

Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group

Meeting Notes from Thursday 21st February 2019

PRESENT

Cllr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), Cllr David Higham (DH), Cllr Lynette Hopkins (LH), Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM), Judy Evans (JE), Neil Goodyear (NG), Steve Elliott (SE).

In attendance: Clerk – Mrs Belen (Bee) Lopez Bloor

One member of the public

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

A request was made to use a different photograph to accompany articles of Turnpike Field on Audlem Online

Action: SE to check what other photography could be used.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ralph Warburton (RW).

3. Declaration of Interest

None received.

4. Notes of Previous Meeting 17/01/2019

SB wished to have noted that agenda item Himalayan Balsam under 6c should be corrected as it is LH and NG not SB. DH proposed to accept the meeting notes of the 17th January 2019 subject to this minor amendment. JE seconded. 4 in favour, 2 abstentions as they were not present at the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

None.

6. Current Issues

- a. The scoring of ideas for future uses

NG has circulated an updated version of the scoring sheet. GS has provided some amendments by email including a section regarding the legal impact of change. The group agreed that the scoring sheet is a useful tool to rank each idea. This is a fair way of codifying thinking, removing opinion and bias and provides a reasonable and logical way to make decisions.

The group noted that the provision of allotments had been raised. SB confirmed this idea will be put forward for discussion along with all others.

b. Trees

DH is mid-way through preparing a specification to go out to tender to 3 different tree surgeon contractors and is aiming to complete this as soon as possible. Zurich Insurance have confirmed they will only cover the Parish Council if the work recommended on the tree survey is completed. SE mentioned that a contact has offered free tree work and ADAPT are also willing to help with less intrusive jobs.

Action: DH to send specification to tree surgeon contractors as soon as possible so the work can be undertaken.

c. Pedestrian Gate extra fencing

DH has located a source of free stock fencing and this will be erected in the next 7 – 14 days. SE has volunteered to help.

Action: DH oversee this and to report back to the group at the next meeting.

d. Car Park/ New Homes Bonus Bid

NG, DH and SB went to see a small green car park installation at the Gladstone Museum. DH showed the group before and after photos of that site. DH explained the process is normally a quick installation which involves laying a heavy stone base followed by plastic bases then soil and grass seed. The system follows the contours of the land with pallet size squares that are clipped together and it is best to install it when the land/soil is not too wet nor dry. The access road from Green Lane will still need to be Tarmaced etc. DH estimates the cost of the plastic to be circa £13,000. The group discussed putting raised flower beds in to people on the access path and having flower beds in areas to stop people parking in places that are not designated parking spaces. The group also discussed the possibility of having movable posts to change the parking area when required e.g. during festivals for caravans. The group were all in favour of this proposed car park design. SB commented that a conversation with planners and highways will be required.

Action/s: DH to arrange for the green car park specialists to conduct a site visit.

DH and SE to collaborate and put together a key note presentation for public meeting next week.

Clerk to circulate the pre planning enquiry letter from Cheshire East Council.

e. Dog bin

The group looked at bins and decided on a green covered bin that is currently on offer in the sale. The bins will be used for rubbish and dog mess and its location will be determined once it has been delivered. LH proposed that the Clerk purchase the bin, SE seconded. All were in favour.

Action/s: DH to send the Clerk the link to the bin chosen so that she can arrange to purchase it.

f. Parties using the field (time limit)

LH mentioned residents' concerns of noise pollution and the need to ensure events are finished on time and the field is cleared of rubbish. The group agreed that guidelines should be developed with this information and should also include information such as what time the field closes, the use of BBQs, location of the accident book, etc. It was agreed to ask for volunteers at the Public Meeting to form a small group to develop some guidelines. SE and LH agreed to be part of the group.

The group discussed parking for wedding/funerals until the car park is constructed and agreed that villagers should be able to use the field for overflow parking. Clerk is to confirm the request for the wedding on 8th June is acceptable subject to weather conditions but to inform the bride she must complete the new booking form and her ushers must speak to DH beforehand. The issue of public liability insurance was discussed, and it was agreed to be raised at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action/s: Clerk to draft email for SB and DH to approve.

Conservation officer at CEC's Environmental planning department is reviewing soil samples and have informed LH that funding may be available, but the field would need maintenance. The group discussed the idea of a picnic area in natural wildlife habitat and how schools and other educational groups can be involved.

7. Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area

a. Current List / Next steps

Ecological survey needs to be conducted sometime in June as this will be the best time to have it done. Clerk informed the group that Cheshire Wildlife trust have previously quoted £350 for an ecological survey.

Action/s: JE to speak to her ecological contact to see if they can conduct it and how much they would charge and report back to the group.

b. Public Meeting 28th February 2019

The group agreed that the format should be a short welcome and verbal introduction at the beginning to update the village on what has been happening since November. The meeting will allow for questions and answers.

Room set up from 6.30pm with 3 tables between the stage and chairs with current ideas for future use, information on the car park and what has been done so far.

Action: SB to liaise with Clerk to provide a list of what has been achieved so far. Clerk to inform Public Hall staff how to set up the room. Group to erect posters in village locations plus add the event to Audlem Online and a headline about the meeting on TV plasma screens.

8. Finance

a. Sources of funding

This is work in progress and is sitting with RW. The group discussed if the donations can have gift aid added to them as the field is not set up in a charitable status. NG stated that ADAS have charity status so some fundraising e.g. money for picnic tables could be raised this way.

Action: Clerk to raise with GS

b. Donations

Clerk updated the group and confirmed circa £8,000 has already been received following letters being sent out to those that had pledge donations. Donations continue to be reviewed.

9. Communications

a. Communications, Consultation and Engagement Strategy

The group confirmed they were happy with the document

b. Correspondence / Website

The group discussed one query that had been raised by a member of the public to protect the field by charitable status by placing it with Fields in Trust (FIT)

Action/s: Clerk to let SB have copy of email so he can draft a response.

Any other business

Prevention of Antisocial Behaviour

The police have confirmed they would be happy to conduct a site visit to focus minds on the potential problem areas and to discuss what can be put in place to prevent antisocial behaviour.

Action: Clerk to arrange for NG, NL and SB to meet with the police.

The group commented that plans should be made to install a defibrillator in the field in the future. As an interim measure the list of village defibrillators should be included in the field guidelines.

A note should be sent to all village groups inviting them to attend the public meeting next week.

Action/s: SE to send note

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11th March at 7.30pm in the Thornton Room

Action/s: Clerk to book room and send the group a diary invite.