Adam to make initial contact)
4. Once survey is complete, share it with the Wilts Council footpaths officer and see what support they can provide.
5. Set-up a Facebook group or walking group event for the village walkers. (Jamie Shore)
6. Send an article into The Bridge - (David Arthur)