



Turnpike Field & Playing Field Recreation Areas Working Group

Wednesday 24th March 2021

7.00pm, online via Zoom

Present: Cllr Ralph Warburton, Cllr Andy Bicknell, Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Margaret Duys, Michael Cookson, Steve Elliott, Judy Evans, Adrian Leighton, Neil Goodyear Interim Clerk – Paul Barton. In attendance CEC Cllr Rachel Bailey with Chris Lewis, David Higham, Mark Ellis and Lynnette Hopkins contributing as members of the public.

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

All of the above in attendance took an active part in all aspects of the meeting stating their personal views and comments. After approximately 5 minutes the Interim Clerk restarted the recording of the meeting (which had been switched off immediately prior to the meeting starting) as an aid to providing meaningful notes to the meeting. This was approved by all Members of the TFWG.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Car Park

The meeting started with this item which had been scheduled as item 5.

The 'green' aspects of the planned car park were discussed in great detail with major contributions from Cllr Bailey, Mrs L Hopkins with additional technical input from Mark Ellis and David Higham.

In open forum the question of whether a 'consultant' was needed to project manage the car park was debated with a number of opposing views being aired suggesting that consultant fees could be circa £30,000 which might/could include a civil engineering drainage consultant to 'do it properly' and avoid the project 'going wrong' with the probability of an additional £10,000 survey fees. Questions were then asked as to how the Parish Council was going to fund this additional £40,000 with further public input again stressing the need to 'do it properly'. It was then suggested that the TFWG should be putting together a design brief for a 'green' car park (which some suggested was unlikely to be workable as many 'green' car parks fail.) incorporating a 'wish list' of items to be included (e.g. lighting) and ask consultants to put a proposal together of what they would suggest which was likely to include the need for a drainage survey. It was further noted that the APC needed to comply with its own and Local Authority competitive tendering processes at all times. (i.e. competitive tendering). Neil Goodyear raised a query with CEC Cllr Bailey asking if CEC would be likely to provide any support for this type of project. Cllr Bailey felt it unlikely that CEC would be in a position to provide any financial support whilst also commenting that at the last APC meeting she was asked to contact Planning Dept to establish whether the pre application enquiry advice of 2018 would still stand which would now be considered to have 'expired' but that the premise of such a development has not changed but the model of it has. It is also recognised that there could be significant changes in the policies of Planning/Highways and Environment Depts in terms of what is



now acceptable. As a result the concept of the level of usage pertaining to use of mesh/matting or grid systems may also need to be reviewed by APC as well as the time scales, as indeed should the question of low level lighting that was also introduced into the debate on top of the potential drainage issues and then also the possibility of electrical charging for cars. Mrs Hopkins then reminded the meeting that at the time the field was purchased, the then Council Members stated that a figure of £40,000 was cited for the cost of the car park, suggesting that when tenders are received that the revised figures should then be taken back to the residents for consideration asking whether the green car park remains a priority bearing in mind the considerably revised figures. David Higham, who was a Council Member at that time then reiterated what the design brief was at that time. Cllr Sansom asked if Mark Ellis' offer to assist still stood which he was. Mrs Hopkins then reiterated her view that the community needed to know how the car park was going to be funded bearing in mind that there substantial reserves being held with increases in the precept as well. Cllr Duys re stated that it was the new Councillors was 100% committed to keeping the community informed.

Neil Goodyear recommended that a brief be put together a brief to take to noting from David Higham that the original reason to buy the field was to prevent development and keep an open space whilst also giving consideration to other uses which could include relief car parking. Michael Cookson proposed that a small working group get together to produce a brief. Cllr Bailey then suggested that a recommendation be formally be proposed to APC so that is formally agreed and be Minuted accordingly. Cllr Duys recommended forming the sub group with Mark, Neil, James & David to produce a brief to submit to all members and then the APC at its meeting on 12 April. It was accepted that this was not going to get completed in 2021.

David Higham raised the point that no mention had been made on the access for those with disabilities.

4. Notes of Previous Meeting held 10 February 2021

There were no comments from the last meeting.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Overview of Budget Planning

No further discussion took place.

7. Field Bookings/enquiries.

General discussion on the bookings for the Field if/when Covid restrictions permit. Cllr Gresty sought approval to put on an open air Shakespeare presentation on 12 June to raise funds for the Methodist Church. Applications had been received for the Historic Boat Festival and the Transport Festival. Metal detecting in May. All members of the Group supported all applications.

8. Canal & Rivers Trust



Not discussed.

Steve Elliot raised concern over there being excess water from a spring at the top of the field, of the bank/damage and badgers and that the CRT need to be notified.

9. Nature report

Not discussed

10. Security/Signage/Barrier

Michael Cookson raised the issue of the signage requesting that approval be given to the purchase of said signs. It was raised in discussion that the cost of these should come out of the 'donations' that were held in the Parish 'Reserves'. Cllr Warburton to seek approval at the next PC meeting.

11. Maintenance Reports

Not discussed.

12. AOB

No matters were raised.

Date of Next Meeting –

A date was not fixed.

Cllr Warburton closed the meeting closed at 8.44pm.