

DRAYTON (ABINGDON) PARISH COUNCIL – RIGHTS OF WAY AND CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Date Last Agreed: 16th May 2011

Date of Next Review: May 2012

Objective:

The Rights of Way and Conservation Working Group (ROW) is responsible to the Parish Council for maintaining the Drayton village footpaths, bridleways and byways in good order.

Membership:

1. Membership of the ROW Working Group is established at the Annual Parish Meeting in May each year.
2. The Rights of Way and Conservation Group (ROW) comprises up to five Councillors.
3. One of the members of the ROW Working Group is elected annually by the Parish Council as its chairman.
4. Co-opted Councillors may join during the year if authorised by Parish Council at a monthly meeting; of the Council
5. Members from outside bodies may be invited to join the Committee. These persons do not have a right to vote or to move or second a motion (as per Standing Orders).
6. Three members shall constitute a quorum for meetings.

Meetings

7. Meetings of the ROW Working Group are to be held as and when required in order to consider matters relevant to the Group's objectives.

Decision/Delegated Powers:

8. By regularly using/inspecting paths the ROW working group shall ensure that all footpaths and bridleways within the parish are well sign-posted and passable, that when necessary overgrowth and fallen trees etc. are removed and that stiles, gates and kissing gates are kept in good repair.
9. The ROW working group shall ensure that all the most well used footpaths within the village itself are kept as far as possible in usable condition even when wet.
10. If footpaths need to be cut back, fallen trees removed, surfaces or stiles repaired the matter may be referred to the village caretaker, the landowner or, if a large and difficult job, to the Environment and Economy Department of the OCC.
11. If necessary landowners are to be reminded of their legal duty to reinstate all paths promptly after ploughing and sowing crops.
12. The ROW Working Group should whenever possible ensure that hedgerows alongside footpaths and bridleways are maintained as good wildlife habitat, and may initiate projects to enhance wildlife habitat
13. Should a property owner need to be remove a hedgerow for building access the ROW Working Group must ensure that the householder reinstates the hedge.
14. The ROW Working group is to ensure that footpaths and bridleways are used for their designated purposes i.e.
 - Footpaths for those on foot only
 - Bridleways for those on foot, horseback or bicycle
 - Byways where there is right of way for vehicles but which are mainly used as footpaths or bridleways.