

**MINUTES OF TARPORLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TARPORLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2020**

Parish Council

Chairman – Cllr Gordon Pearson

Cllr Toni Burke

Cllr Elaine Chapman

Cllr Gill Clough

Cllr Andy Hallows

Cllr Lisa Miller

Cllr John Millington

Cllr Mark Ravenscroft

Cllr Nigel Taylor

Cllr Andrew Wallace

Clerk Ann Wright

Deputy Clerk Abbie Webb

Other

CW&C Cllr Eveleigh Moore Dutton

Public 0

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Catherine Helm – Family Commitment

Cllr John Millington – Family Commitment

Cllr Peter Tavernor – Self-imposed quarantine following travel abroad.

2. Declaration of Interests

Dispensations granted to Cllrs Chapman and Pearson regarding the development of Brook Road sports and recreation ground were noted.

Cllr Miller declared a pecuniary interest in Item 18, Village Maintenance, as her partner had provided a quote, she confirmed she would leave the room and take no part in the discussion.

3. Public Participation

No public present.

4. Minutes

Resolved 20/129 – That the Chairman signs the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th February 2020 as a true and proper record.

5. Action List

The Council noted the action list as circulated noting the following.

Climate Volunteers Meeting

The Clerk reported she had been waiting for the school to name a volunteer to be involved, it was agreed to go ahead and set a date for the meeting.

Rising Sun Additional Parking Spaces

Sarah Dobbins has met with Tom Loomes from Jones Homes and is waiting for the detailed plans/spec for the parking spaces having provided him with the necessary information, once the details have been approved the licence can be granted and the works undertaken, It was understood that Jones Homes will finish on site in May so it would be helpful if the works are completed by then. The only outstanding issue is the ownership of the land for the new spaces but this can be agreed at a later date and should not prevent the works.

6. Minutes of Working Groups and Other Meetings

The Council noted the notes of working groups and other meetings book, pages 214 to 226 of the Minutes.

Cllr Hallows confirmed he wished to be a member of the Brook Road, Play Area and Traffic and Parking Working Groups.

7. Planning

1) Planning Register

The planning register was noted.

2) Planning Applications

20/00626/CAT, Complete removal of outgrown Beech tree in front garden and replant a young Beech or Acer in its place, 30 Millfield Lane, Tarporley, CW6 0BF.

Resolved 20/130 – That the Council submit the following comment:

No objection.

3) Applications received since publication of agenda

20/00747/CAT, Erection of detached garage to rear, 6 Burton Avenue, Tarporley, CW6 0HT.

Resolved 20/131 – That the Council submit the following comment:

The Council does not object in principle to the development of a garage/workshop but does have concerns regarding potential noise and nuisance to neighbours .

20/00502/FUL, Installation of a 46 10KW Solar PV installation in rear field, Springfield Barn, Rhuddal Heath, Eaton Lane, Tarporley, CW6 9HJ.

Resolved 20/132 – That the Council submit the following comment:

No objection subject to a condition to ensure the site is reinstated to its previous use and condition as green field once the operational lifespan of the development has been reached as stated by Policy DM52 of the CW&C Local Plan Part 2.

8. Nursing Home Application 19/02899/FUL

1) Update

It was noted that there had been no further meetings but it was understood the applicant continues to have dialogue with the planning officer and provide more information. It was noted the statutory consultee comments from conservation and heritage have still not be published, it was agreed the Clerk would raise this with the planning officer and ask when they are likely to be published. The application is still expected to go to the Planning Committee meeting on April 7th.

It was noted in a discussion with Nick Smith, CW&C planning manager, at the CW&C 'Meet the Planners' event that the Council was not confident that the all material considerations would be covered by the officers' report as such he had confirmed writing to the planning committee members would be acceptable. At this event it had been confirmed that Neighbourhood Plan policies have equal weight to Local Plan policies. It had been asked what other mechanism could be used to protect sites from development for housing alone, no other mechanism was identified.

It was noted that in discussion with the Chief Executive of CW&C at the recent Parish Conference he had referred to the site as Green Belt, which highlighted a misconception that Green Belt does not have a higher test to allow development than Protected Green Spaces, which it does. The legislation only calls for 'very special circumstances' to be demonstrated before a Protected Green Spaces can be developed. It was noted the site is not green belt.

