

# TURNPIKE FIELD & PLAYING FIELD RECREATION AREAS WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Notes from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### PRESENT

Cllr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), Cllr Ralph Warburton (RW), Cllr Lynette Hopkins (LH), Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM), Judy Evans (JE), Adrian Leighton (AL), Neil Goodyear (NG) 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

The Women's Institute (WI) attended to ask if they could plant a rowan tree in commemoration of their 100-year anniversary in Cheshire. The National Women's Register (NWR) committee also attended to ask if they could plant an English beech tree marking their 75th anniversary. Both groups confirmed they will stake their trees and they will have a plaque commemorating the occasions. They wish for them to be planted this spring. The group agreed to accept both requests. SB requested that both groups publicise the Parish Council and TFWG's support. See note under 6f and 6g below.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr David Higham (DH) and Steve Elliott (SE).

### 3. Declaration of Interest

LH declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6f Audlem Women's Institute (WI) planting a tree on the field. LH and RW declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6i.ii booking the field for the Audlem Music & Arts Festival 20th – 26th May. NM declared a non-pecuniary interest in booking the field for 6i.iii Party on the Park on 4th July and 6i.iv Festival of Transport on 26th July.

### 4. Notes of Previous Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Notes were approved subject to the inclusion of Adrian Leighton who had been present at the previous meeting. RW proposed to accept these as a true and accurate record and NM seconded. All in favour.

### 5. Matters Arising

NG mentioned that ADAS have offered to plant flowers around the car park.

### 6. Current Issues

#### a. Update – Community Trust

SB provided an update. The subgroup met with Hibberts solicitors who advised it is not worth forming a charity because a charity cannot claim back VAT for the car park works. This means gift aid on any donations is forfeited; however, any gift aid would be less than the VAT amount. A community trust must have a source of income or asset and because the Parish Council is responsible for the Public Works Loan Board finance loan on the field it would not be able to pass on the asset to a trust nor grant a lease until it is repaid.

**Action/s: New assistant clerk and MC to research additional grant sources that might be available.**

**b. Car Park progress**

The tender closing date for final design drawings is this Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. DH has had initial conversations with a contractor to prepare first stage drawings. A resident has confirmed they are willing to draw the plans up to submit the planning application to CEC on a pro-bono basis with no charge to the Parish Council.

**Action/s: Group to hold a site visit to discuss the plans with the resident. Clerk to circulate the draft car park plans to the group with the meeting notes.**

**c. Trees progress**

No update.

**d. Update – Ponds**

LH informed the group that Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) is waiting for the new ponds to settle before the fencing is erected.

**i. Lifebelts and fencing**

The fencing CWT have proposed needs to be upgraded and she is speaking to them about fencing options. Life belts will be installed. She will report back in April with further news.

**e. Regular maintenance plan for the field**

TFWG agreed the maintenance contract should go out to tender with an advert on AOL.

**Action/s: NG, SE and AL to liaise with the Clerk to upload an advert for AOL.**

**f. Audlem Women's Institute (WI) planting a tree on the field.**

See note under 6g.

**g. National Women's Register (NWR) 75th anniversary planting a tree on the field.**

TFWG discussed both new trees under 6f & 6g and agreed they would need to decide where to site them on the field. AL commented they should be planted on the edge of the field to create a wildlife border and suggested by the canal or facing onto Shropshire Street. TFWG agreed and commented that other village groups and committees should be invited to plant a row of commemorative trees there. JE suggested planting oak trees which are long lasting and will replace some of the existing oak trees that only have another 10-year life span before they need to be cut down. NG commented that the footpath and car park will need to be carefully considered.

**Action/s: RW, NG and AL to liaise with village groups.**

**h. Searching the field with a metal detector.**

On hold for now.

**i. Requests to book the field.**

**i. Spectacular Concert on Saturday 28th March.**

JE proposed to decline the request as recent heavy rain means cars parking for this event will churn up the field and the lack of lighting at night would cause a problem. NG seconded. All unanimously agreed.

**ii. Audlem Music & Arts Festival 20th – 26th May.**

The Clerk confirmed she had received the organiser's public liability insurance. NG proposed to accept the request, JE seconded. All in favour.

**iii. Party on the Park on 4th July**

NM confirmed attendees would only park during the day. RW proposed to accept the request, NG seconded. All in favour.

**iv. Festival of Transport on 26th July.**

NM confirmed attendees would only park during the day. SB proposed, RW seconded. All in favour.

**7. Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area**

**a. Current List / Next steps**

The group agreed the next public meeting should update residents on Turnpike Field ponds & ecology, plans for Turnpike Field car park, Playing Field and car park asset transfers.

**Action/s: SB and LH to speak to relevant contacts regarding car park maintenance costs. Clerk to speak to Whitchurch Town Council's Clerk regarding Castle Street car park.**

**b. Arranging the next public meeting.**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

**Action/s: The Clerk to send diary invite and book the main hall.**

**8. Finance**

**a. Sources of funding**

TFWG to consider entering the field as a community project in the Co-Op community scheme.

**b. Donations**

No further donations. The total stands at £17,032.

**9. Communications**

**a. Communications, Consultation and Engagement Strategy**

TFWG will need to publicise the public meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May with posters, AOL article and info on village screens in Williams and doctor's surgery.

**Action/s: SE to liaise with Clerk after the Parish Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April.**

**b. Correspondence / Website**

Invitation from ADAPT inviting TFWG to meet Councillor Quentin Abel, Cheshire East's Climate Champion and Deputy Portfolio for Environment. Cllr Lorna Matthews at Audlem Parish Council will attend and report back.

**10. Playing Field Update**

SB updated TFWG that the Fields in Trust form has been submitted.

**11. Any other business**

JE commented that the entrance to field, near the pedestrian access is very muddy.

**Action/s: NM to throw wood chippings on it.**

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 at 7.30pm

**Action/s: Clerk to book the Thornton Room and send a diary invite.**

SB declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.