Aymestrey Footpath Report, November/2022.

All seems well with regard to access on the Parish Footpaths.

A brief period of high winds caused two tree falls. One previously mentioned in last months report, where a tree had come down on a track that is used to gain access from AY4 and on up to Yatton Hill Common.

As this is not a Public Footpath, but is used by locals as a good access track, I will clear it when possible.

Further report of a tree fall.

I have received a report of a tree down on the Mortimer Trail, just along from the Lyepole Bridge under Sned Wood. I will attend to that as a priority. Three options are open to do that work;

1. Inform Forestry that there is a tree down on the trail that they, as Landowners need to clear. that may take some weeks to be allocated for clearance by Forestry personnel.

2. Inform Forestry HR that I can clear the obstruction. Again that will take some time while I satisfy them that dressed as Michelon Man, leaving contact detail with a third party as backup when working alone, and stamping loudly to scare away snakes, I will receive clearance to go ahead.

3. Wander along with my chainsaw on my hip and clear the Trail.

In the interests of Footpath users I think option 3 is best. If there are an concerns as to this option, please advise.

Mortimer Trail/ Ballsgate area.

As you enter the Trail from Ballsgate into the Forestry land, the Footpath stile is in sad need of repair. It has a broken main post, no dog pass and is becoming difficult to negotiate. I would recommend replacement with a Gate. As stock is often on the farm side of the gate, there is a need for a gate that closes of it's own accord to make up for users too lazy to close it.

Gates.

There are a number of outlets where Gates can be puchased. One place being Mortimers Cross Building Supplies which sells gates at £138.00 for a 3 foot version. I have also found an excollegue, who also makes gates in Hereford. I will find out the price and sizes he has. He runs a small business employing disadvantaged and disabled workers and I believe they do a very competitive option. I intend to go there Friday 25th and look at costs and standards. I will inform you of the findings.

Fuel costs.

Fuel costs this month for Chainsaw and strimmer work are £10.02, the receipt is tendered to the Clerk at the Meeting venue.

Nothing further to report, lets hope the rain slows down enough for work to proceed.