2) Further Communications

It was noted a second draft of the proposed letter to the planning committee members had been circulated, it was noted the letter would be further reviewed and amended following the publication of the officers report, it was noted that the letter needs to provide the committee

members with clear grounds for approval of the application. The letter will be sent by email and letter to all committee members shortly after publication of the agenda and reports.

Resolved 20/133 – That the Council agree the basis of the letter and any necessary amendments following the publication of the officers' report. It was agreed the Clerk should contact CW&C and ask when the April Committee agenda will be published.

9. Council Infrastructure

Resolved 20/134 – That the Council approve the following revised Infrastructure List:

Community Benefit & Infrastructure Improvement List for Developers & Land Owners

The Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of appropriate development that delivers significant infrastructure improvements whilst ensuring no loss or reduction of public amenity (most notably car parking) and prescribes that development of Local Green Space is not permitted, other than in very special circumstances.

This list of infrastructure improvements and community benefits has been compiled by the Parish Council with reference to the Neighbourhood Plan and is intended as a guide for developers and land owners when considering whether their proposed development plans for Tarporley meet with the Vision, Objectives and Policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. The list is not exhaustive and not necessarily in any order of preference. Other suggestions are welcome and the Parish Council will review and update this list as appropriate.

Significant Infrastructure Improvements

1. Relocation of Health Centre with improved facilities and adequate car parking.
2. Relocation of War Memorial Hospital with improved facilities and adequate car parking.
3. Provision of a substantial number of new car parking spaces near to the village centre. At least 100 new spaces are required.
4. Provision of long-stay (all day) car parking spaces on the outskirts of the village. At least 100 spaces required. This could be in the form of car parking spaces accompanying new developments or in the form of gifted or leased land to the village for use as a green car park.
5. Provision of a significant number (20 or more) of new commercial/light industrial employment units of various sizes ranging from 50 to 300 sq. m. (Portal Business Park is now fully occupied and is a good example of the type of units required).
6. Relocation and/or expansion of the Children's Playground with new and additional equipment, including equipment for older children, and conversion of the existing Community Centre Playground to Car Park.
7. Provision of the planned Outdoor Sports and Recreation facilities on the designated Brook Road site now owned by the Parish Council.
8. Provision of a community swimming pool (perhaps adjoining the High School) together with adequate car parking.

Moderate Infrastructure Improvements

1. Provision of a Bus park and turning circle for the High School off Nantwich Road.
2. Expansion of the public car park behind the Rising Sun by 50 spaces.
3. Development of further playgrounds/areas and sports and recreational facilities to accommodate growing population.
4. Provision of additional green space for public use and recreation.
5. Redevelopment of the roundabout at the entrance to Tarporley.
6. Funding towards provision of community transport services.

Minor Infrastructure Improvements and other community benefits

1. New playground surface, and other repairs and refurbishment.
2. Designated circular walk and cycle route around the village.
3. Making pathways and pavements accessible to people in mobility scooters, buggies etc.
4. Provision of funding to maintain and improve accessibility for public rights of way.

Most of the items listed are not within the power of the Parish Council to authorise and their inclusion on this list does not imply that any agreement exists with the relevant organisations. This document will also be used to by Tarporley Parish Council to assist in the preparation of comments on planning applications.

10. Branding Project & Sandstone Ridge

1) Update

It was noted that there had been a very positive meeting with representatives of the Sandstone Ridge Trust who were seeking to have the Ridge designated as a National Landscape a new designation which is understood will be introduced under new legislation. The designation would provide additional status and funding to the area.

2) Draft Vision/Mission Statement

Resolved 20/135 – That the Council approve the draft vision statement as circulated to be consulted on by businesses, organisations and residents of Tarporley, pages 227 and 228 of the Minutes Book. Once finalised the vision statement will feed into the scoping documents for the S106 Arts project.

3) Tarporley Heart of the Sandstone Ridge

Resolved 20/136 (unanimous) – That the Parish Council fully supports the recognition of Tarporley as Heart of the Sandstone Ridge.

