

Footpath report for the Gislingham PC meeting Monday 19th August 2024

Cutting List

The second cuts by SCC are now taking place along with some reported work via a resident regarding a fallen tree.

MSDC are due to now cut the PC nominated paths. The quote for 2025 is very high and is not competitive. I was going to suggest that the PC purchase a strimmer, plus safety wear so that volunteers from the village can undertake the footpaths not on the SCC cutting list that do require a cut. I did ask Ken Larcome, my PROW contact regarding training and insurance, which I have added his response below.

He has suggested that maybe the PC Cutting List, which I have now reviewed, be added to the SCC which will be a cost.

As you or the parish contractor/volunteer will be working on a legal Highway(all rights of way being classed as a highway), you will need all the tickets as required for working on or near a public highway, £5,000,000 public liability, method statements, machinery needs to be maintained and tested, users need to be trained on the particular machine, LANTRA training for example, risk assessments, PPE provided, signage, etc.

Another possibility for the parish maybe to see if our usual contractor would cut the non SCC paths for the parish. If they were interested, we could provide his contact details. That would remove the requirements as above as the contractor would have all that.

Footpath Issues

There is not much happening at present. I did spend a morning with Ken Larcome which I found very helpful. He was able to report a few issues he identified, plus actioning some that I had observed.

One issue was the walking around the field behind the Six Bells around the back of the houses in Coldham Lane which was disturbing residents dogs and privacy. Ken suggested that signs could be erected to point out that it was not a footpath.

I purchased some proper signs and erected them, however a few days later, someone had stolen them. I did post on the Gislingham Help Facebook page. I have since made my own and am pleased to say they are still in place.

I had noticed that dog fouling was very bad around the field at the back of Coldham Lane, so I did quite a bit of spraying. I am pleased to say, that further inspection, most of it has been picked up and I only found one dog poo.

Footpath Posts

We are still awaiting several posts to be replaced. Ken is aware and I believe once the annual cutting season is completed, the contractors will concentrate on the posts.

Martyn Bryant
Footpath Warden