

Turnpike Field Working Group Minutes

20th May 2024

- 2 members of public in attendance:
- Apologies Michael Cookson, Geoff Seddon
- Notes from last meeting approved -one change re PM comment flailing rather than spraying as a public field.
- Car Park Working Group – Meeting arranged for 29th May to establish concepts and requirements. After submitting to APC for approval, a public meeting may be required following this meeting. NM and SE to lead.
- Fields in Trust -no further forward as still pending clarification from the Clerk of the Parish Council
- Bookings on Turnpike. The private booking went without any issues. CM was contact. MOP need to be made aware there is a button on the bottom of the padlock to press once code put in. Judy and SE agreed to be the point of contact for the next event - the Music Festival. It has been agreed that there will only be camping on Turnpike and no parking. Parking is on the playing fields. Bookings for 40 places over 4 days for caravans have been confirmed on the field. Concern was raised over the condition of the ground due to heavy rain forecast Wednesday and Thursday. The field weather permitting will be mown in readiness.
- Maintenance.
 - Himalayan balsam party of 10 worked on Sunday and cleared the bulk. On the next working party the ponds will be checked but now look clear. PM suggested the Himalayan Balsam could be strimmed to control of the were any dense patches.
 - Ragwort. This is not a problem on the lower field as SE collected majority and it is now 99% clear. The top field however is heavily populated due to not being able to cut last Autumn and having built up a large seed bed over several years. Advice sought by PM re spraying was that the optimum time is early Spring or Autumn and again we would prefer to control without. Options are digging out by hand which is very labour intensive or cutting and removing. Best option would be for a farmer to remove and use as a crop. PM contacting Arthur Shaw to see if he would be interested.
 - More flailing required over the bridge on left hand side of field from the bridge to the lock entrance. Also to prevent the trees donated by ADAS being damaged - NM to contact Dylan
 - Some ivy on tree trunks near Mark Ellis still to be removed.SE/JS
 - Tree to be cut down by the gate to field by tree expert in near future. It was requested that 2 pieces of the trunk were left to be put by the ponds for wildlife habitat. SE contact Benbows.
- Environmental Update.
 - Pond survey results in August CM to update.

- Concern over boaters cutting trees down potentially to allow light to solar panels or onto boats. Question as to whether this was on Waterway land or on the Turnpike land. SE & NM will investigate
 - Judy has another member of survey team for Adrian.
- Funding -Go fund me page can now be set up once agreed by APC - . A bank account needed - SE to check with Clerk. A good story about the field-needed - Need ideas about what activities to fund -All to provide ideas.
- Safety Improvements can now progress, and the bridge fence can be put in place -quotes to be obtained for submission to APC-SE
- Pond Dipping Platform this can now go ahead Audlem Ramblers have donated £500 to this project and AWEG would offer funds also. Risk assessment -SE
- Website and memorial -page to be set up SE
- AOB- 3 trees have been planted not yet identified by the stream these need to be identified and removed if not in keeping with the environment-NM/JS/SE to investigate.
- Date of next meeting 17th June