It was noted the Trust discussed creating a ‘sense of place’ which could improve social cohesion in Tarporley.

It was noted that the Sandstone Ridge Trust own around 30 original art works which are used on its publicity materials which can be shown as an exhibition and that this may be included at Tarpfest which would be an opportunity to promote the Ridge further.

11. Brook Road Sports Field

Works on Site

There has been little let up in the wet weather and, as a result, the site remains too wet to recommence the pitch and open space works. With warmer and longer days approaching, it is hoped that conditions may improve sufficiently by the end of March/early April.

However, part of the hedge along Brook Road was removed in February to create the new pedestrian entrance. It was necessary to do this before the start of the bird nesting season. Fencing has been installed to create a new boundary line with sight lines and a refuge area on the verge to enable safe crossing onto the Brook Road pavement on the opposite side of the road. New hedging will be planted along the new fence line in the next few days.

Access Road

Andrew Jamieson of CW&C postponed the meeting planned for 2nd March 2020 until 16th March 2020, as he was still awaiting the return of tenders from 3 contractors invited to price the construction of the access road on behalf of CW&C. Once the tenders have been received by CW&C, Mr Jamieson will be able to report on next steps and timescales for the works.

S106 Drawdown

Following the review of the updated S106 Commuted Sum Transfer Agreement proposed by

CW&C, by Councillors Millington and Taylor, a schedule of points requiring clarification or alteration was sent to Sarah Dobbins of CW&C, and has been the subject of subsequent e-mail correspondence. There would appear to be a willingness by CW&C to amend the agreement, where possible, to address the Parish Council's concerns. We await a revised document for consideration.

Outdoor Gym and Trim Trail Equipment

Councillor Ravenscroft met with the second of the two manufacturers shortlisted for consideration for the supply of the outdoor gym/trim trail equipment, on 19th February 2020. Proposals have been received from both suppliers meeting our budget, however one appears to provide significantly better value for money than the other. It is planned to develop proposals for community engagement with this supplier. It was agreed to have a stall at the May Country Market and to consult through Tarporley Talk and Facebook as well as with the High School.

12. VE Weekend

It was agreed that the Parish Council would seek to ensure the street party on the 8th May and Dance on the 9th May through the Parish Council's insurance and will proceed organising the road closure.

Resolved 20/137 – That the Council insure the Street Party and Saturday evening dance on the VE weekend.

Resolved 20/138 – That the Council purchase 350m of red, white and blue bunting to be erected for the whole summer at a cost of approximately £420

13. Chapter 8 Training

It was noted that Chapter 8 training had been scheduled for Saturday 18th April 2020, so for 3 representatives of the Royal British Legion had agreed to attend, Cllrs. Pearson and Wallace had agreed to attend along with the Deputy Clerk. It was also expected members of Rotary would also attend, as such the Clerk will advertise additional spaces to other Parish Councils and organisations in the area to fill the additional spaces.

Resolved 20/139 – That the Council cover the costs of Councillors and Royal British Legion representatives to attend the training, as well the cost of hiring the High School car park for practical sessions at a cost of £75.

14. Allotments & Bowling Green Agreements

It was noted that draft agreements had been received, these will be reviewed by Cllrs. Burke, Clough and Tavernor before circulation to all councillors for approval at the April Council meeting.

15. Poppy Lane Car Park Planting

It was agreed that Cllrs. Helm and Tavernor be asked to consider the replacement hedge planting for Poppy Lane Car park possibly with Hornbeam and Beech and more flowering varieties adjacent to the school fence, and that this be agreed by email. It was agreed to consider planting of other areas at the Council's April meeting.

Resolved 20/140 – That the Council appoint Grants Garden Services to remove the hedge roots ready for planting of area.

It was noted that two signs had been purchased for the Allotment gates to prevent parking.

16. Dog Fouling

The Clerk reported she had asked CW&C if it was possible to fund a dog warden/enforcement officer to visit Tarporley, this was being investigated.

It was reported that since the increased publicity regarding dog fouling it had reduced. It was noted that additional chalk spray has been obtained as well as a pavement stencil and bin stickers, CW&C are due to supply addition warning stickers. The Primary School have made a number of posters which will be copied, laminated and display in areas with increased dog fouling.

