



Turnpike Field & Playing Field Recreation Areas Working Group

Wednesday 10th February 2021

7.00pm, online via Zoom

Present: Cllr Ralph Warburton, Cllr George McLaren-Brown, Cllr Joy Sansom, Michael Cookson, Steve Elliott, Judy Evans, Adrian Leighton, Interim Clerk – Paul Barton. Chris Lewis, David Higham and CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey in attendance and one other member of the public.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Steve Boyes had advised that he had resigned from the Parish Council for family reasons to move nearer to his daughter. Cllr Warburton took the Chair for the meeting.

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

Joanna Allman asked to speak about the problem of dog fouling on the field with a request that any signage should also include a plea for dog walkers to clear any mess left.

1. Apologies

Neil Goodyear was unable to attend the meeting

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Bailey stated that she had an interest in a piece of land next to the Turnpike Field.

3. Notes of Previous Meeting 9 December

There were no comments from the last meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Cllr McLaren Brown confirmed that ADAS advise that they have PL insurance cover for any activities that they are likely to undertake on the Field

5. Field Bookings.

General discussion on the possible bookings for the Field if/when Covid restrictions permit. Possible bookings may include the Historic boats and the Transport Festival.

6. Canal & Rivers Trust



Cllr McLaren Brown provided an update on where things were with the Canal & Rivers Trust noting that the planned meeting on 6 January had been cancelled due to Covid restrictions which will be rescheduled in due course.

7. Nature report

Adrian Leighton provided a report covering the Ponds and the algae problems largely caused by historical runoff from the fields. It was agreed to try and obtain barley straw which would help alleviate the problem with Chris Lewis advising that he would investigate. Can the brook be improved to attract more habitat e.g voles. Trees: not wanting to spoil the landscape with random planting but noting that there are a number of saplings including oak and birch. It was again noted that the Woodland Trust were offering help. It is noted that the Alders are quite prolific and consideration to be given to a controlled area of sapling Alders. The Bank above the culvert needs monitoring as wild animals are in the bank. It was suggested that this should be reported to the Area Operations manager at C & RT

8. Signage/Security

The group were advised that the Parish Council had not raised an order for the planned 'country park' style signage due to cost considerations where the PC considered this to be an area of expenditure that should be deferred until the car park and its significant costs had been carried out. Cllr McLaren Brown advised that expenditure on the TF this fiscal year was running at approx. 40% of the Parish Precept with the PC concerned that whilst there were ringfenced funds to cover the proposed car park, overall costings had still not been calculated and that all future expenditure including long term maintenance, signage and the capital costs of the car park needed to be very carefully managed. Large sums of several thousand pounds needed for the signage had not been included in any previous budgets and the PC felt that a prudent approach was needed with interim signage until the project was much further advanced. No further progress had been made over the high level security gate as this was subject to the planning application submission where Highways are likely to have input which could influence the approved access.

9. Budget Planning

See also above

Cllr Warburton re iterated that the small working group had formulated a maintenance plan with quotations provided for the grass and hedge cutting. (Schedule circulated to all by Ralph Warburton) which had also now been considered by the PC for approval including mowing, and hedge cutting for a budget cost of £930 per annum. This should also include removal of all waste materials. Chris Lewis advised that there should also be a degree of 'topping' in the contract to protect flora, fauna and habitats. Consideration to be given to contact the timber suppliers to see if they would be prepared to assist towards the costs of the floating bog/broadwalk. Chris Lewis to report back. CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey suggested that CEC Capital funds may be available and would investigate.

10. Maintenance Issues



Cllr McLaren Brown confirmed that he was still awaiting the Lifebelts being installed had been delayed (bad weather/flooding) pending them being installed. He also confirmed that a site meeting had been arranged with Paul Reynolds of the Canal & River Trust to consider access and fencing works adjacent to Lock 11 on 6 January 2021. Cllr McLaren Brown and David Higham to liaise to review the status of trees and to report back to the next meeting.

11. Communications

The group was advised that Cllr Catherine Gresty was now very much involved in the process of getting the new Council website due later this month up and running and along with Cllr Duys is already working on a communications plan to inform residents of the ongoing activities including the Turnpike Field. It was felt that the 'No cycling' message should be re enforced. An application to allow a metal detector was considered and approved, subject to appropriate insurance being held

12. Green Car Park

The group was reminded that the pre planning application was considered by CEC some time ago- subject a maximum of 40 car parking spaces. A design layout has been done and the proposed entrance was moved slightly. Mr David Higham provided additional background information and has again offered to assist in the process. The next stage being to work up full plans which then can be submitted to CEC. CEC Cllr Bailey stressed that there were likely to be delays in the planning process due to the shortages of personnel available at CEC.

A site meeting had been planned for Cllr Steve Boyes to meet up with a representative of Landstruction to get an overview of the site and associated costings. This has not yet been re scheduled.

13. AOB

Consideration still needs to be given to the number of Councillors on the group (Next Parish Council meeting) and/or to consider the terms of reference which states the group make up.

Date of Next Meeting –

Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 7.00pm.

Action/s: Clerk to arrange a zoom call and send a diary invite.

RW declared the meeting closed at 8.38pm.