**Footpaths Report for Council Meeting 7th November 2024 (see map attached)**

North of A30 Footpaths

* All these are generally in good shape and easily walked. The autumn die back has helped and landowning estates such as Clouds have recently undertaken maintenance and clearing, including to Basils cottage FP14 which was previously very over grown
* Stile on FP8 is defective – this has been reported to Clive Jack of Squalls Estate but not heard back yet
* Stile at start of FP14 in front of Keeper’s Cottage damaged and waiting to be fixed. There remains easy alternative access however and a permissive path
* New handrail on FP2 still looking good and essential with all this wet weather and the mud!

South of A30 Footpaths

* These have been neglected over past year since Tim and Graham left the village
* Fortunately we now have two new volunteers to take over, Paul Greenhaigh and Jonny Belk – so please express a welcome and many thanks to both
* We are setting a date for a session to reclaim overgrown parts. Paul, Jonny and myself for definite, with any other volunteers from footpath group if free
* Access issue top of FP5: entry marked on both OS and WCC Rights of Way maps does not exist. The marked footpath/style is further east to the right of the small wood (attached map shows correct). Reported to WCC Case no 00193201
* Further summary of these footpaths below for reference if required

General

* Footpath volunteers are covered under Parish Council public liability insurance, but we need a Risk Assessment for governance. Aiming to keep simple – email > read/acknowledge > review yearly. Provisional form attached for comments
* Permissions – it would be helpful to know the landowners with contact details for all our footpaths, both as courtesy to liaise with them for the work we do, and for any problems or obstructions identified. Unclear especially re south A30 paths. I have approached WCC but no response yet, so if anyone has any knowledge of these please let me know

South A30 Footpaths summary for reclaim session – see attached map

FP5 – footpath, needs work

Lower section: ageing styles at start. Path aligns with OS map. Short initial wooded section, then runs alongside muddy field but the verge/footpath here totally overgrown.

Middle section: steep with no clear single path in several areas, so difficult to follow if coming from above - miss exits! Cows often but as a result little clearing back needed

Top section: entry point marked on both OS map and the WCC Rights of Way map does not exist. The marked footpath and style is actually further east to the right of the small wood (attached may shows correct). Initial section rather overgrown

FP3 - long Bridleway off FP18. The route as it branches right down the steep hill is difficult to find. Needs better marking out. If you go the wrong way, it’s quite a scramble!

FP4 – Steep foot path off Alvediston Rd. Access to style awkward with ?loss of steps below to assist. Lower section overgrown. Path across field at the top isn’t easy to find

FP6 - Wooded footpath off the A30 which is always well maintained by Beales. The tractor path after that leads on to start of FP5 and FP17 needs some cutting back

FP16 - Bridleway at the top, wide/well maintained already – no action needed

FP17- Bridleway, rocky then grassy tractor track, wide/easy to walk. Section at end overgrown in summer but now dying back