17. Accounts & Payments

Resolved 20/141 – That the Council approve the accounts and payments and bank reconciliation as listed on page 88 of the cash book including the below payments.

J. Stewart	Maintenance - various	85.00
Storrar Cowdry & Co	Former RBL legal services	174.09
G. Latham	Car Park Gritting x6	576.00
HAGS	Play area maintenance	1090.20
Tarporley Community Centre	Room Hire (February)	58.71
R. Johnson	Lenthsmans Duties (Feb)	336.00
A. Wright	Reimbursment - Signs, Naming & Phone	106.77

Resolved 20/142 – That the Council approve the following invoices received since publication of the agenda:

G. Latham	Car Park Gritting x10	960.00
A. Wright	Salary (Feb)	786.51
A. Webb	Salary (Feb)	797.91
HMRC	Tax/NI	152.54
Grants Gardening Services Ltd	Poppy Lane Hedge Removal	480.00
Nest	Pension contribution	64.29
Shires	Payroll (M11)	24.50
Talkabout Publishing	Tarporley Talk	144.00
Gaskells	Cemetery Bin	77.48

Resolved 20/143 – That the Council move into private session to discuss the following items and request that the press and public leave the meeting.

PART 2

18. Village Maintenance

Cllr. Miller left the room and took no part in the following discussion.

Resolved 20/144 – That the Council appoint A. L. Rowland to replace the teen shelter roof.

Cllr. Miller re-joined the meeting.

Resolved 20/145 – That the Council appoint Northwich Town Council to prepare and paint the High Street bollards.

It was agreed to allow for the submission of additional quotes and that these would be considered by Cllrs Chapman, Miller, Pearson and Tavernor who will make a recommendation regarding appointment of a contractor to be confirmed at the Council's April meeting.

Meeting closed: 8.58pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Ann Wright
10-03-20

Next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting:
Monday 20th April 2020, 7pm.
The Committee Room, Tarporley Community Centre.

Tarporley Parish Council Minute Book

Committees, Working Groups and Other Meetings

Presented at the March 2020 Meeting

Notes Included:

	Page
Notes of informal meeting to discuss Weaver Vale housing Trust's plans for Oathills Lea. 12 th February 2020, Tarporley Community Centre.	215
Notes of Informal Meeting about Dog Poo Campaigns Tuesday 25 th February in The Swan	219
Notes of Branding Working Group Meeting 26 th February 2020, Committee Room, Tarporley Community Centre.	220
Notes of meeting to discuss Plans for VE Day Celebrations 3 rd March 2020, The Swan, High Street, Tarporley.	225

**Notes of informal meeting to discuss Weaver Vale housing Trust's
plans for Oathills Lea.
12th February 2020, Tarporley Community Centre.**

Present:

Tarporley Parish Council (TPC):

Cllr Toni Burke, Cllr Gill Clough, Cllr Catherine Helm, Cllr Lisa Miller, Cllr Gordon Pearson.
Ann Wright (Clerk)

Weaver Vale Housing Trust (WVHT):

Jo Fallon – Assistant Director for Development

Cheshire West & Chester Council:

Ward Councillor Eveleigh Moore Dutton

Purpose of meeting: To receive update proposed development of Oathills Lea.

The findings of the housing needs survey were considered including the need to provide affordable housing for both the younger and older generations. It was noted that all applicants would undergo an affordability assessment to check they can afford monthly rent payments.

Redevelopment Principles

The following redevelopment principles discussed at previous meetings were highlighted:

- Preference for 1 and 2 bed properties
- Tenure – 'affordable' rented noting that some properties may need to be sold as shared ownership to make the scheme financially viable.
- Affordability – rental rates will take into account local income levels and the local housing allowance.

It was noted the rent can be set anywhere up to 80% market value, however due to high market values in Tarporley it was stressed that properties set at 70% market value have not been affordable to local people. It was confirmed that average market values are set at a Borough level.

It was noted that the intention was to have a 100% rented development however this cannot be confirmed until the scheme has been valued.

