

Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group (TFWG)

Meeting Notes from Wednesday 4th September 2019

PRESENT

CLlr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), CLlr Ralph Warburton (RW), CLlr Lynette Hopkins (LH), Neil Goodyear (NG), Judy Evans (JE), Michael Cookson (MC) and Adrian Leighton (AL).

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

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

No attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from CLlr David Higham (DH), CLlr Nigel Mottershead (NM) and Steve Elliott (SE).

3. Declaration of Interest

None received.

4. Notes of Previous Meeting 8th July and the Public Meeting 11th July

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

5. Matters Arising

A new litter bin has been installed at the south end of the field by Grey's Bridge and the Lengthsman has added this location to his duties. No further action required.

Round 2 New Homes Bonus will not progress.

Clerk to check if the dog fouling article was published on Audlem Online.

6. Current Issues

a. Trees.

CLlr Higham has spoken to the tree surgeon and they are waiting for approval from CEC Planning to carry out works on trees with Tree Preservation Orders on them.

NG suggested asking a resident of the village knowledgeable on tree matters to inspect the work done to date and assess what else requires doing. All in favour.

Action/s: NG to arrange this site visit to conduct a visual assessment.

The group also suggested it would be a good idea for the TFWG to have site visit with CLlr Higham to inspect the work done to date.

Action/s: DH to arrange a site visit.

b. Ecological Survey.

The village had voted for a wildlife haven and LH and NG were pleased to report that Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) have pledged grant funding for 4 ponds in the field. CWT will do all the work and fence them if required plus give the Parish Council £700 for each pond but are keen to commence work soon, before the winter. A recent site visit with CWT and ADAS has identified the locations and established that 3 ponds will be enough, each measuring 10 x 10 metres. NG said two ponds had previously existed on Grays Bridge side but had dried up, the depression in the ground can still be seen though. Another ideal location is near the marsh area (this pond could be bigger than the other

two and measure 15 x 15 metres). CWT are also prepared to carry out restoration work on the floating bog.

CWT have stipulated their terms and conditions as follows:

- The ponds will need to be managed for 25 years by a habitat specialist who will visit regularly.
- Scrub growth may need to be cut back every 6 years (Natural England would pay for this).
- There will be 3 metre buffer zone around each pond.
- Poaching of pond sides must be avoided and grazing animals must be stopped from entering.
- No trees must be allowed to provide shade on the southern side.
- The ponds must be protected from agricultural chemicals and spray.
- No duck houses allowed as these pollute the ponds.

The group discussed the educational and tourist attraction potential of having the ponds and agreed these were a good idea and in keeping with what the village had voted for. LH proposed to recommend the installation of ponds to the Parish Council. RW seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: SB to circulate CWT's information to the Parish Council and inform them that the TFWG support and recommend the ponds initiative for the Parish Council to give final sign off at October's monthly meeting. Clerk to also get in touch with insurance company to check the implications for the Parish Council's public liability insurance.

JE asked about walkways to allow access the pond and provide a nature trail. She also mentioned wheelchair access.

Action/s: LH to speak to CWT and ask the question.

c. Car Park progress.

DH has written to 3 local contractors to request quotations for the installation of the ground mesh and has received one quote so far. JE mentioned a local contractor who is interested in doing the groundwork.

Action/s: JE to inform DH and DH to progress this.

d. Guidelines for use.

JE has prepared a draft which was circulated to TFWG and SB thanked her for these. She explained she had attempted to make the guidelines as visual as possible and reduce the amount of text to encourage the public to easily read and understand them.

JE ran through the sections of the guidelines and the group were satisfied with the wording but requested that she add "no golf". The draft will need to be considered by the Parish Council at the next meeting in October and then a designer will need to work up the document so it can be used as a sign/poster. The group agreed that once the guidelines are ready signs will need to be installed on the field and the guidelines will need to be published on Audlem Online.

RW proposed to accept the guidelines, AL seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: Clerk to add this to the Parish Council's October agenda.

e. New bookings.

