

PLAYFORD Parish Council – Notes on site meeting to view Playford Footpaths on 31st October 2017 at 2pm

Present:

Joan Metcalfe – Chairman
Steve Hicks – Vice Chairman
Adrian Melrose - Councillor
Elizabeth Mansfield – Landowner’s representative
Ralph Hardy – Landowner’s Farm Manager
Debbie Adams – PROW officer
Robin Vickery - Co. Councillor
Marian Hedgley – Clerk to Playford PC

Objective: To establish correct route of FP20 and to look at condition of FP’s 1 & 3

The party met in Playford Village Hall car park and walked across to the commencement of FP20

- Discrepancy of route of FP20 between Definitive Map and Footpath Statement at several points along this path cannot easily be resolved. PROW would like to reach a decision to satisfy both landowners and users of the footpath and to move this forward – it may be that the decision has to be modified after research by Definitive Map officers has been completed but this could take a while. Adrian Melrose offered to compromise by agreeing to allow the FP across his land to be reinstated to make it easier, even if it does not conform with the Definitive Map (to the south of the present path) but only if the landowners of the water meadow would undertake to level and clear FP1 of vegetation to an acceptable degree on the opposite side of the water meadow and to erect a fence which is not electrified.
- FP20 commences in a SW direction from Byway 19 and goes up to a stile leading to a new bridge over the ditch between the regular walked route and version as prescribed by the Definitive Map which runs parallel, but to the south of the regular path. It is proposed that the stile is removed to allow access to buggies & mobility scooters. Adrian Melrose has offered to provide a gate from his field (to the south of the present path) onto the footpath for anyone who may not be able to manage the bridge. The route according to the Definitive Map then continues on the south side of the newly created drainage pond, towards the Alder Carr.
- The party walked to the edge of the commencement of drainage works on FP20 to see the improvements made to the terrain by the landowners who have cleared vegetation and re-routed the ditches in anticipation of the route being reinstated along the path as depicted on the Definitive Map. All were in agreement that the best option seemed to be to revert to this route and for it to continue eastwards towards Playford Hall along the original route over Adrian Melrose’s land to the south of the drainage ditch. The landowner’s representatives agreed to liaise with the Parish Council over a list of requirements to improve the condition

of FP1 before a final decision is reached. Elizabeth Mansfield, Ralph Hardy and Adrian Melrose left the party.

- The rest of the party walked to the eastern end of FP1 to view its condition. The width is adequate but the ground is rather uneven – a narrow trodden path runs alongside the electric fence but the rest is covered in very rough grass and nettles and encroachment by brambles looked inevitable from the adjacent hedge next Spring. It looked in need of attention.
- The party moved on to FP3 which goes off northwards from Brook Lane towards Culpho. This path is only just over 1m in width in places and hemmed in by an uneven electric fence on one side and a hedge on the other. The trodden path is narrow and the terrain rough – it was agreed that it needed regular clearance and for the fence to be straightened. Also a spring which crosses the path further along will need some sort of structure over it as it gets very boggy in places. Debbie Adams undertook to put the FP on to the regular cutting schedule and to see what could be done to improve the situation with the spring.
- The party disbanded at 3.25pm