

Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group

Meeting Notes from Monday 3rd June 2019

PRESENT

Cllr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), Cllr David Higham (DH), Cllr Ralph Warburton (RW), Neil Goodyear (NG), Steve Elliott (SE) and Michael Cookson (MC).

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

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

A member of the public had submitted two questions by email asking if there were any plans for harvesting the long grass in the south end of the field and asking if it was possible to have a litter bin at the south end of the field by Grey's Bridge. The group discussed both items. The grass has 3 cuts in the season and a local farmer normally does this then bales it. Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) is conducting an ecological survey on 5th July and may prefer the grass not be cut beforehand. The group suggested Cllr Hopkins should speak to CWT first before asking a local farmer to cut it. In respect of the bin the group supported the idea in principle although DH expressed concerns that it might be difficult for the Lengthsman to empty it given its location. The group suggested speaking to him to clarify if he could add this to his duties. RW volunteered to do this.

Action/s: LH to speak to Cheshire Wildlife Trust and RW to speak to the Lengthsman. Clerk to send written response to the member of public.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM), Cllr Lynette Hopkins (LH) and Judy Evans (JE).

3. Declaration of Interest

None received.

4. Notes of Previous Meeting 21/02/2019

RW proposed to accept these as a true and accurate record and SE seconded. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

Recently a large vehicle destroyed the safety barrier at the southern entrance to the canal towpath, near Turnpike Field. The barrier was placed there to stop someone accidentally stepping onto the road as they come off the towpath onto the pavement, particularly children. SB informed the group that the Parish Council have written to the Senior Highways Manager at Cheshire East Council requesting that barrier is reinstated urgently and also requested that a safety barrier should be installed near the new pedestrian entrance into Turnpike Field.

Action/s: LH and Clerk to progress this matter.

6. Current Issues

a. Trees.

The Parish Council approved the cost of the tree works and accepted the recommendation to proceed with the Old Tree Vicarage. The contractor has visited the site again and has said they will

complete the work in tranches, with it taking 4 -5 days. Some of the trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and so the correct consents will need to be obtained.

Action/s: DH to let the group know when tree works commence and SE to pen an article for Audlem Online to inform the village and warn the field will be closed off for safety during this time.

The group also discussed an email that had been received from a nearby resident who had expressed concern with the lean of the tree at T11 and wanted it removed. They also advised of a fallen tree across the stream. Prior to the Parish Council purchasing the land this tree fell and a large branch went through the windscreen of a passing car causing injury to the driver. Cheshire East Council have cut the tree back towards the roadside but have still left a substantial section which should be investigated to ensure it is safe.

Action/s: DH to check these issues and report back.

b. Ecological Survey.

The Parish Council have approved the £350 cost and Cheshire Wildlife Trust will be conducting the survey on 5th July.

Action/s: SE to include this in his article for Audlem Online. LH to report back to the group.

c. Car Park progress.

DH is progressing this but there is no further update at the moment.

Action/s: DH to report back at the next meeting.

d. Preparation for Round 2 of New Homes Bonus Bid.

The recent changes in administration and governance at Cheshire East Council may affect this pot of funding.

Action/s: SB to keep informed and let the group know if round 2 is going ahead.

e. Guidelines for use.

A resident had complained about Audlem Music Festival campers camping too near their property. The group discussed that the camping section should be clearly marked going forward, with tape used to section off no go areas. The group also agreed a standard letter with guidelines and conditions for using the field and camping needs to be sent to every event organiser so they can forward it on to people camping. DH proposed this as the best way forward, SB seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: SB to draft a letter for the Clerk. Clerk to speak to JE and work on guidelines for use.

f. Update - site visit with the police.

SB informed the group that the site visit with the police to discuss the prevention of anti-social behaviour had taken place. The PCSO had offered to send a list of appropriate conditions that may apply to the field when running events but this had not yet been received.

Action/s: Clerk to request this is sent to her.

g. New bookings.

The group discussed an enquiry from an event organiser who wants to organise a small event at the Audlem Village Hall, possibly the weekend of 26th, 27th and 28th June 2020. The event organisers have been running the event for 5 years at another location but would like to relocate it to Audlem as this is where they moor their boat. Approximately 130 people attend the event and 80 of them would want to camp in caravans, campers and tents. The event organiser would like to use the field for camping and requested information on the cost and terms. The group were in agreement that they should be encouraging events in the village, including from outside organisations, which increase tourism and trade in the village shops and pubs. They debated an appropriate fee to be charged per day. The group also discussed the need for strict conditions so the event organiser would need to have comprehensive public liability insurance, provide appropriate toilets, bins and arrange for rubbish clearance and waste collection after the event.

Action/s: SB to raise this under Turnpike Field agenda item at the June Parish Council meeting.

h. Branch being used for a swing.

DH has inspected this branch and did not deem it dangerous as it is very low off the ground. RW proposed no further action is required, SE seconded. All in agreement.

7. Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area

a. Current List / Next steps

The group agreed the next step is to progress a designated picnic area, perhaps over the canal side, with 5 benches and tables. It was agreed the best way forward was to meet on site to discuss the requirements from the green car park, camping, fire evacuation, etc to make an informed decision as to where best to place the picnic benches.

Action/s: TFWG to meet on site 20th June 2019 at 9.30am.

b. Public Meeting 11th July 2019

SB will provide an update on the field including the green car park and results from the ecological survey. The group will present the plan for the picnic areas.

8. Finance

SB informed the group that the Parish Council will be asked to vote at the June meeting on authorising TFWG to have £500 per quarter delegated spending allowance.

a. Sources of funding

No update.

b. Donations

£16,400 has been received to date and donations continue to trickle in. SE has added a page to Audlem Online informing villagers how to make donations.

c. Community Trust

The Parish Council have agreed that the group should look at how Turnpike Field is placed in trust. DH explained there is a tripartite agreement in place between Cheshire East Council, Audlem Parish Council and Fields in Trust for the Playing Field. MC informed the group the first steps is to work out the purpose of the charity and agree its constitution then write down aims and objectives for charity commissioners to approve. The group discussed the pros and cons of a charitable company versus charitable trust. The former would require trustee insurance and the latter would mean trustees would be liable. MC pointed out the Charity Commissions require the charity to have a separate bank account, and the group were in agreement that this was a good idea as this provides further transparency.

Action: NG will prepare skeleton of purpose and aims based on ADAS' constitution and add some objectives specific to Turnpike Field. DH, SE and MC to review this initial document then circulate it to the group. Clerk to circulate information on fundraising platforms and their fees.

9. Communications

a. Communications, Consultation and Engagement Strategy

SB suggests adding an article on Audlem Online with a round up of latest news to keep villagers informed.

Action/s: SE to write this and circulate it to the group for approval.

b. Correspondence / Website

Nothing to report.

10. Any other business

SB explained that now RW is a Parish Councillor there is a need to look at the membership of the working group. It was agreed that the working group would recommend to the Parish Council that RW should stay on the working group and 2 new community representatives should be sought to join the working group.

Action/s: SB to raise this under Turnpike Field agenda item at the June Parish Council meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Date of site visit to look at designated picnic areas – Thursday 20th June 9.30am, meet at Shropshire Street entrance by the waste bin.

Date of next TFWG meeting Monday 8th July at 7.30pm.

Action/s: Clerk send the group diary invites and to book the room for 8th July.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.