

## **Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group (TFWG)**

### **Meeting Notes from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Cllr Jean Stainthorpe – Chair (JS), Cllr Geoff Seddon - Notes (GS), Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM), Steve Elliott (SE), Judy Evans (JE), Adrian Leighton (AL)

One member of the public was present.

#### **Public Forum**

No questions were asked

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ralph Warburton (RW) and Michael Cookson (MC).

#### **1 Resignation of Member**

JS reported that Chris Lewis had resigned due to personal circumstances. She thanked him for all his efforts and his valuable input to the group by way of using his experience. This was agreed by all present. APC will be asked to co-opt a new Village Member. **(JS)**

#### **2 Notes of meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

JS proposed and GS seconded that the notes were approved, subject to the following changes:

- 8 – Para 2 line 4: suitable brief (not brief suitable)
- 8 – Para 4: Action GS (not JS)
- 9 – Action GS (not JS)

#### **3 Matters arising**

The Terms of Reference have been updated and need putting on the TFWG website. **(JS/SE)**

#### **4 Bookings**

Pau has completed the booking form. JE stated that the owner has both Personal Liability cover and Business Liability cover. Copies to be provided for submission to APC Clerk. **(JE)**  
A request to use the field on the May Bank Holiday 2023 had been received from the Arts & Music Festival had been passed to the Clerk of Audlem Parish Council. A nominated TFWG representative would be nominated nearer the event.

#### **5 Car Park**

SE reported that following the visit to Norton-in-Hales (NIH), a reply had now been received to the questions raised. They received a grant from Shropshire Council. A NIH Councillor has volunteered to talk to TFWG (as well as Jonty Barrie from Parkers Contractors).

#### **6 Muddy Paths**

SE reported that the sandbags had been laid with the invaluable help of Dylan Jones and the volunteers. It was agreed that more of the available MOT stone would need to be laid to prevent the sandbags being moved by water in the case of flooding. Such work would be dependent upon Dylan Jones' availability. The wood for the walkway will be delivered in two weeks' time and will be stored in NM's premises, where it will be assembled. More volunteers will be required **(SE/NM)**. The spare MOT is being stored by Norman Huntbach.

## **7 Bridge between fields**

It was agreed that the spare MOT could be used.

## **8 Maintenance**

A sub group has been set up consisting of JS, AL and Peter Morgan. This will need to be approved by the Parish Council **(JS)**. A site meeting was held and it was clear that some items in the Maintenance Plan were not being followed. There needs to be one point of contact for works such as hedge cutting and grass cutting. It was agreed that the maintenance needs would be reviewed at TFWG meetings each month and that nominated persons would take action forward.

The actions agreed for this coming month were:

- This month: Ponds 1 and 2 - maintain in accordance with CWT recommendation, specifically removing unwanted plants, eg reed mace, horsetail and alder saplings (the latter treated with Roundup to prevent regrowth **(AL)**).
- The thistle patch adjacent to Pond 1 to be treated with herbicide, rotavated and sown with wild flower seeds in the spring.
- When volunteer manpower is available alder saplings to be selectively lopped in various locations and Roundup applied to prevent further regrowth.

GS reported that the firm who promised to carry out the tree inspection free of charge was no longer in business, but they had given him the name of another company. If this company could not carry out the inspection free of charge, it was agreed that the Parish Council's Tree Warden would undertake the inspection. **(GS)**

AL suggested that a Volunteer Group should be formed. This needs to be approved by the Parish Council **(JS)**. Preliminary indications showed that that six people were interested, including two minors (aged 12 and 16). AL is DBS checked and a Safeguarding Policy had been drafted which would be strictly followed. Written parental consent would be required. Risk assessments would be undertaken for each project, for which Team Leaders would be responsible. It was agreed that all completed documentation would be kept by the Parish Council Clerk. A blank copy of all forms would be put on the TFWG website **(AL/SE)**. The idea was to start small and gradually increase the numbers of volunteers.

JE suggested that the Audlem Educational Foundation might be a source of funding.

## **9 Environmental Update**

AL reported that some hawthorn trees would be planted alongside the Green Lane hedgerow edge this autumn. It was agreed that in future some lime trees be planted near the Spoil Mound to encourage birds to nest.

Turnpike Field had been judged 'Outstanding' in the Neighbourhood Category of the RHS and North West Britain in Bloom Awards. This was an excellent result for a first-time entrant.

## **10 Fields in Trust (FiT)**

JS reported that MC is progressing the application. FiT has requested a video of the field **(MC)**, so that they can progress things whilst awaiting the approved minute of the Parish Council requesting an agreement with FiT be entered into. This would be available after the

Parish Council's December meeting. This agreement would protect the field as green space in perpetuity.

**11 Any Other Business**

JE reported that the collection box for Turnpike Field held at Williams' Newsagents was full and needed to be emptied **(GS)**.

NM mentioned Cheshire Constabulary's Community Cashback Fund where communities could bid for grants. The money has been seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act. The Parish Council's Chair of Finance is aware of this.

**Date of Next Meeting: - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30 in the Methodist Meeting Room**

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.