Dear Councillors,

I have the following to report since the last meeting regarding the footpaths in Easton Royal.

All footpaths in Easton Royal have been kept clear throughout the growing season.  This has been achieved by a sustained level of activity by the ER Footpath Wardens throughout the Summer and by excellent cooperation from the landowners.  The new Permissive Footpath has been especially welcomed by the villagers.  Paul Millard kindly came out with his gang and cleared the large fallen tree on Green Lane in August and then did a brilliant job clearing the track going north towards Wooten Rivers from the Bruce’s Arms – it has been transformed.

The purchased strimmer has been used by several Footpath Wardens to good effect, however it is considered a bit heavy to use by some.  Beverley and Hew Helps have done sterling work throughout the summer with their ride-on mower keeping several kilometres mown.  I propose voting a further £50 to them for the use of it, especially as the main rubber band on the machine broke when I was cutting the Permissive Path three weeks ago!

Future plans are as follows:

1.     We are due to receive planings from resurfacing of Pewsey on or about 2nd November.  A few loads would be placed at the east end of EROY 2 (by the tee junction at the bottom of the village) and the rest on EROY 22 (Green Lane) as far as the soggy patch by Mark’s poplar wood.   A load will diverted for putting on the track to the graveyard.

2.     We have been offered help with constructing 4 more kissing gates/stock-proof bridle gates this winter.  Work is scheduled for the weekend of 5/6th December.  I am currently negotiating with landowners about which stiles to replace.

The financial situation for the footpaths is as follows:

1.     Expenditure

a.     Strimmer                                                    £175

b.     Grant to Helps for ride on mower              £50

*Total £235*

2.     Current Liabilities:

a.     Bill from Wiltshire for materials (2014-15)          £500 (estimate)

b.     Second grant to Helps                                £50 (if approved)

c.      Bill to Wilshire for materials (2015-16)      £600 (estimate)

*Total £1150*

3.     Cash (held on account by ER PC):

a.     ER PC Improvement grant 2014-15                    £300

b.     ER PC Improvement grant 2015-16                    £300

c.      Grant from PVRC                                                £300

d.     Grant from Pewsey Area Board                 £600

*Total £1500*

*Less expenditure above of £235*

*Remaining cash  £1265*

This shows that the assets and liabilities are nearly in balance.

Meeting report 17th September 2015