

# Ansty Parish Council

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda

All Councillors are hereby summoned to participate in the  
Parish Council Meeting at 6.30pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
at St. James's Church, Ansty

Members of the public are welcome to attend

### Questions or Statements

A short period of time will be set aside prior to the start of the meeting for questions or statements from members of the public on any matter concerning the civil parish, each person speaking for no longer than three minutes.

Please note that any question requiring an answer that needs to be researched will be noted and included in the agenda for the following meeting. Statements will be noted at the meeting, but no discussion will take place unless the matter is on the agenda.

Tim Culver-James, Clerk.

### Meeting Agenda

1. Those present and apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chairman's Introduction.
4. Co-Option of Tom Rowley-Certificate of Acceptance of Office to be signed.
5. Report from Wiltshire Councillor.
6. Approval of minutes of meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023.
7. Planning matters requiring consideration/resolution.  
PL/2023/09033 Meadow Cottage, Kings Lane, Ansty SP3 5QA Removal/variation of conditions. Consultation ends 28/11/2023.  
PL/2023/09250 83 High Street, Ansty SP3 5QD. Works to a Listed Building. Consultation ends 7/12/2023
8. Financial matters requiring consideration/resolution including budget and precept FY 2024-25.
9. Update on road safety matters-purchase of SID and signage.
10. Review of matters raised at last meeting; provision of public convenience and acquiring of land near the May Pole.
11. Parish Steward update.
12. Footpath and rights of way issues.
13. Village website proposals.
14. Defibrillator progress.
15. Matters arising for inclusion in next agenda.
16. Date of next meeting.

# Ansty Parish Council

## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held at St. James' Church on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 6.30pm.

### 21.08.01 Those present and apologies for absence

Present: Councillors M. Norris, L. Gooding, H. Lockley.

In attendance: T. Culver-James (Clerk), M. Brewer, R. Diment, C. Smith, J. Gooding, C. Plumptre, L. Simm.

Apologies: Cllr. T Martin, A. Martin, Wiltshire Councillor N. Najjar.

### 21.08.02 Declarations of Interest

None made.

### 21.08.03 Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed those present. Having been elected as Chairman at the previous meeting, he affirmed his acceptance of the role. The importance of co-option of a new councillor was noted. There is a likely candidate, and the change for the usual day of meeting to Thursday to aid this was met with no objection. He also led into the next agenda item, paying tribute to Juliette Foy.

### 21.08.04 Appreciation of Juliette Foy

All present noted with thanks and gratitude the contribution of Juliette to the Parish Council, May Day celebrations and the village in general.

### 21.08.05 Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Apologies were received from Cllr. Najjar who was unable to attend.

### 21.08.06 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Having been agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting, these were approved and signed into the record.

### 21.08.07 Councillor portfolios for current civic year.

M. Norris-Area Board, LFHIG, tasking of Village Steward, footpaths

L. Gooding-Planning issues

H. Lockley-Website

### 21.08.08 Planning matters requiring Consideration/Resolution

PL/2023/06489 Pond Cottage, 80 Ansty SP3 5QD. Notification of proposed works to trees in the conservation area; felling of beech tree.

Councillors unanimously raised no objection to this application.

### 21.08.09 Financial matters requiring Consideration/Resolution

A report for the income and expenditure for the period 5<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> August was presented. The time limit for disbursement of CIL monies to be confirmed. Also consideration of proper expenditure

of monies, reflecting that this could have an impact on the next precept application. Some ideas were raised in this respect at 21.08.16.

#### [21.08.10 Update on road safety matters](#)

Work on this long running matter continues and our focus remains on finding ways of making the High Street a safer place for all our Villagers.

#### [21.08.11 Parish Steward update](#)

Milestone contracting has improved. Overhanging tree at the A30 junction to be referred for attention.

#### [21.08.12 Footpaths and Rights of Way](#)

Our Footpath Volunteer Team to maintain the good condition of the footpaths generally although concern was expressed about the long grass this summer.

The project to upgrade FP2 between Ansty House and Maypole Cottage remains firmly on the agenda.

