



AUDLEM
PARISH COUNCIL

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Turnpike Field & Playing Field Recreation Areas Working Group

Wednesday September 22, 2021

Venue: Thornton Room of the Annexe, Audlem Public Hall, 7.00pm

Attending

Parish Council and Group Volunteers - James McGregor (Chairman) Ralph Warburton, Margaret Duys (recording minutes), Neil Goodyear, Steve Elliot, Adrian Leighton, Micheal Cookson, Judy Evans

Rachel Bailey (Ward Councillor)

Public Attendees Derek Winskill, Jean Stainthorpe

Apologies

An apology was received from Christopher Lewis that was not reported at the meeting.

Public Speaking

Questions were raised about financial challenges but the Chairman asked that they be brought up with the Parish Council at the next meeting as the subject was more appropriate to be dealt with by them. It was understood that investigations were ongoing to establish the full facts.

Review of previous Meeting held on 15th July and Matters Arising

Covered in today's agenda.

Public speaking

Jean Stainthorpe reiterated the contents of her memo sent to all councillors and members of the Working group. She paid particular attention to East Cheshire paying to replace the style from Turnpike to the Canal. This however belongs to the Canal Trust so **Steve Elliot** volunteered to contact them and get permission to replace the style with a gate. Following her meeting with East Cheshire Public Footpath Officer who advised that there was funding to be claimed for footpath renewal but the Parish Council would have to fund it first.

Maintenance Report

James McGregor advised that maintenance of the site was urgent and needed addressing sooner rather than later. The grass was in need of topping and mulching, fences needed repairing and trees were obviously getting overgrown.

The group needed to draw up an annual maintenance plan immediately. He invited others to inspect the ground and create the plan with him. Both Steve Elliot and Neil Goodyear offered their services. They will arrange a meeting on site and compile a plan to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting.

In the meantime James offered to cut the grass in future for free as his contribution to the maintenance of the site.

Changes at the Parish Council and Turnpike Group

James informed the meeting that Catherine Gresty had stood down as Chairman of the Parish Council but would remain as a Parish Councillor. Andy Bicknell had resigned from the Parish Council but would continue to manage the Speedwatch initiative. Jean Stainthorpe volunteered to be his replacement on the Turnpike Group.

Car Park

James had 3 suppliers lined up the previous week to have an onsite meeting with and talk through options and specification for the car park. Regrettably his work intervened so this was to be done in the forthcoming week. Steve Elliot volunteered to be present to assist with the process.

James had contacted over 25 companies to try to expand the breadth of interest in the project but many were just not interested. The initial feedback from the meeting with potential contractors looks very promising. The next steps are to draw up a specification as this will need to be a formal tender process as per financial regulations.

Booking Conditions

Given feedback from the last event held in the village the Group do need to come up with new booking form terms and conditions. Whilst the needs of the Council and Community have to be met to protect them health and safety wise we need to ensure that the conditions are not so onerous that it puts organisers off booking the field or organising events.

Catherine Gresty had already sourced some T&Cs from another Parish Council and Margaret volunteered to use these as a basis to create T&Cs for both large and small events. In addition, we need to agree a process that is clear to all with appropriate responsibilities allocated to the right people. These to be brought back to the next meeting for discussion and approval.

Ecology Report

This had already been circulated to the group prior to the meeting so Adrian focused on some important points.

Trees - he suggested silver birches near some of the benches to provide some shade. Additional planting to be agreed after and additional site survey agreed to be done within the next few weeks by James Neil and Adrian. We need to identify specific areas to ensure the planting plan is correct and things are put in a suitable place depending on size and species.

Wildflower plantain - following report from Cheshire Wildlife Trust do we want to expand it?

AOB

As mentioned previously Steve Elliot will meet with East Cheshire Council about the change of the stile to a gate.

There was a query in a previous meeting about volunteers working in the field. The Parish Council's insurance provider has confirmed that volunteers are covered provided the Council has given permission for the work and a risk assessment has been done (which could then be passed to the Clerk for record keeping). This is in respect of more basic tasks, if there was any tree felling, or work at height the insurance provider would need further details.

With regards to the review of booking conditions the insurance provider confirmed a copy of third parties' insurances need to be provided for the records and that they've carried out a risk assessment. In relation to the item discussing a maintenance plan it is the Council's responsibility to make sure the field is fit for purpose.

Next Meeting Wednesday 27th October 2012

DRAFT