There have been 3 requests since the last TFWG: ADAS 50th Party 1st September and parking for two funerals which have all been approved. There has also been an ad hoc request from a camper van. The Group discussed this request and agreed it should be declined as the Parish Council's insurance do not cover overnight parking and they also felt it would set a precedent to allow others and ad hoc requests would be difficult to manage.

Action/s: Clerk to respond declining the request and suggest the person parks at the Sunnyside Camping Park or the Overwater Marina.

The group discussed security on field and pointed out that the padlock should always be locked when the field is not in use. The Clerk pointed out that if the padlock is not used this could invalidate the Parish Council's insurance.

Action/s: RW to ensure the padlock is locked in DH's absence.

f. Amended Terms of Reference.

There are two amendments to the Terms of Reference which need to incorporate an increase to the number of community reps and the playing field also needs to be added to them.

Action/s: SB to incorporate these changes to the document for the Parish Council to approve in October. Clerk to add this to October's agenda.

i. New members.

Adrian Leighton (AL), AWEG's Chairman, has now joined the group. DH has spoken to the youth club leader Tony Richardson who has suggested 2 youths attend future meetings to provide their input. Tony has said he will attend the first meeting with the two youths and then they will attend on their own going forward. The group agreed to trial this arrangement.

g. Searching a field with a metal detector

At the public meeting it had been suggested the possibility of someone using a metal detector in the field. NG proposed investigating this matter further. SB seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: Clerk to approach a local club about metal detecting.

7. Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area

a. Current List / Next steps

As above.

b. Feedback from the Public Meeting 11th July 2019.

Nothing to pick up but the group agreed to arrange another public meeting in November, before Christmas season commences and set the date for Thursday 14th November.

Action/s: Clerk to book the public hall and send both TFWG and the Parish Council a diary invite.

8. Finance

a. Sources of funding

No update.

b. Donations

Clerk informed the group that £16,932 in donations have been received to date. There are still 20 residents who pledged a donation but have not yet sent the money. Cllr Boyes suggested waiting until November's budget meeting to establish the financial position for Turnpike Field.

c. Community Trust

SB explained the Parish Council's asset working group had met with CEC who explained that Fields in Trust will need be involved in the Playing Field otherwise the Parish Council would only have a 30-year lease. It will be possible to set up a different trust for Turnpike Field.

Action: MC to draft a constitution.

9. Communications

a. Communications, Consultation and Engagement Strategy

An article for Audlem Online will need to be prepared in October once the Parish Council has signed off the installation of the ponds.

b. Correspondence / Website

No update.

10. Playing Field update

SB informed the group that Parish Councillors met with Hibberts solicitors and the meeting was very useful. There are one or two queries with CEC so Hibberts are checking these minor points. It is a 99-year lease with overage on the first 25 years. The aim is to be ready to discuss it at the next public meeting on Thursday 14th November.

CEC had confirmed that they were happy to discuss the transfer of the car park lease. At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed to continue discussions but not to make any decision at this point.

11. Any other business

AL enquired if AWEG could proceed with the installation of the bat boxes. SB explained the Parish Council have agreed but that it would be prudent to wait for the tree surgeon to complete works.

AL also enquired about pulling up the Himalayan Balsam as AWEG are keen to help. LH confirmed that a farmer is going to cut it down but had been waiting for dry weather and the Parish Council's permission to dig a rut to help the tractor over the bridge in case of slippage. Permission was granted earlier in the week and LH will instruct the farmer to go ahead. The group agreed that the banking towards the far stream area near Greys Bridge and a section by Green Lane all needs to be pulled by hand as the farmer won't be able to get to these areas.

Action/s: AL will liaise with NG and LH to find out where the farmer will flail the Himalayan Balsam and what will remain for AWEG to pull. AL to draft article for Audlem Online to drum up volunteers and NG also to email ADAS volunteers. AL and NG to liaise together on this.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7th November 2019 7.30pm

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

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.