#### [21.08.13 May Day 2023 and 2024](#)

Rita Diment is kindly taking this task of Chairing the Ansty Mayday committee. A change of date and timings are to be considered to enhance attendance. Music provision was also discussed. Note was made to ensure insurance and road closure compliance. In particular, Swallowcliffe PC has suggested a tweak to the closure plan.

#### [21.08.14 Village Website](#)

The council is extremely grateful for the considerable work of R. Wilkinson, and understands his wish to step back. H. Lockley has agreed to assist in implementing this. The idea of an archive of local maps would be worthwhile. Also, the plea for material to inform and entertain to be submitted was reiterated.

#### [21.08.15 Defibrillator progress](#)

Discussion of a site focused on the Church area, noting the need for a power supply, and checks and maintenance required. Costs to be researched, particularly given the funding available from the PC.

#### [21.08.16 Matters arising for inclusion in next agenda](#)

Suggested that the parish council could examine the potential of acquiring the small parcel of land near the Maypole. Potential purchase of SID and signage to aid in enhancement of road safety. Also suggested was the provision of some form of public convenience in the village. Assistance from Wiltshire Area Board funding will be investigated.

#### [21.08.17](#)

To be confirmed, but possibly 16<sup>th</sup> November.

## Ansty Parish Council Meeting 11 December 2023

### Financial Summary

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**Balance 13 July 2023** **16,184.45**

#### Expenditures since 13 July 2023

Clerk's salary Aug 23 – Nov 23) 4 x 86.67 = 346.68

PC insurance 169.74

Website hosting 83.88

Information Commissioner's office 35.00

Total Expenditure for period 635.30

Income in period nil

**Balance 5 December 2023** **15,549.15**

#### Anticipated expenditures before next meeting

Clerk's salary 260.01

Payroll service 100.00

Meeting accommodation 50.00

Website domain name 12.00

Ansty PC - Setting 2024/2025 Budget - First DRAFT					
	2023/2024			2024-2025	
Item	Budget	Actual / Anticipated		Budget	Actual
Clerk salary	1,040	1,040		1,150	
Payroll services	100	100		110	
Printing/ stationery	50	20		20	
Meeting premises hire costs	100	100		100	
Wilts Assoc Local Councils	60	53		60	
Info Commissioner GDPR	40	35		40	
Insurance	190	170		170	
Clerk training	100	100		100	
Councillor training	100	100		100	
Website host & domain name	100	95		100	
Website management	50	0		50	
SID costs/ sinking fund	150	150		150	
Litter pick/footpath maintenance	50	50		50	
Contingency	320	320		350	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>2,333</b>		<b>2,550</b>	
<b>Precept</b>	<b>2,450</b>			<b>2,550</b>	

Ansty PC - Setting Precept 2024/2025					
Year	Ansty PC Precept	Tax Base No	Band D pays £	Band D Increase £	Band D Increase %
2018/19	2,000	73.91	27.06		
2019/20	2,100	73.98	28.39	1.33	4.9
2020/21	2,150	78.50	27.39	-1.00	-3.5
2021/22	2,200	78.40	28.06	0.67	2.4
2022/23	2,200	77.60	28.35	0.29	0.1
2023/24	2,450	82.97	29.52	1.17	4.1
2024/25	2,550	82.97*	30.73	1.21	4.1

- Still to be advised

# Ansty Footpath Maintenance Report November 2022 – November 2023

After another 'warm and humid year' with exceptional vegetation growth from May onwards, our entire 6- mile (9.6 km) footpath system remained in good shape, thanks to regular vegetation clearing and trimming by the Ansty Footpath Volunteer Group (AFVG) with the occasional help from some helpful landowners.

From early-April the volunteer teams were assigned sections of our footpaths to regularly maintain throughout the 'growing' season often working in pairs. In line with Wiltshire Council guidelines, we had to ensure that we had assessed the risks when working on the footpaths; checked that no member of the public was in the work area, as well as ensuring no harm came to any wildlife habitats. Our first job was to complete some minor repairs to the boardwalk accessing Aileen's Bridge.

After a relatively wet winter and spring (with a couple of windy days which did bring down some small branches and the odd tree), the early season was dry, sunny and warm there were but damp conditions too which led to a proliferation of vegetation growth – especially grass which took a heavy toll on our strimmers! July and August were wet months but with good sunshine too – followed by an exceptionally warm September with very high temperatures at the beginning of the month.

