

Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group (TFWG)

Meeting Notes from Thursday 7th November 2019

PRESENT

Cllr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), Cllr Ralph Warburton (RW), Cllr Lynette Hopkins (LH), Cllr David Higham (DH), Judy Evans (JE), Steve Elliott (SE), Adrian Leighton (AL) 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**

Two residents attended and expressed concerns about the Himalayan Balsam being cut too late in the year which meant that more seeds were dispersed. Cllr Hopkins explained that the reason it had been flailed later in the summer was because the Parish Council were waiting for Cheshire Wildlife Trust to conduct their soil and ecological surveys so the Parish Council were fully aware of the ecology in the area before progressing with any plans for the field. She assured the residents that next year work on the invasive specie would commence much earlier in the year to eradicate it.

The residents also expressed concerns about the security of the field as they had noticed the big gate was not locked. Cllr Hopkins explained that perhaps it was a day where the field was going to be open for parking for an event and also assured the residents that the Parish Council will be installing a safety bar in the future to improve security measures.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM) and Neil Goodyear (NG).

3. **Declaration of Interest**

None received.

4. **Notes of Previous Meeting 4th September 2019.**

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

5. **Matters Arising**

Covered below.

6. **Current Issues**

a. Trees.

Cllr Higham confirmed the tree surgeons are attending on 18th to complete works on the last tree, the one which had a Tree Preservation Order. There is a further tree which needs attention. The contractor has quoted a further £360 to complete the works. This was agreed by the group. Cllr Boyes requested that the contractor provides a full report of work completed with guarantees that the trees are safe for insurance purposes. Cllr Warburton seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: Cllr Higham to arrange a site visit and ask the contractor to send a report once works are completed. The group agreed the extra cost £360 for works to the additional tree.

AL asked if bird and bat boxes can be installed after the final works are completed on 18th November. The working group had no objections subject to no insurance issues.

Action/s: Clerk to check the Parish Council's insurance would cover this and subject to no issues these wildlife boxes can be installed.

b. Ponds

LH explained that due to unprecedented rain and flooding, CEC Public Rights of Way have closed off the public footpath at Greys Bridge and this could take 3-4 months to resolve. Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) have stipulated in their Terms and Conditions that no contamination must enter from the brook into the ponds. If the ponds and wildflower meadow been installed in the proposed locations they would have been damaged. The working group agreed that it would be useful to invite CWT to another site visit to discuss relocating the proposed ponds to avoid any problems due to future flooding.

Action/s: LH to arrange a site visit with CWT and inform the group.

NB Update – the Greys Bridge has been restored and the public footpath has reopened.

c. Car Park progress.

DH has found a contractor who will draw the plans for the car park and one contractor who has expressed interest in completing the groundworks.

SB commented that the Parish Council was currently working up its budget for 2020/21 and is looking at how to fund the car park over a 2 year period.

Action/s: DH to progress this and report back.

d. Guidelines for use.

These were approved at the last Parish Council meeting. JE and LH commented that the ban of fireworks use needs to be added.

SE proposes, JE seconded. All in favour.

Action/s: Clerk to contact a selection of printing companies to obtain quotes to design a poster with the guidelines.

The group also agreed on the installation a new small noticeboard needed near the entrance so that the guidelines can be displayed.

Action/s: DH to speak to his contact to obtain a quote for this.

e. New bookings.

None.

f. Searching field with metal detector.

SB informed the group that the Parish Council had decided that it was too late in year and too wet to conduct this activity and this is now on hold until Spring.

Action/s: DH to progress this in the new year.

7. Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area

a. Current List / Next steps

As above.

b. Public Meeting 14th November 2019.

SB explained the view of the Parish Council was to postpone the public meeting until the new year when CWT had conducted another site visit to view the flood damage and the budget meeting had taken place so the Parish Council know how much money is available to build the car park.

Action/s: SE to write an article for Audlem Online informing residents the meeting has been postponed. Clerk to cancel the room booking.

8. Finance

a. Sources of funding

No update.

b. Donations

The total stands at £17,032.

c. Community Trust

MC has drafted a trust constitution and has circulated it to the group. The trust will consist of 3 trustees from the Parish Council and 2 from the working group.

Action/s: Group to arrange a separate meeting to run through the constitution then recommend it to the Parish Council.

9. Communications

a. Communications, Consultation and Engagement Strategy

Action/s: SE to speak to Audlem Online team if it is possible to have a separate page for Turnpike Field on the new Audlem Online website.

b. Correspondence / Website

No update.

10. Playing Field Update

Currently being progressed. SB commented the intention is to have the transfer completed by Christmas.

11. Any other business

LH enquired if the field should have a regular maintenance contractor to cut it at least three times a year instead of depending on farmers for favours now and then. AL stressed any maintenance plan will need to tie in with the ecology of the field.

Action/s: It was agreed to prepare a maintenance plan for 2020. To be discussed at the next meeting.

SE asked if it possible to duckboard the walkway over Greys Bridge to secure it. LH says there will be a site visit with PROW and she will enquire with them.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Meeting to discuss the constitution for Turnpike Field Trust - Tuesday 3rd December 11am.

Action/s: Clerk to book the Methodist Church and send a diary invite.

Turnpike Field Working Group general meeting - Wednesday 8th January 7.30pm in Thornton Room.

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

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.