

King's Sutton Parish Council APM 2017

A normal year, muddy fields, then, nicely this year several months of lovely dry paths when did not need walking boots or wellingtons, then back again in the winter to muddy fields; due to most of the land in the parish now being arable, and so ploughed unlike a few years ago when much of the land was pasture with nice grass to walk on.

With the exception below, I have not heard of any great problems during the year. The exception being of a dog being trodden on or kicked by a horse and subsequently dying. I never heard whose dog it was or any details.

Following in red is from Northants ROW office:

Dogs are considered to be a 'usual accompaniment' and so are permitted on a PRow; however, landowners and the Rights of Way team are not required to make any provision for dogs such as dog flaps beside a stile. Though not required to be on a lead dogs should be under close control i.e. they should not be permitted to stray from the line of the path, the same as walkers, therefore except for extremely well trained dogs this means keeping them on a lead.

The most common and justified complaint from landowners regards members of the public who consider fields to be dog exercise areas and allow dogs to run amock all over fields and also do not clear up dog fouling.

It has been known for flocks of sheep to be condemned for human consumption at slaughter due to ingestion of dog faeces; this is a severe financial burden for a landowner and can take up to five years to free pasture from contamination (See the countryside code as it applied to dog walkers).

Many dog muck bags have been found at the path sides in the village that the bone idle dog owners who do not use the several bins that have been provided, at great expense, by the parish council. The recently erected dog bin at Holland Rise is well used: so hopefully we will see no dog bags thrown down as dog walkers leave footpath AS4 that exits onto Mill Lane.

It is the aim of the Rights of Way office where possible, to get rid of stiles that are a barrier to the elderly and less able to get out into the countryside and replace them with gates, kissing gates or even better just gaps.

In the nearly 23 miles of Rights of Way in this parish we have some 28 stiles.

An elderly gentleman slipped on the wooden bridge over a ditch on footpath AS 12, in the railway meadows. I will look to see if a nonslip surface can be put down like on the steps on the stiles on AS 12 over the railway.

On the same footpath I spotted some while ago that several blocks I had put to make an easier step up to another bridge had been thrown into the ditch by vandals.

Field Names.

I have mentioned this before.

Deddington Parish have in their Market House a map of their parish with all the fields plotted with the names of the fields. It would be nice if King's Sutton had the same. It is quite time consuming but interesting.

I had a friend who helped me on this but unfortunately he has died so can no longer assist. If anyone has an interest in helping please contact me.

It is very fascinating seeing some of the names. So hopefully sometime in the future King's Sutton might have a similar interesting board of a historical interest.

I would welcome anyone who has an interest in helping look after the paths in the parish to join in the team.

Hours as short or infrequent as you like.

No hard physical work only pleasant walking in lovely countryside.

Regret we get no pay!

Dave Hall and Anne Burrell

Parish Path Wardens