This 'jungle weather' was not that helpful when endeavouring to keep footpaths cleared of vegetation and undergrowth! Still, there was plenty of work done to keep our footpath lines clear and accessible to all! The AFVG notched up around 65 hours clearing footpaths this year. We were not able to take on any upgrading projects, although several stiles are beginning to cause concern, either because they are deteriorating, rather wobbly in nature, or are just plain difficult to

access or climb over. Some of our rustic stiles will have to be upgraded or strengthened within the next year and in some cases; it may be considered preferable to install gates. It is also Wiltshire Council's long-term aim (and ours) to try and upgrade our footpaths to be 'accessible for all' as indeed it is a county-wide aim for all our footpaths and bridleways.

We were delighted that our maintenance parties have been able to keep our footpaths 'in good trim' and many thanks go to the following for helping us throughout 2023: Tim Martin, Jon Gooding, Max Hobbs, Tom Rowley, Oliver Simm, and Hannah Hoare. Other notable contributions include landowners/farmers Rob Beale (who keeps the footpath on his land beautifully tidy) and wins our gold award for the fourth successive year; Trevor Marks, George Smith, Mathew Feltham, Clive Jack of Squalls Estate, Matt Fry of Totterdale and the Daltons of Horwood. All and more have played their part in ensuring our footpaths remain in a good state of maintenance and accessibility.

Before we attempt any footpath upgrades, permission has to be obtained from landowners and the team thank all those who see the 'bigger picture' and help us with enabling everybody to 'get out' and walk freely across the countryside. Evidence continues to indicate that most of our footpaths saw an increased 'footfall' again this year (helped by the wonderful weather) – mostly used by locals – but also some welcome visitors and more cycling was enjoyed by some along some of the byways and bridleways.

Our more challenging walk (FP5) traversing Ansty Down to Whitesheet Hill from Shave Lane continues to attract back packers this year and of course along our section of the byway from Salisbury to Shaftesbury along the top of the Downs



