

Turnpike Field Working Group (TFWG)

Notes of Meeting Monday 5th September 2022

Present: Cllr Jean Stainthorpe – Chair (JS), Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM), Cllr Geoff Seddon (GS), Steve Elliot (SE), Adrian Leighton (AL), Michael Cookson (MC), Chris Lewis (CL), Neil Goodyear (NG), Judy Evans (JE).

- 1. Public Forum:** One member of the public attended the meeting.
- 2. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Ralph Warburton (RW)
- 3. Notes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022:** All members agreed that these were an accurate record.
- 4. Bookings:** It was agreed that details of bookings and the nominated TFWG representative would be put on the Turnpike Field website (SE).
- 5. Car Park:** The Chair outlined the current financial problems that the Parish Council was experiencing and that for the time being there would be no further non-essential expenditure sanctioned. It was agreed that an estimate for the cost of engaging a professional to progress the design be sought and this cost to be advised to the Parish Council.
It was noted that Norton in Hales had recently installed a car park and they should be contacted for information regarding this. **(Car park group)**
- 6. Muddy Paths:** Upto date quotations for this work had been obtained. Standard Wood £3163, Non-Slip Wood £3924, Sand/Gravel etc. £4286. It was agreed that Non-Slip Wood would be used. The Parish Council had a previous meeting sanctioned expenditure on this project, grants being in place. Confirmation to be sought at the next APC meeting on the 12th September **(JS)**
- 7. Bridge between Fields:** The fence overlooking the brook is unstable and needs to be replaced with something more substantial. It was felt that this was a fairly minor project and could be done by our own volunteers. **(SE) SE** to provide estimate of costs to be presented to the next APC meeting on the 12th September **(JS)**
- 8. Maintenance:** It was agreed that a five-year maintenance plan be drawn up and that at each TFWG meeting this be rolled forward by 2-3 months.
It was agreed to form a small sub group to deal with the maintenance of the field. The members of this to be **AL, NG**. The meeting hoped that **CL** would join this group as it was felt that his farming knowledge would be most advantageous. **CL** agreed to consider this request.
- 9.** In the meantime it was agreed that there should be some spot spraying of the ragwort with Barrier H. **JS** to seek a price for this chemical from Cllr Paul Cawood to be presented for approval to the next APC meeting on the 12th September **(JS)**
The spraying could be done by volunteers several of whom had suitable back pack sprayers.

Trees – Under the existing Tree Policy a tree assessment should be carried out every eighteen months. It was now time to carry out this survey. The company which had carried out the initial survey had agreed to carry out the follow up survey free of charge. **JS** will contact them.

The broken latch on the gate onto Shropshire Street had been repaired with a more substantial fitting.

10. Bookings: There are no current bookings.

The recent events which had been very successful had raised a few minor comments:-

Car parking – details of parking to be specified by event organisers i.e. time of car park, opening and closing, can cars be left overnight? better signage to the car park.

Pedestrian route signage and possibility of a wider pedestrian gate on Shropshire Street.

11. Environmental Update: **AL** had previously circulated a comprehensive report. The lack of rain had had a dramatic effect on the field in particular on the recently planted trees, some may need replacing later in the year.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust had provided funds and carried out the works to the two ponds that they had set out certain conditions. It was agreed that they should be contacted to see if they had a set of these conditions which they could let us have. **(AL)**.

12. Signage: The Parish Council felt it was not necessary to have signs on the field stating that “Users do so at their own risk....:” etc.

13. Dog: Complaints had been received regarding a black dog running loose in the field – **JS** had had a quiet word with the owner.

14. Fields in Trust: **MC** outlined the protection criteria to enable the field to be protected in perpetuity for the benefit of the community. It was agreed that Field in Trust organisation be contacted to enable this matter to be progressed. **(MC)**

15. Terms of Reference: **JS** presented the revised Terms of Reference – which excluded mention of the Playing Field Recreation Areas – All agreed these terms.

16. Any other business: The Turnpike Field has won an award in The North West in Bloom competition and an invite has been extended to attend the awards ceremony.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 3rd October 7-30pm Methodist Church Meeting Room.