

Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group

Meeting Notes from Thursday 17th January 2019

PRESENT

Cllr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), Cllr David Higham (DH), Cllr Geoff Seddon (GS), Ralph Warburton (RW), Judy Evans (JE), Neil Goodyear (NG).

In attendance: Clerk - Mrs Belen (Bee) Lopez Bloor.

Two members of the public.

Public Forum – members of public to ask any questions re Turnpike Field

A member of the public commented that the new temporary pedestrian access was a welcome addition and very useful but suggested adding wire netting or pig wire around the sides to ensure that children or dogs did not run out of the field into the road. DH volunteered to look into this. They also requested that the Parish Council look into teaching villagers hedge laying skills.

Action: DH to investigate and report back to the working group.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lynette Hopkins, Cllr Nigel Mottershead, Michael Cookson & Steve Elliot.

Declaration of Interest

None received.

Notes of Previous Meeting 8/11/2018 (attached)

DH proposed to accept the meeting notes of the 8th November 2018 as a true and correct record, JE seconded. All attendees in favour.

Matters Arising

Current Issues

- a. The scoring of ideas for future uses

NG suggested having a scoring assessment template that could be used to score ideas for future use to ensure this is done in a fair and transparent manner. There would be weighting to each category and associated criteria that would include sections such as development cost, delivery process, number of people likely to benefit, sustainability, ongoing costs & management & popularity. The working group agreed this would be useful and the best way to judge ideas from the electorate.

Action: NG to circulate the template for consideration.

b. Trees

DH has given the tree report to ADAPT to ask if they would be prepared to carry out some of the lighter work required. DH knows of 3 different tree surgeon companies he can approach and will prepare a proper and complete specification so that contractors can submit quotes on the same comparable basis.

GS has noticed there has been a lot of clearance on one side of the brook by Grays Bridge, around the public footpath area.

Action: DH to revert with ADAPT's response and seek the quotes for the tree work.

c. Himalayan Balsam

NG reported that a small team have conducted a site visit and were in agreement that there should be a manual effort to remove the weed, rather than chemical. They are arranging for the Wildlife Trust to conduct a full site visit on 15th February to investigate the flora and fauna in the area. SB confirmed that Cheshire East Council's Nature Conservation Officer will also conduct a site visit. Work to clear the Himalayan Balsam should commence circa the month of June.

Action: NG and SB to report back at the next meeting with an update.

d. Pedestrian Gate

DH will look into improving security with some kind of fencing wire.

JE mentioned installing a dog bin. The Parish Clerk confirmed this was ordered from Cheshire East Council in December. She also confirmed that warning signs requesting dog mess be picked up and dogs are kept under control are in the process of being designed with both requests are on one sign so the signage looks less cluttered.

Action: Clerk to report back at the next meeting with an update.

e. Car Park / New Homes Bonus Bid

Over 200 applications were received requesting grant funding from the New Homes Bonus Community Fund. As a result, there will be a delay in deciding which projects to award grant funding. Revised timescales for the decision process have been issued.

All applications are currently being assessed by a multi-agency panel and will continue to be throughout January, with recommendations made to the responsible Cheshire East Council elected member award groups in February and with the final decision then made by the Cabinet member for Finance and Communications in March. Decisions will be sent by email by the end of March and if successful the funding will be released in April.

DH showed the group Cellpave installation quote and specification for the car park. He proposed to conduct a site visit and inspect their current project being installed at Harden. The group agreed to form a Car Park Working Group consisting of NG, DH and SB and this group will visit Harden.

Action: DH to liaise with the Car Park Working Group and schedule a site visit as soon as possible.

SB commented that the Parish Council need to be careful that CEC would not charge us for highway development. The working group discussed whether it would be easier to cut back hedges however they agreed that a chicane would provide better traffic speed calming measures. GS commented that as Audlem is a conservation area all designs and plans will need to have planning permission.

SB questioned access required from the gate to the car park and it being in the same material DH confirmed it would be.

JE questioned if the edge will form a natural footpath and DH confirmed it would.

DH showed the working group red hatch lines on the car park plan and informed the group that this area would simply require putting some stone in. DH suggested putting raised flower beds in to keep people on the access path and having flower beds in areas to stop people parking in places that were not designated car parking spaces.

Action: DH, NG and SB to sit down to resolve the best way forward.

The working group looked at the proposed design for the permanent gate and agreed a compromise would need to be reached between a gate that provided child safety and allowed disabled use.

SB suggested speaking to Cheshire East Council's Highways Officer to be sure the proposed materials are acceptable.

Action: DH to speak to the officer involved in the pre-planning enquiry GS made when APC was purchasing the field.

RW asked if the main entrance will have a gate. DH confirmed it will so the field can be closed if needed e.g. in an emergency or for maintenance. He also confirmed it would have a high-level bar for enhanced security purposes.

SB questioned if the proposed green car park cells would affect drainage and DH confirmed it would drain as normal.

JE asked how the car park lineage would work and DH explained that each car park space would have cells with white points around the edges that help delineate it.

SB asked about the life span of the materials and DH confirmed that it should last forever as UV contamination does not affect it.

Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area

- a. Current List / Next steps

As above.

- b. Public Meeting 28th February 2019

The working group agreed that the meeting should opening with an introduction by SB as Chair informing the community where the project is at. This will then be followed by brain storming sessions. There will be different stands like that used at the Annual Village Meeting with a table for ideas, a table dedicated to the car park and one for AWEG as well.

JE suggested the working group run a poll on AOL to garner the electorate's ideas for future use. The working group agreed this would be a good idea as well as running another paper survey to ensure a final widespread sweep. All agreed that the electorate should be informed of the selection criteria so they can submit ideas that clearly address this.

Finance

a. Sources of funding

DH suggested looking into different sources of funding in case the New Homes Bonus Fund do not award the project any money.

Action: RW and LH to liaise together to look into this. DH to send RW and the Clerk the list of possible funding sources.

b. Donations

GS gave the working group copies of a draft letter to those who had pledged donations. Names and reference numbers will be manually written. The working group agreed they were happy with it. The working group also agreed it would be good to publish another article on AOL.

Action: Clerk to run a mail merge next week and give the letters to GS for distribution. GS to write article for AOL.

Communications

a. Communication, Consultation and Engagement Strategy

SB suggested adding a section to the strategy regarding voting criteria by the group when making decisions.

Action: SB to liaise with SE on this.

b. Correspondence / Website

SE is keeping tracks of all comments.

Action: SB to speak to SE when he returns from holiday.

Any other business

GS has drawn up a new booking form for the field using Cheshire East Council's as a template.

Action: Clerk to re-circulate this to the group.

DH mentioned parking for funerals as these events will not have public liability insurance. The working group agreed that a booking form will not be needed in this instance but that a sign is required to inform the public that parking is at their own risk and the management accept no responsibility.

Action: Clerk to arrange for the production of a new sign.

Other

Action: Clerk to book the Public Hall for the Public Open Meeting on Thursday 28th February at 7.30pm.

Audlem Ramblers Picnic request to have 3 Weber BBQs – The working group agreed this is acceptable as long as they have fire extinguishers to hand.

JE mentioned the problem of teenagers partying in the field last summer. The working group agreed prevention is better rather than cure and that there will be zero tolerance of this.

Action: Clerk to speak to the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for their suggestions of how to prevent this happening.

Date of Next Meeting – To be arranged

Thursday 21st 7.30pm. Clerk to book the Thornton Room again.

SB declared the meeting closed 8.55pm.