

Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group

Meeting Notes from Monday 11th March 2019

PRESENT

Cllr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), Cllr David Higham (DH), Cllr Lynette Hopkins (LH), Ralph Warburton (RW), Judy Evans (JE) and Michael Cookson (MC).

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

Two members of the public.

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

Following the public meeting in November nominations were asked from the Community and the Working Group was formed and there are no vacancies at present. An AWEG representative asked if there was a seat to join the working group. SB explained that the group was full but that meeting minutes are always publicly available, that they were welcome to attend the meetings as a member of the public and that in the future there would be spin off specialised working groups where they could get involved. All residents and representatives of village groups can ask questions during the public forum at the beginning of each meeting

A resident whose home overlooks the field was very concerned about building homes on the field after seeing the item New Homes Bonus on the agenda. SB explained that this is a pot of money from Cheshire East Council (CEC) to provide community grants but that no building of homes whatsoever will be taking place. The resident was also concerned that many suggestions being put forward were not in keeping with the village wanting to keep the field as a green space. LH and RW explained that the working group needs to be inclusive and listen to all residents and therefore needs to consider each idea put forward. He was also concerned about light pollution from the green car park and electrical charging points being installed. LH explained that the safety and wellbeing of those parking their cars there will need to be considered and that lighting will definitely be needed as the field is very dark so there will be low level back lighting. The resident further queried why the main car park would not have electrical charging points instead of Turnpike Field but the working group explained that it from a planning perspective it is always easier to have these installed on a new project. SB reassured the resident that any decisions will be in full consultation within the village.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM), Neil Goodyear (NG) and Steve Elliott (SE).

3. Declaration of Interest

None received.

4. Notes of Previous Meeting 21/02/2019

DH proposed to accept these as a true and accurate record and to also accept the notes that Geoff Seddon had written on the Open Meeting on 28th February. RW seconded. One abstention as was not present at the previous meeting, all others in favour.

5. Matters Arising

The Clerk mentioned that the site visit with the police to discuss the prevention of anti-social behaviour is in the process of being arranged with SB and LH attending also.

A natural meadow around the stream and floating bog area could be of great interest to both the village school and perhaps visiting schools, Cubs, Scouts and Rainbows and other groups interested in wildlife and ecological environments. With this in mind SB NM NG DH and LH conducted a site visit with Cheshire East Council's Principal Nature Conservation Officer and Cheshire Wildlife Trust. They discussed the suitability of planting a natural wildlife habitat and Cheshire Wildlife Trust have taken soil samples to test its suitability. If the soil is suitable they could conduct a further council funding is available. There could possibly also be extra funding from the Council for wildlife habitat.

The working group discussed the way forward and agreed that it would be best to pay £350 for Cheshire Wildlife Trust to conduct a detailed and expert ecological survey of the field. Once further information is available the working group can research what costs, if any, would be involved to maintain the meadow. This fact-finding mission will be presented to the committee alongside all other suggestion for the fields use so they can make an informed decision as to the best way forward. RW proposed to accept this survey, LH seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: Working Group to recommend to the Parish Council that Cheshire Wildlife Trust are commissioned to undertake a full ecological survey in June.

6. Current Issues

a. The scoring of ideas for future uses

The Working Group discussed the current survey on AOL regarding the future use of the field and agreed that by the next meeting they should be able to make a recommendation to the Parish Council on the future use of the field. They pointed out that the current online survey asks residents to vote but there is no cut off date for the submission of ideas. They also questioned the accessibility of the survey for some groups e.g. youth and elderly who may not be aware of it or have access to it. The working group was agreeable to conduct further face to face consultation with various groups such as Scouts, School, ADCA, etc to make sure they are being fully inclusive.

Action/s: SB to email SE asking him to add a deadline to the survey for the end of March and request survey results to date. Further consultation with village groups to be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Trees

DH's specification has gone out to tender to 3 different tree surgeon contractors but only one has responded so far. The deadline is 22nd March and the Clerk has chased the other two companies to check if they are submitting quotes for the work.

The working group also discussed a tree that needs work near the Bridge Inn pub.

Action/s: DH to inspect the tree and add it to the specification of works if it requires attention.

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

d. Car Park/ New Homes Bonus Bid

The Parish Council's bid for grant funding was unsuccessful. DH explained that only one Parish Council won their grant request but the money was mainly given to charities who had experienced bid writers and were more adept at submitting this type of bid request. The second round of grant funding will open in July with submissions due by September. DH confirmed that CEC will be in touch to provide feedback on the bid .

SB stated that if CEC have not been in touch by 25th March the Clerk should draft an email for him and Chair to approve to send to the New Homes Bonus team requesting they provide feedback.

Action/s: If no response received from CEC by 25th March an email is to be sent asking for a meeting.

DH confirmed he will progress the car park project, draw up a specification of the entrance area and scope out further costings e.g. gates. LH commented that proper plans will be required to submit to CEC planning and highways. DH to speak to his highways engineer contact to see if these can be drawn up.

Action/s: DH to keep the working group updated on progress for all the above.

LH mentioned the public footpath on the bridge is highly slippery and dangerous and that some slip proof mesh is required. RW proposed to report this, MC seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: LH to liaise with Clerk to report this to CEC Public Rights of Way.

e. Dog bin

Following discussion by the Councillors at the Parish Council, the Clerk has ordered a grey bin instead of green as this was heavily discounted and it will be delivered to DH's home. The working group discussed that the bin would need to be bolted down to avoid it being stolen and a notice should be posted on AOL to inform residents that dog mess can be added to the bin.

Action/s: DH to liaise with Clerk on arranging to have the bin bolted down. Clerk to chase handymen for quotes on putting up the dog signs and once the bin is installed arrange for AOL to publish a news item to tell residents dog mess should be disposed of in it.

f. Parties using the field (time limit)

LH again mentioned residents' concerns of noise pollution and litter and reiterated that guidelines are needed to ensure events are finished on time and the field is cleared of rubbish afterwards. JE agreed to set up a discussion group of residents and come up with some

proposals. The working group agreed that public liability insurance will not apply for funerals and weddings but that people would park at their own risk.

Action/s: JE to report back.

7. Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area

a. Current List / Next steps

Those stated above.

b. Public Meeting 28th February 2019

The meeting went well. TFWG members present were SB, MC, SE, JE, NG, NM and RW plus 49 members of the public.

The working group agreed the next public meeting should be Thursday 11th July.

Action/s: Clerk to send a diary invite and book the Public Hall.

8. Finance

a. Sources of funding

The working group discussed the Calor Gas grant funding opportunity which closes 29th April. Whilst the car park project fits their terms and conditions the group agreed that it would be best to wait to apply to the next funding round when we will be more prepared and more likely to submit a strong grant bid. MC mentioned the possibility of applying for grant funding from William D Foundation that support sustainable projects. JE stated the project would qualify for community funding from the Co-Op and this should also be researched.

b. Donations

Clerk updated the group and confirmed circa £10,500 has been received to date. Donations continue to be reviewed.

9. Communications

a. Communications, Consultation and Engagement Strategy

No update.

b. Correspondence / Website

Nothing to report.

10. Any other business

The group discussed setting up the field with a charity status/ in trust. This process would take 6 months but it would protect the field and provide improved access to grant funding as well as allow for gift aid on any donations. MC proposed this route should be taken, RW seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: The Working Group recommends to the PC that a Charitable Trust is established for Turnpike Field. The Clerk is to add this to the Parish Council meeting agenda for April's meeting.

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

RW mentioned that signage of the car park will be required in the future.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 15th April 7.30pm. RW will be absent.

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