

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL
FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE (FAAG) MEETING:
18th May 2026 at 7:30pm In Kingston Blount Village Hall

PRESENT: Mike Eaton (ME), Di Eaton (DE), Jan Atkins (JA), Peter Hetherington (PH), and S.Sowerby (SS) chair.

PARISH COUNCILLORS: Cllr. A Bernstein, Cllr. T Hill (arrived at 7.45). **ABSENT:** Tony Hughes

	Minutes	Actions
1	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING ON 04 NOV 2025: Approved and signed, no amendments.	Clerk: to publish.
2	MATTERS ARISING: Per, minute 16 Nov'25 – replacement of stiles on Weston Foundation land has already started and grants obtained. 26 gates to replace stiles, project will run until 2027	Noted.
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.	Noted.
4	2026 DUCK RACES: Cancelled for safety with water levels & weather & conditions underfoot Provisional date for 2027: Wait for half-term dates for Feb 2027 (possibly 21/Feb) TBC.	Agenda for Oct meeting
5	FIVE WAYS REPORT: ➤ 200 daffodils planted thanks to PC assistance. ➤ Cuttings taken from Black Poplars – put into the stream and 4 or 5 have taken. Spare cuttings to be offered to SODC for distribution within the district. Need to confirm Just 3 Words for site of Poplar Trees and pass on to SODC tree officer. ➤ Area needs strimming & thinning out of dead & diseased trees to let more light in – PC had an approach in January offering free help from Chilworth House School DofE volunteers. 3 people at the Cricket Club work at the school, so Chair will take forward. ➤ Potential link with Lewknor PC re: health of chalk streams and Thames Water sewage dumping. New monitoring stations set up by TW.	Noted. Noted. Chair: – establish contact with Head-Teacher. Mike: follow up when time allows.
6	PLECK WOOD: A small group of people are thinning out trees and leaving logs for people to use, or longer pieces to line sides of paths. Also need to remove old wire fencing.	Noted.
7	PARISH WALKS: ➤ January walk was cancelled due to weather and conditions, rearranged for April. ➤ April (Jan rearranged): Very successful and weather was good which helped –20+ people attended, over half from this parish. ➤ Next walk due 4/Jan'27. Already advertised in Chinnor Pump & Thame & Wheatley Ramblers website – to be put on our website & KBAR nearer the time. Brief discussion about making this an Autumn walk in future to avoid cancellations as above.	Noted. Noted. Noted. Peter H to discuss with T&WR.
8	LOWER ICKNIELD WAY UPDATE: General discussion on Riparian roles and responsibilities for ditches. OCC project is taking a lead on this and writing to affected landowners in efforts to control flooding and disrepairs to path surface and edges, but no progress to report yet.	
9	CHURCH LANE UPDATE: OCC have said they will clear but no timetable yet.	
10	REPAIR OF NOTICEBOARD AT ASTON ROWANT CHURCH: Cllr. Day has offered to undertake this work (possibly Free of Charge) as he has a suitable piece of wood to use. Map is OK, but obsolete adverts to be removed and whole board will therefore be smaller overall.	Chair: liaise with Cllr Day.
11	REPAIRS TO MOORS PATH: Cannot find a contractor to do the work. Last year's repairs with the compactor lasted until it rained and was then all washed away, so reluctant to repeat this. Public footpath by the lakes in Chinnor has been repaired at request of Chinnor PC by OCC, using an outsourced contractor. Potential to use same contractor if we can find their details from Chinnor	Clerk: Liaise with Chinnor Clerk..
12	UPDATE ON RE-ROUTING OF FOOTPATH ON KB FIELD. Since November, OCC put forward a new offer to make the official diversion entirely at their expense, due to a mapping error between 1820-1960 when the footpath was initially established. Agreed at November PC meeting (minute 9) and consultation period should have started but no further OCC contact.	Noted.
13	AUTUMN LITTER PICK: Following success of the Spring event, it is proposed to do another in Autumn. Chair to investigate dates and organise potential date, possibly 11/Oct.	Chair: as described.

14	CLEARING AND PLANTING IN KB LANES: ➤ Proposal to re-wild the lane verges – Chair to write to all properties backing on to the lanes and outline this to get their agreement to proposals. ➤ Hedge in Orchard House now overgrown and above the fence line – a request has been made from a neighbour as losing light in their property.	<u>Chair:</u> to write to all property owners affected. <u>Chair</u> to discuss with owners.
15	RIVER THAME CONSERVATION TRUST: Attempts to contact Simon Parry continue.	
16	ANY OTHER BUSINESS: ➤ Add to parish maintenance tasks – Item 37, Cut and Clear grass from two chicanes at either end of KB village. Action: Dan Cuadrado. ➤ Amend Parish Maintenance List to replace Cllr Hill with Cllr Bain. ➤ Additionally, as the PC give an annual grant for the maintenance of the AR churchyard it was agreed to write to the Churchwardens and request that they also clear the cow parsley once a year (May/June) and the epicormic growth around trees as entrance to church path, to improve visibility for traffic and pedestrians.	<u>Clerk:</u> Add and amend list & re-publish. <u>Clerk:</u> email following this year's grant payment
17	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Mon 12th October in KBVH Committee room.	<u>Chair:</u> book room.