

Turnpike Field Working Group (TFWG)

Notes of Meeting Monday 6th March 2023

Present: Cllr Jean Stainthorpe – Chair (JS), Cllr Geoff Seddon (GS), Cllr Adriana Roscoe (AR), Michael Cookson (MC), Adrian Leighton (AL), Nigel Mottershead (NM), Judy Evans (JE). Peter Morgan (PM)

- 1. Public Forum:** No MOPs attended the meeting.
- 2. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Steve Elliott (SE), Cllr Kate Down (KD).
- 3. Notes of the meeting held on 6th February 2023:** All members agreed that these were an accurate record.
- 4. Muddy Paths & Bridge Between Fields:** The ruts still need to be removed by rolling or chain harrowing – Dylan Jones to be contacted (**NM**). More MOT has been laid by Dylan Jones at the Green Lane pedestrian entrance.
- 5. Green Lane Entrance:** The gate is to be moved back from the road for safety reasons and embankments created on either side of the splay with the spoil removed from the roadway. The cost of moving the gate is approx. £2500 which is being funded by an anonymous donor. Stone will be required to fill in the new entrance at a cost of approx. £1500 posts, fencing also required, cost approx. £400, ADAS have promised some funding for these two items. (**PM, SE & NM**)
- 6. Shropshire Street Entrance:** A proposal to widen the entrance to accommodate wheelchairs is being investigated will be put forward. (**NM & SE**)
- 7. Notice Board:** (**GS**) Reported that the notice board was probably much too large for our needs – an ideal size would be around 6ft by 4ft. It seemed unlikely that, because of the glass, the existing board could be modified. Whether or not the board could be used for other purposes such as repairs to the bench by the Shropshire Street entrance to be investigated (**GS**)
- 8. Maintenance:** Following a meeting with a resident whose property borders the southern boundary of the field a draft maintenance plan was presented to the meeting (**JS**) The meeting agreed to adopt this plan. The resident has offered to donate £300 towards the cost of this work. In order to carry out this work we will require the services of volunteers. **AL** to contact those persons who had volunteered their services and at the appropriate time a request for volunteers to be put on AOL (**SE**)
- 9. Trees:** A full tree inspection is required every three years, this is now due. Two professional firms to be asked to quote for this inspection and to provide costs of any remedial work plus the cost of any annual “maintenance” (**GS**). **PM** reported that one tree near the Green Lane pedestrian entrance was in a precarious state and would possibly need to be cut down. ADAS have submitted a request to plant Christmas Trees in the field in order to supply the annual village large Christmas Tree. In principle the meeting was happy with this request provided further information could be obtained, such as number of trees, crop rotation plan etc. The meeting felt that an ideal location for these trees would be in the top field in the corner by the canal entrance and that none of the existing trees be compromised (**NM**)

- 10. Environmental Update:** AL produced to the meeting his proposed draft Wildlife Leaflets for the Spring Season. The meeting thought that these were superb and thanked AL for his efforts. AL has a quote of £70 from Audlem Printers for 200 leaflets which he has kindly offered to sponsor from the proceeds of his book "Audlem Wildlife Diaries". It was agreed that a plastic weatherproof holder to accommodate these leaflets would be obtained and affixed to sign at the Shropshire Street entrance.
- 11. Fields in Trust:** MC reported that the Deed of Dedication documentation had been finalised, Martyn Measures, solicitor, had perused this and in his opinion all was in order. The meeting unanimously agreed to recommend the signing of the Deed to APC at their next meeting on 13th March. Two copies of the Deed need to be signed along with the two plans (also signed). Two councillors need to be signatories and the signatures witnessed by The Clerk to the Council. The undated Deeds then need to be forwarded to Fields in Trust **(MC)**.
- 12. Website:** Work continues on developing the website and adding booking information etc. to this. **(SE & JS)**
- 13. Bookings:** A booking form has been received from Crewe & Nantwich Metal Detectorists. Details of any booking requirements for the Historic Boat Gathering are required. **(JS)**
- 14. Pond Dipping Platform:** (AL) reported that to date he had received two quotations, one for a wooden platform at over £5,000 and one for a reconstituted plastic one at approx. £500. It was agreed to proceed with the latter and AL was asked to obtain a firm quotation. The cost of this would be largely met by a donation of £500 from Audlem Ramblers Association.
- 15. Dog Poo Problem.** Labels are to be placed on rubbish bins both in the field and the village stating that it is permissible to put dog poo bags in the bins. A tin of dog poo spray paint has been donated and AR has agreed to go around the field and spray where appropriate. JE is visiting Audlem School to instigate a project involving the pupils designing a poo awareness poster.
- 16. Any other business:** ADAS had made an offer to provide additional picnic benches/tables. Whilst appreciating this offer the meeting felt that there were sufficient of these but perhaps they would like to provide a seat to be situated in the top field by the canal entrance and possibly donate towards the new entrances. **(NM)**.

Emergency Contact Number- if individuals became "trapped" in the field there is currently no contact phone number for help. JE agreed to be that contact number and a sign is to be affixed near the Green Lane road entrance AR agreed to laminate a sign.

- 17. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 17th April 7-30pm Methodist Church Meeting Room.**

Future Meetings:-

Wednesday 3rd May

Monday 5th June

Monday 3rd July

Monday 4th September

Monday 2nd October

Monday 6th November

Monday 4th December