It was noted that WVHT do not have to make a profit on the development but do need to break even, WVHT expect to obtain a grant of 25 to 30% of the scheme from Homes England, however there is some uncertainty about grant funding as the current funding ends in March 2022 and as yet no announcement has been made about future funding, although this may be included in the March budget, as such it is important that the scheme is delivered as soon as possible and before March 2022.

- All properties will have their own front door on ground level.
- There will be no communal space other than garden areas.
- Ground floor apartments will be more accessible and prioritised for older or disabled tenants.
- The scheme must include adequate parking including mobility scooter parking.
- Must have high quality open space.

It was noted by Councillors that a planning application/approval needs to take account of access of the public footpath which runs up the side of Poppy Lane Car park past the development site, it was noted this needs to be made accessible for residents including those using wheelchairs or mobility scooters as this is the nearest route to the High Street and the alternative route is very steep.

It was understood by WVHT the path is owned by CW&C, although the Parish Council had

previously been advise the lighting on the path was the responsibility of WVHT, it was confirmed the lights get power from the WVHT property.

It was agreed there would be a need to look at differing ground levels between the path and development.

Ms Fallon suggested that WVHT will consider including the path in the development area of the application (within the red line).

It was noted a full project team is now in place and a large amount of work has already been done to get to this stage, feasibility studies have been completed and reports are expected shortly.

It was confirmed that work needs to be undertaken regarding access to the site taking account of residents in that area.

A pre-application submission has been made to CW&C looking at the principle of the development, scale, massing and density once this has been commented on by CW&C WVHT plan to carryout public consultation on the scheme.

Proposed Scheme (Draft)

The following scheme was discussed, it was noted that there was still work to be done on the design and that the scheme was not finalised and depending on CW&C, Parish Council and public comment it could be adapted.

- The scheme comprised of two blocks, 1 of 12, 1 bed apartments, and 1 of 8, 2 bed apartments, 20 apartments in total.
- Space standards were based on government national standards, 54sq m for the 1 bed apartments and 61sq m for the two bed.
- Work is still being done on internal layouts to allow for wheelchair access and movement.
- Consideration was still being given to orientation of the apartments.
- Parking was designed with at least 40 parking spaces but it was not yet agreed how these should be allocated.
- Different surface treatments were being considered to prevent the feel of a sea of tarmac.
- The development was all 2 storey.
- The proposed development is deliberately low density to accommodate open space and parking.
- Allocation would be based on the allocation scheme in the neighbourhood plan, councillors highlighted a desire to give priority to the elderly and disabled on the site as the future development of affordable housing on Brook Road would be more suitable for young people and families.
- It was noted a good area of outside space had been retained including a good number of trees.
- It was noted that the lighting and details for the car park, waste storage and mobility scooter parking will be included in the detailed application.
Councillors highlighted the need to provide lighting which did not impact neighbouring properties.
- The scheme included large windows to create light airy apartments, with Juliet balconies on the 1st floor.
- It was suggested by Councillors that the brick work needed to be broken up possibly with some rendering to create something more like a Tarporley street scene. It was suggested that WVHT review the Tarporley Village Design Statement.
- It was suggested that small raised beds be considered for ground floor apartments outside the large windows.

Public Footpath

It was discussed that public access should be retained off the public footpath through the site although it was noted this needed to be balanced with resident's privacy and security. It was noted that connectivity of new developments with the existing village was included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Stairs

It was noted all first-floor apartments will have their own private staircase; councillors suggested that these should be capable of accommodating a stair lift if required.

Bin & Mobility Scooter Stores

More work is to be done on the mobility scooter store as this needs to comply with regulations relating to battery charging and storage.

There is expected to be one central bin store possibly near the access for ease of waste collection.

To meet planning regulations each dwelling will have a vehicle charging point, the design and siting of these is still to be agreed.

Internal Layout

It was noted that the layout of the properties needs to take account of the target occupants. Currently the scheme includes wet rooms for ground floor apartments with baths with electric showers on the first floor.

Ms Fallon stated that WVHT standard building specification included installing drains in anticipation of changes to bathrooms in the future for accessibility.

Timescales

It was hoped by the end of May the public consultation could be carried out and a planning application submitted.

June – August work will be done with neighbouring residents about access to the site and the tendering process will begin.

