

Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group (TFWG)

Meeting Notes from informal meeting Tuesday 3rd December 2019 10.30am

PRESENT

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

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

Apologies - Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM) & Cllr David Higham (DH).

1. Ponds

CEC PROW have informed LH that small gauge wire netting cannot be stapled to rectify the slippery surface on the bridge. Sand, however, can be used.

Action/s: RW to purchase the sand and liaise with SE who will provide a storage solution to leave it by the bridge.

Despite recent flooding following unprecedented rain, Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) have advised they are happy to progress digging out the ponds out in same locations and will build a shallow bund between the water course and the ponds to keep the newts away from the fish. This needs to be done soon or they will lose funding if not done before February. The group all agreed to proceed with the installation of the ponds providing we will not be held responsible if they do flood.

Action/s: Clerk to check CWT's terms and conditions and request assurance from them. SE to prepare an article for AOL a few days before work starts on site.

2. Constitution

There was a general discussion on the pros and cons of setting up a charitable trust. It was also discussed how the field could be protected against development in future years. SB proposed forming a sub team to seek legal advice about charitable trusts, covenants and Fields in Trust then report back at the TFWG meeting on 8th January. Sub team agreed was SB, MC and LH.

Action/s: Sub team to research and speak to FIT and Hibberts.

3. Maintenance Plan

An annual maintenance and enhancement plan are required to work out a calendar of work and be proactive in the management of the field.

JE suggested contacting Reaseheath College as a option. AL concerned that farmers will not place the ecology of the field as their best interest and stated he would like AWEG to have some input.

SB proposed a subgroup form and put together a maintenance and enhancement plan that balances farming and nature conservation. Sub team agreed was SE, NG and AL.

Action/s: Sub team to prepare the plan for the January meeting.

4. Plans and surveys to prepare plan for car park

The group agreed with the Parish Council's decision to spend £10,000 on plan drawings, highways and environment surveys that are needed to progress the project and strongly agreed an experienced project manager should be appointed.

Action/s: SB to speak to DH.

5. Trees

SB, LH and DH met on site with the contracted tree surgeons to inspect work done to date and were satisfied they have completed the works that were outlined in the brief they were given.

The group felt that a site visit with The Woodland Trust was a good idea but this ought to be deferred until next year. They also agreed to hold off ordering a tree community pack until the Spring.

Action/s: Clerk to arrange a site visit with tree surgeons and The Woodland Trust in Spring of next year.

6. National Lottery grant funding

The National Lottery are celebrating their 25th birthday and offering people and communities grants between £100 and £1,000 but interest needs to be registered by Friday. The group agreed it was a good idea to apply.

Action/s: MC to liaise with the Clerk and complete the application.

7. Bat & bird boxes

AL proposed cutting branches to stop the public climbing up to interfere with the bat boxes but the group disagreed with this and preferred the bat and bird boxes to be placed higher to avoid this happening.

Action/s: Clerk to check if these boxes have any implications for the Parish Council's insurance and also send AL the tree survey.

8. Other

Clerk mentioned other Parish Councils have sponsored outdoor classes like Thai Chi and circuit training as well as nature trails to encourage resident's involvement in their open spaces and the group ought to consider this further down the line.

Action/s: Clerk to check with DH the size of the proposed new noticeboard.

The meeting closed at 11.45pm.