

Parish Council Report

Subject: Tisbury Footpath Group

Date: 5th March 2023

Author: Bev Cornish, Clerk and RFO

Background

This report provides explanatory information on an invoice for £1,971.59 (below) submitted by Tisbury Footpath Club for the period from 31st December 2021 to 9th September 2022 which was submitted following a meeting with the Clerk in October 2022.

Club Voluntary Work

Tisbury Footpath Club maintains over 60 footpaths in Tisbury parish. Volunteers carry out regular maintenance works on the second Monday of each month and work in conjunction with Wiltshire Council's Countryside Access Officer. The work carried out comprises the installation and repair of kissing gates and stiles, installation of way markers and the clearing of vegetation, which was significant in 2022, including the removal of dead trees and shrubs.

Income and Expenditure

Income from the Club is generated by the sale of its Nadder Valley Walks books which are priced at £4.50 each and it holds a small amount of money in reserve. Each book contains 18 walks of various lengths in the Nadder and adjacent valleys.

During 2022 from its own funds it purchased a chainsaw and paid for the training of 3 volunteers and also purchased a brush cutter for footpath clearing. The necessary safety equipment and gear also had to be purchased to ensure it was compliant with insurance requirements together with signage to place on footpaths when chainsaw work was taking place.

Responsibilities and Legislation

Many of the tasks taken on by the Footpath Club are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council as the local highway authority. However, with only 2 countryside access officers for the county, much of the work falls to volunteers or officers within town and parish councils.

Under section 43 of the Highway Act 1980 parish councils have the power to maintain footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways in their area without the prior consent or agreement of the authority but maintenance by parish councils does not absolve local highway authorities from discharging their own responsibilities.

Recommendation:

- i. That Tisbury Parish Council reimburses Tisbury Footpath Club for its costs in maintaining footpaths across Tisbury during 2022 from the existing 'Amenity/Highways' expenditure budget line, many of which were exceptional one-off costs in order to enhance its ability to maintain the parish's footpaths. This has already been included in the budget outturn for 2022/23 for when the Precept for 2023/24 was approved. Those monies will enable the Club to continue to carry out the work but also to fund other activities which will benefit its members.
- ii. That a separate budget line be set up for 2024/25 for monies to be allocated annually to footpath maintenance.

Bev Cornish
5th March 2023

TISBURY FOOTPATH CLUB
FOUNDED 1975

D R A F T

31st October 2022

Tisbury Parish Council

Invoice No. 52

To: Expenditure incurred by Footpath Maintenance Team to October 2022:

	£	p		
31.12.21	14.50			
07.01.22	<u>176.30</u>		190.30	13.1.22
23.01.22			1,224.00	25.1.22
07.12.21	6.00			
23.01.22	17.75			
01.02.22	36.25			
02.02.22	43.20			
08.02.22	61.49			
04.03.22	20.83			
08.03.22	72.00			
10.03.22	<u>16.50</u>		274.02	1.4.22
	17.20			
	<u>72.00</u>		89.20	13.7.22
01.06.22	17.20			
10.06.22				
	68.06			
20.07.22	55.62			
30.08.22	17.19			
09.09.22				
	<u>36.00</u>		<u>194.07</u>	22.9.22
			<u><u>£1,971.59</u></u>	

Bank Details

Sort Code: 30-97-41

Account No: 00601503