It was hoped between September and November 2020 work would commence on site with completion estimated in early 2022.

The advertising and allocation the properties was expected to take place 6 to 8 weeks before hand over to allow enough time for adaptations to any of the properties.

Community Consultation

It was hoped the consultation event would be held in May:

- The event would be used to raise awareness and understanding of the scheme.
- The proposal will still be flexible enough to be altered as a result of comments if required.
- WVHT will be able to provide an update on rental rates although these will not be finalised until the development nears completion.
- There will be details about internal layouts, bin storage and mobility scooter storage.

Affordability

Councillors emphasised the success of the scheme would large rely on its affordability.

It was agreed at the public consultation there needed to be an indication of rental costs and information on how to register and apply for properties. It was confirmed the consultation will be attended by both WVHT development team and the housing management team.

It was reported one of the biggest challenges was the cost of building contractors at the moment as prices have and are continuing to increase. As such until the contract is in place WVHT cannot confirm rental rates and if there will be a need to be a number of properties for sale through a shared ownership scheme.

CW&C Cllr Moore Dutton asked that the local eligibility criteria covers the ward rather than just the Parish Council area.

Future Steps

It was confirmed WVHT will continue to keep the Council updated on progress including the outcome of the pre-application to CW&C, and it was suggested that there is another meeting before the public consultation to provide an update on the consultation information.

The Clerk agreed she would check if the time capsule on site has been retrieved.

It was noted there is a public bench by the current building entrance in memory of a Parish Councillor, it was agreed the Parish Council would consider what should be done with this.

Ms Fallon confirmed she would check if plants in the garden area could be relocated by the Parish Council to other areas in the village which require planting including Poppy Lane Car Park.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Ann Wright
13-02-20.

**Notes of Informal Meeting about Dog Poo Campaigns
Tuesday 25th February in The Swan**

Present:

Elizabeth Ackerley-Jones

Lisa Miller

Rachel Louise

Catherine Helm

Gordon Pearson

It was agreed that Facebook is not a good forum to campaign against Dog Fouling and that we would focus a campaign on the High Street in the first instance (although individual people could run the same campaign in their area if they wish to).

The campaign steps are as follows:

1. Use the Pooper Snooper app to map all the dog poo on the High Street from the Spar to Burton Square over the next week. Spraying it pink first to minimise duplication. (The Pooper Snooper app checks if the poo you are about to report is the same as an existing report if it is close.)
2. In a week's time, review records on Pooper Snooper to identify hotspots.
3. Target the hotspots with:
 - a. Dog Poo Posters drawn by Primary School children. Tarporley Primary School have already been asked but if they can't do them then we'll use existing ones from other campaigns.
 - b. Pavement stencils that say "Clean It Up" sprayed with a different colour chalk spray.
 - c. Renew all the dog poo stickers on the High Street Lamp Posts.
 - d. Add "dog poo can be put here" stickers on all the bins on the High Street.
4. Continue to pink spray and record any dog poo on the Pooper Snooper app.
5. Review progress after one week and decide whether to continue for another week.
6. After 2 weeks, review impact of campaign and decide next steps.
7. If successful – repeat in other areas.

Other actions:

- A. Work out an introductory pitch for the Yellow Tag scheme for use at the Country Market. Then try to sign up dog owners at the Country Market.
- B. Produce a "Walks Map" for countryside footpaths around Tarporley

Notes of Branding Working Group Meeting
26th February 2020, Committee Room, Tarporley Community Centre.

Present:

Tarporley Parish Council - Catherine Helm, Gordon Pearson, Mark Ravenscroft, Ann Wright (Clerk).

Sandstone Ridge Trust – Derek Bell, Andrew Hull.

Apologies – CW&C Cllr Eveleigh Moore Dutton, Nigel Taylor

Sandstone Ridge Update

Andrew Hull gave an update on the Sandstone Ridge:

It was noted the Sandstone Ridge is the most prominent feature of the Cheshire Landscape particularly in Cheshire West.

The Trust is a charity made up of 6 volunteers and 1 part time employee.

Work started in the late 1990s to protect the habitats and historic environment through grant funding, this project finished in 2012 although funding was in place for legacy projects to continue and the Sandstone Ridge Trust was formed to undertake these projects.

