

# Turnpike Field Recreation Area Working Group

## Meeting Notes from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### PRESENT

Cllr Steve Boyes – Chair (SB), Cllr David Higham (DH), Cllr Ralph Warburton (RW), Cllr Lynette Hopkins (LH), Neil Goodyear (NG), Steve Elliott (SE) and Michael Cookson (MC).

In attendance: Clerk – Mrs Belen (Bee) Lopez Bloor

#### 1. Public Forum – members of public to ask any questions re Turnpike Field

No attendance.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Mottershead (NM) and Judy Evans (JE).

#### 3. Declaration of Interest

None received.

#### 4. Notes of Previous Meeting 03/06/2019

SE proposed to accept these as a true and accurate record and RW seconded. All in favour.

#### 5. Matters Arising

Installation of a new litter bin at the south end of the field by Grey's Bridge.

**Action/s: RW to speak to the Lengthsman to clarify if he could add emptying a new bin in this location to his duties.**

Safety barrier at the southern entrance to the canal towpath.

The Parish Council had written to the Senior Highways Manager at Cheshire East Council requesting that barrier is reinstated urgently and also requested that a safety barrier should be installed near the new pedestrian entrance into Turnpike Field. They have responded saying they do not believe it is required here due to the gated access off highway land and suggesting pedestrians could potentially get stuck on the carriageway. The Parish Council Highways Group have responded reiterating it is extremely important in protecting the public, especially young children who could rush out onto this busy stretch of the A525 should the gate to the towpath be left open.

**Action/s: Clerk to progress the matter and keep the group informed.**

#### 6. Current Issues

##### a. Trees.

Works are now well under way and 4 trees remain to finish the programme. The next round of work is booked for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July. DH unable to attend on the day but RW agreed to pop in to see the contractor. The group discussed the lean of the tree at T11 which a nearby resident wanted removed and which the tree surgeon has agreed to inspect and take any actions if needed. The group also discussed the need for a report at the end of the works programme for public liability insurance purposes where the tree surgeon confirms all trees in the field are now safe and this is sent to the Parish Council's insurance provider.

**Action/s: RW to attend the field on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. Clerk to write to nearby resident informing them that a tree surgeon will inspect T11. DH to ask the contractor to prepare a report to confirm trees are all safe.**

## **b. Ecological Survey.**

The survey was conducted on 5th July and a full report will follow. LH and NG highlighted some of the recommendations and advice given by the wildlife expert:

Cut down saplings by the stream to open up the area and encourage wildlife inhabitancy.

Plant more trees so they can grow in time to replace oak trees when these die. The group suggested getting in touch with the Woodland Trust who may help with planting new oak trees and suggest other British tree specimens to encourage wildlife.

Himalayan Balsam removal – no issues with hand pulling it but it can also be strimmed. The best time to do it would be end of July/August.

Installation of bird & bat boxes recommended dotted around the field. AWEG have confirmed there is money in their budget to purchase these.

Wildflower meadow would work if placed by the stream which would fit in with the plans for the green car park and picnic locations at the top end of the field. They also suggested having a 20 ft x 20 ft pond by the stream. The group discussed notifying the Parish Council's insurance provider if a pond is dug out.

Presence of voles – the expert found one star shaped foot print which means there might be water voles and confirmed they thought there were definitely bank voles.

Group suggested asking a local farmer to flail top field and clear some of the public footpath.

**Action/s: LH to speak to the farmer to have the field cut. LH to circulate the wildlife report to the group and Parish Council once it is received.**

## **c. Car Park progress.**

DH is preparing the specification to be sent to 3 contractors for them to tender for the work. A draft has been circulated to the group for them to provide feedback. The group discussed the need for a traffic assessment to investigate safe access to the car park. They also agreed it would be beneficial to submit the car park plans to CEC as a planning pre-application and agreed making this recommendation to the Parish Council. SB proposed making this recommendation to the Parish Council, LH seconded.

**Action/s: Group to provide feedback on the specification and DH to then circulate it to the Parish Council for their comment.**

### **i. Charging points for electrical vehicles.**

It was agreed that an electrical supply should be provided to the site as part of the works.

Lighting and electrical charging points could then be the subject of further discussion.

## **d. Preparation for Round 2 of New Homes Bonus Bid.**

There have been recent changes in administration and governance at CEC and no further dates have been set but currently there is no deadline for the next tranche.

**Action/s: DH to keep the group informed.**

## **e. Guidelines for use.**

JE has circulated the bare bones of a guidelines for use document to the group and all were in agreement that it was a good start. SB & Clerk to work on these along with a standard letter with guidelines and conditions for using the field to be sent to event organisers.

**Action/s: SB & Clerk to progress this.**

## **f. New bookings.**

The group again discussed the enquiry from an event organiser who wants to organise a small event at the Audlem Public Hall, possibly the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with approximately 130 people attending the event and 80 of them camping in caravans, campers and tents. The group were in agreement that they should be encouraging events in the village, including from outside organisations, which increase tourism and trade in the village shops and pubs and agreed an appropriate fee to be charged per day. The Clerk has written to the event organisers outlining the conditions for using the field. The event organiser had responded asking what the fee will be and whether showers were available.

**Action/s: SB to liaise with Clerk to email the event organiser with further information.**

**g. Feedback from site visit on 20th June 2019.**

The group had met on site and discussed the camping and picnic areas. The latter will be near the canal boats before going down the slope as it is too boggy down at the bottom. There are 5 new picnic tables to install, one has been donated by the Public Hall Annexe and the other 4 have recently been purchased. These are being delivered on 16th July and will need to be installed on the field. The group discussed the need to screw them into the ground to avoid them being stolen.

**h. Amended Terms of Reference.**

The membership of the working group needs to change as RW is a Parish Councillor so 2 new community representatives are needed. Given the ecological interest in the field the group agreed it would be beneficial to have an AWEG representative in the group. RW proposed speaking to AWEG's Chairman and SE seconded. All in favour.

**Action/s: NG to approach AWEG's Chairman.**

The group also felt that encouraging youth involvement with the field was very important and agreed that a youth community leader should also form part of the working group.

**Action/s: LH to speak to the youth community leader.**

It was also noted that a report to be presented at the Parish Council meeting on Monday would suggest the playing field complex would also come under the remit of the Turnpike Field group.

**7. Current Position re suggestions for Turnpike Field Recreation Area**

**a. Current List / Next steps**

See meeting minute 6g.

**b. Public Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The group agreed the format should give thanks for the donations, LH and NG to talk about the ecological survey & SB to give overview of the plans for the car park before opening up the floor to questions.

**8. Finance**

SB informed the group that the Parish Council have agreed to authorise TFWG £500 per quarter delegated spending allowance.

**a. Sources of funding**

No update.

**b. Donations**

£16,400 has been received to date and donations continue to trickle in.

**c. Community Trust**

MC had circulated aims & objectives to the group which everybody agreed were very good. The group agreed to draft a constitution but hold out from finalising it until September when plans for the playing field will be known.

**Action: MC to draft a constitution.**

**9. Communications**

**a. Communications, Consultation and Engagement Strategy**

No update.

**b. Correspondence / Website**

No update.

**10. Any other business**

There is an issue with dog mess being left in the field. A polite notice will be added to the article issued following the public meeting on Thursday.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm.

**Action/s: Clerk send the group diary invites and to book the room.**

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.