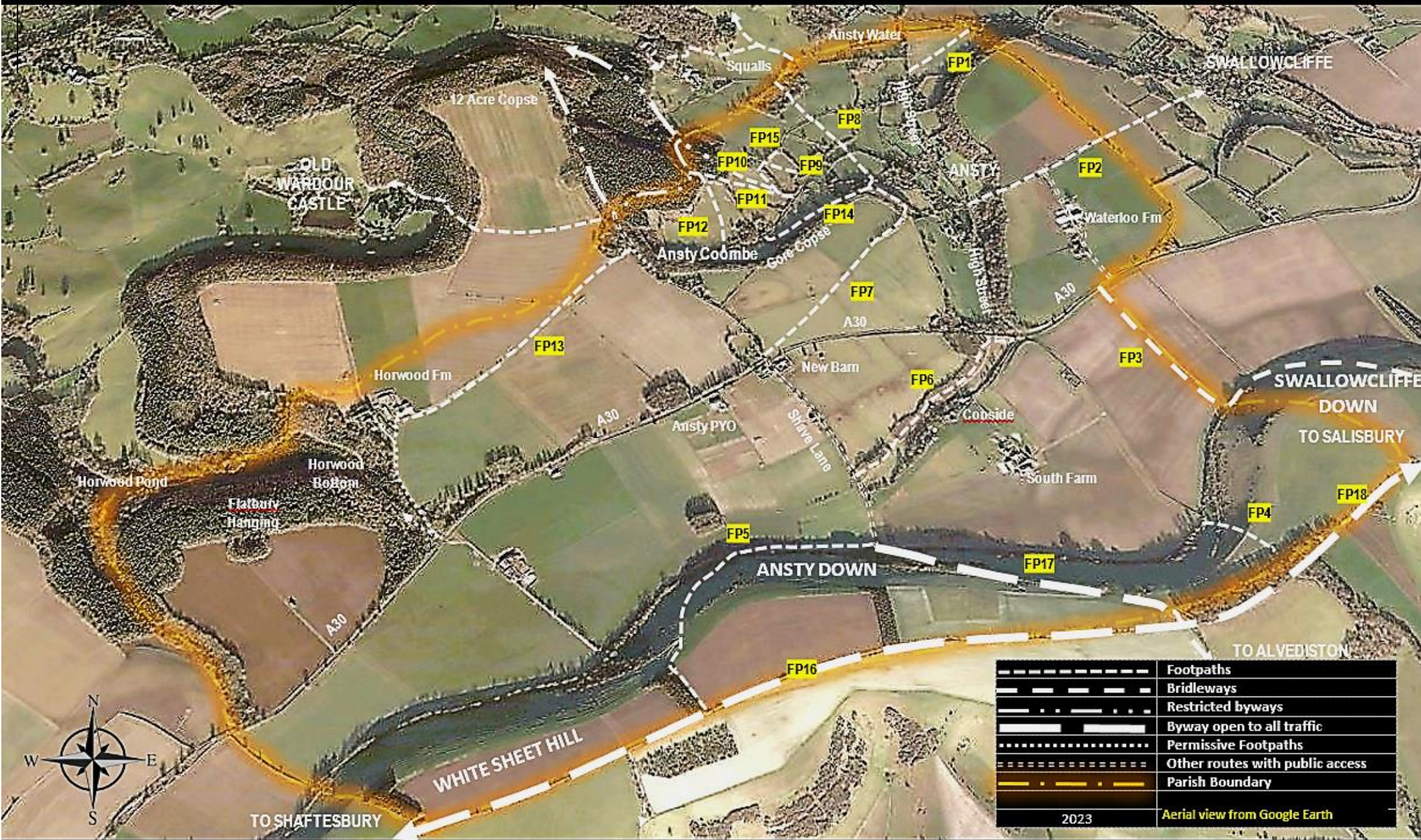


Photo Map to show the many 'public rights of way' footpaths (FPs) in the parish of Ansty, near Salisbury, Wiltshire



# A snapshot of our Footpath Maintenance efforts in Ansty this year!



## New Farm Fence blocks off access to right of way ANST4 (posted 14th February 2023)

One of Ansty's secret footpath gems is the short (but initially very steep) path that ascends the chalk escarpment slope up to the top of the hill to Alvediston and the byway crossing it. Recently a new farm fence has been erected blocking off access to this delightful walk. We feel sure that this problem is only temporary, and the Parish Council is taking steps to rectify the issue.

## Minor Repairs completed on Boardwalk to Aileen's Bridge (posted 09th April 2023)



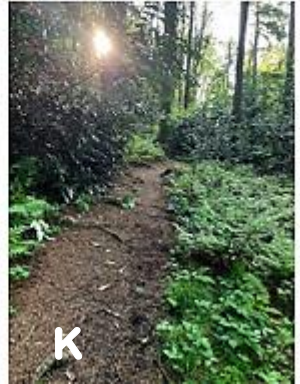
Parishioners may recall that some minor repairs were needed to the wooden post structural side supports of the sleeper boardwalk on the access sides to Aileen's Bridge on FP8 from Kings Lane. It seems probable that frost heave caused by very frosty spells in December and January may have been the cause of the problem.

You may be pleased to know that these repairs have now been completed. Wiltshire Council, courtesy of Footpath Officer Alex Howson supplied new wooden pegs and nails etc. and councillors Mark Norris and Tim Martin (part of the Ansty Footpath Maintenance team) did the work. Many thanks to all.



**Above far left-** Old pegs have been removed; Mark Norris knocks in new support pegs side pegs ready to be nailed to the sleeper boardwalk. **Above middle and right-** Job completed for both access boardwalks. Excellent work!





## Ansty Footpath Maintenance Team are back!

(posted 02-06-23)

After the clearance of winter debris, early summer is the time for the explosive growth of vegetation! The Ansty volunteer group, marshalled by Councillor Mark Norris have been busy keeping our wonderful array of footpaths open and accessible to all. They are responsible for clearing vegetation as well as maintaining the gates and stiles.

This array of pictures shows work in progress. Can you identify the footpath locations (A to L) with the path numbers on our photomap above?





## Ansty Village Footpath Maintenance Team – late summer ‘sweep’!

(posted 01-09-23)

All through the spring and summer you may come across very small groups of men doing their best to tame nature's excesses, so that people can walk through the countryside without too much difficulty. -Any person can volunteer, but it does often involve the use of machinery. -Tap on the image to see how they have been faring more recently.

