Hemington,Luddington and Thurning Parish Council

Report of the Working Group in respect of restoring
Old Footpaths to the Definitive Map
January 2024

The Clerk has carried out more research on this issue, but has not called a meeting of the working group. One could now usefully be called.

Contact has been made with the Definitive Map Officer and a better idea of the process and costs (none apparently) obtained. These emails are included in the papers.

It seems there is a deadline for submitting requests in England which is 1 January 2026. This should be sufficient time for this Parish Council.

In addition to work done by Councillor Strelcuk on indicating possible paths to re-instate based on the map referred to in the emails, I have signed up (as Clerk) to the Ramblers Association where there are maps of paths that they think could be re-instated – subject to local views. Included in the papers are a map of those for Hemington where I have highlighted two linked paths that may be the first to pursue. There are similar maps for the other two villages, though with fewer possible paths.

Councillor Dawson has also obtained maps from the Ramblers Association, and their guide to applying for a Definitive Map Order.

I consider it would be worthwhile including the Ramblers Association in our programme – they may help if we receive objections from landowners that they have experienced before.

It is possible that paths near Hemington were formally closed when the airfield was created, but I have not been able to find any record of that. If they were, re-instatement could be much more difficult.

The working group needs to meet to:

a) Agree three or four priority paths for re-instatement;
b) Identify all landowners along the paths;
c) Complete in draft the forms for Definitive Map Orders to ensure that we have all required information;
d) Report back to the March 2024 meeting.

Identifying landowners will probably involve obtaining title documents on-line from the Land registry which are £6 each with accompanying map. The Parish Council is asked to allocate an initial budget of £60 from contingencies.

Richard Allinson
Clerk
5 January 2024