

Turnpike Field Working Group (TFWG)

Notes of Meeting Monday 6th February 2023

Present: Cllr Jean Stainthorpe – Chair (JS), Cllr Geoff Seddon (GS), Cllr , Cllr Kate Down (KD), Cllr Adriana Roscoe (AR), Michael Cookson (MC), Adrian Leighton. (AL)

1. Public Forum: Six MOP attended the meeting.

A Resident wished to know whether or not was it intended to have a public consultation on the application to join The Fields in Trust organisation. It was pointed out such a matter was not within the remit of the TFWG but that her query would be forwarded to the APC for their next meeting.

A Resident of Green Lane, who had very recently written to a Councillor expressing his concern over the privacy of his property which is adjacent to the Turnpike Field, reiterated these concerns to the meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that the Chair (JS) would visit his property to appraise the situation with a view to reaching an amicable solution

2. Apologies: Apologies were received from Nigel Mottershead, Cllr Steve Elliot, Judy Evans

3. Notes of the meeting held on 4th January 2023: All members agreed that these were an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

There still is a community vacancy on the TFWG, the names of two possible candidates had been suggested unfortunately they did not wish to join the TFWG. It was hoped that the inclusion of some younger members to the group would be advantageous, and suggestions would be welcome (ALL)

5. Bookings: No formal application had been received from Crewe & Nantwich Metal Detection Society to carry out a detection test on the field. To be followed up. (SE).

It was noted that ADAS had put out a notice on AOL that the Village Fete was to be held on the Turnpike Field in August – but as yet no formal application has been submitted by ADAS. It was agreed that a list of bookings would be displayed on the TF website (JS & SE)

6. Car Park & Green Lane Entrance: Nothing to report on the Car Park. An application for a grant from The Community Cash Fund to cover the cost of improving the entrance to the field from Green Lane has been approved by APC and submitted for consideration.

7. Shropshire Street Entrance: The entrance is not wide enough to cope with events such as the annual fete or wheelchairs – this is being looked at this a proposal will be put forward. (NM&SE)

8. Muddy Paths: The walkway has been completed thanks to help of many volunteers. Funding for this project has come from Peaks & Northern Footpaths Society (PNFS) and Cheshire East Council. A small sign acknowledging PNFS contribution is displayed on the walkway. Following the laying of the walkway the ground is somewhat rutted due to the vehicular activity – when conditions are dryer chain harrowing and rolling would probably remove these ruts (PM)

9. Bridge between Fields: The three bags of surplus MOT from the Muddy Paths are available for laying in muddy areas but not until the ground is dryer.

- 10. Maintenance:** Fewer saplings, in the newly planted copse than thought have died, any that have will be replaced in the Spring. **(AL/MC/PM)**.
It is possible that some of the trees planted at the canal edge of the field may not have survived. **(AL)** has agreed to inspect and report back
Spring tasks such as the clearance of alder saplings, reeds, grass and other material in the pond areas needs to take place soon.**(AL)**
With regard to the ponds Cheshire Wildlife Trust has recommended that the grass and reeds need to be kept in check and that the algae needs skimming off.
AL reported that he had been able to recruit 4 to 5 people to assist with maintenance tasks.
- 11. Trees:**The trees near the Green Lane entrance which had given rise to concern have been inspected and there appears to be no immediate problem but will be kept under review **(PM)**
Tree Inspection – This can be carried out “in house”. However a professional inspection needs to be carried out at requisite Intervals. Details of this needed. **(PM)**
- 12. Environmental Update:** It was hoped that Wildlife Leaflets could be produced for general Distribution, with funding from Audlem Wildlife & Ecology Group**(AL)**. “Safaris” around the field have been requested by the local Cubs. Guides and Adderley School. Audlem School to be contacted to see if they are interested in joining a safari.**(AL)**.AOL to be advised.**(SE)**
- 13. Fields in Trust:** **MC** reported that the documentation was being progressed.
- 14. Notice Board:** **(GS)** Reported that he had seen the Notice Board and this at approx. 2metres by 1metre was possibly too large but that he would investigate the possibility of this being cut down to a reasonable size.
- 15. Pond Dipping Platform:** **(AL)** reported that to date he had only received one quotation, this being for a reconstituted plastic one. It was thought that a wooden one would be more environmentally friendly. A quotation for such also to be obtained. Audlem Ramblers Association have kindly offered a donation of £500 towards this project. **(GS)** Thought that as young persons would benefit from this platform funding may be available.
- 16. Any other business:** Noted that an ‘In memoriam ‘ page is to be added to the website **(SE/JS)**. It was suggested that persons requesting an ‘In memoriam’ dedication might be asked to make a donation towards the maintenance and upkeep of the trees.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 6th March 7-30pm Methodist Church Meeting Room.

Future Meetings:-

Monday 3rd April

Wednesday 3rd May

Monday 5th June

Monday 3rd July

Monday 4th September

Monday 2nd October

Monday 6th November

Monday 4th December

