

Minute from Council Meeting 21st February 2016

12. Roads, Footpaths & Bridleways Officer's report

12.b.i Footpath 7106a; status and repair to base

The Clerk had circulated, in advance of the meeting, a detailed report on this agenda item. The report covered:-

- i. the current state and problem with the footpath,
- ii. how the problem with the footpath had arisen,
- iii. whose problem it was ie who was the land owner,
- iv. what powers did the Parish Council have to undertake any repairs,
- v. what repairs would be necessary incl their phasing and timing, and finally
- vi. the cost of such works incl potential access to 'external funding' through the HCC – Small grants Scheme (SGS).

Since the drafting of the initial Council report, the Clerk had been informed of the decision to REFUSE the application for £2,000 S.G.S grant aid.

A subsequent paper from Cllr Hertz was circulated. This paper identified an alternative route to access an equivalent source of 'external' funding by way of utilising the full £1,000 per annum resources available from the Lengthsman Scheme. Cllr Hertz's discussion with David Saunders, Lengthsman, on Mon, 13th February resulted in a detailed proposal to undertake the repairs in two Phases. Phase 1 would be undertaken in two Stages, with the first of those two Stages being completed in 2016/17 and the second Stage to be undertaken early in 2017/18.

Stage 1. *Site repair preparation*, in this financial year 2016/17 in March – Two days of Digger Hire & Labour £750 + Crushed Concrete Order £820, **totalling £1,570** directly invoiced to Pamber PC by the Lengthsman. Pamber PC to then Invoice **Hannington PC for the Lengthsman budget 'Overage' of £570.**

Stage 2. *Laying in hard core*, post end of financial year i.e. 2017/18 say in April/May – 2 days Digger hire £750 + Dumper & Roller Hire £250 + 2 days labour £360, **totalling £1,360** directly invoiced to Pamber PC by the Lengthsman. Pamber PC to then Invoice **Hannington PC for the Lengthsman budget 'overage' of £360.**

The above scenario would result in the total cost of repair work to Hannington Parish £930 excl. VAT i.e. within the previously discussed cost of £1,000 when funding had been anticipated from SGS.

Cllr Hertz informed the Council he had confirmed with HCC Highways (North) and the Clerk, Pamber PC, that the Council could use the Lengthsman Scheme monies held by Pamber PC for the above work.

Cllr Hertz also advised the Council that the logistics of achieving this repair work relies totally on the involvement and continued support by Kingsclere Estates with storing of materials etc.

DECISION: after having discussed the above at great length, the Council DECIDED TO DEFER A DECISION pending:

1. Cllr Hertz meeting with Tim May, Kingsclere Estates, to establish if he is willing to contribute towards addressing the poor state of the base of the footpath caused by his vehicles, and what, if any, actions he is willing to take to prevent, or at least minimise a recurrence in future, (Cllr Hertz to follow up),

2. establish if, by undertaking repairs to the footpath, the Parish Council may lay itself open to claims for injury/damages etc, and if so, whether or not such claims are covered by its insurance, (Clerk to investigate) and,

3. the Clerk to organize a Special Meeting of the Parish Council to consider the issue again.

[Subsequent to the February 21st Council meeting, it was identified that for the Stage 1 work to be able to take place in the current financial year, the key element in the above proposal, the Lengthsman would have to be informed of the decision to proceed no later than Friday 3rd March. This would require the Council decision to be made by Thursday 2nd March at the latest. **Having contacted all the Cllrs, the only date they could meet within this timeframe was Tuesday 28th February.**

The Clerk has arranged a public meeting of the Parish Council for Tuesday 28th February from 5.00pm to 6.00pm at the Village Hall. Notice of the meeting was forwarded by the Clerk Thursday 23rd February.