The Trust is now at a point of reorganisation and is in some ways changing direction, its priority is to find ways to protect and manage the future of the Ridge as a whole.

It was noted the Ridge is owned by a range of people including the National Trust, Woodland Trust and Farmers.

Outstanding Natural Beauty Designation

The Trust has looked at getting the Ridge designated as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the area was considered in 1949 when the designation was first considered however it was not pursued.

It was noted that the Ridge has many of the characteristics of other areas of AONB and is as good as if not better than some of the existing designated areas.

As such the Trust had presented an evidenced case to Natural England to designate the area, Natural England confirmed there was a good case for the designation but had highlighted it would be a lengthy process, possibly 5 or 10 years.

In 2018 the government launched a review of National Parks and AONB which the Trust reported to inviting the Panel to visit the Ridge as a result a panel member did visit the Ridge which they toured.

The Review published a report in September 2019 which suggested the development of a new designation of National Landscapes and highlighted that the Sandstone Ridge made a persuasive case for being included in this designation.

It was therefore believed that some form of designation is now much more likely in the nearer future.

It was understood that currently the Agriculture Bill is undergoing its second reading in Parliament and that the Environment Bill is expected to pass in early summer. Once that has happened it is hoped any application can be submitted for designation, it was thought there are likely to be 5 or 6 areas in the Country applying for designations.

There is evidence that designation has a significant positive economic impact on designated areas.

In discussions with the Estates along the Ridge there had been some resistance initially to designation as it can add another layer to the planning process however they now support the idea.

Sandstone Ridge Trust Reorganisation

The Trust recognises the need to form an integrated identifiable area which is the Sandstone Ridge which businesses and people identify with hence the creation of the Sandstone Ridge Partnership including landowners and businesses along the Ridge and starting the conversation about this identity.

The Trust's priority now and their work is aimed at getting the Ridge designated as a National Landscape.

It is planning to create a Sandstone Ridge Foundation.

It was noted the Ridge is not just the Sandstone Trail.

Frodsham Town Council have been keen to be involved and are the Northern Gateway to the Sandstone Ridge and discussions are ongoing with Malpas Parish Council to become the Southern Gateway. As such the Trust would welcome Tarporley identifying itself as the Heart of the Sandstone Ridge.

Designation would bring with it 75% funding from central government allowing staff to be employed to manage and protect the Ridge.

The Trust is working to evidence the political, economic and social case to support the designation.

Tarporley's Role

It was asked what Tarporley could contribute to the process noting that Tarporley is seeking to increase tourism and improve the economy of the village as well as seeking to increase available parking in the village centre.

It was noted the Ridge has identified 60 projects they want to undertake of which approximately 4 are being undertaken at present. One project was to deliver public art along the Ridge and an application had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £2.5m to deliver the project, sadly the application failed. However, this is still an ambition for the Trust as such it was suggested that Tarporley could look to have a sculpture or piece of art which would attract visitors to the village.

It was noted that the Parish Council has a project progressing to spend some S106 Arts funding which is allocated in the village.

The Trust confirmed they could supply the specifications of the Sandstone Ridge logo.

It was noted that there needs to be community buy in or support for the re-branding of Tarporley.

It was noted the Parish Council has briefly discussed introducing visitors' boards to the village which would highlight links to footpaths and the Sandstone Trail, it was suggested these should be branded reflecting the other areas along the Ridge.

It was discussed that there is a need to develop a sense of place for Tarporley as a community and as part of the Sandstone Ridge.

The Parish Council had also discussed village entry signs which could be visible off the bypass and want to improve the appearance of the Roundabout.

It was noted that it would be good if Tarporley Parish Council could pass a resolution to become the Heart of the Sandstone Ridge.

Geology

It was noted that geology is hugely important to the Ridge, it was noted a recent project 'Beneath the Ridge' has been seeking to identify caves along the Ridge, it had been thought there were 40 caves however to date 48 caves have been identified.

The importance of disseminating information about the Ridge was noted and it was hoped if a current lottery bid for 3 years funding is successful the Trust will be able to employ staff to help with this process.

Events

It was noted that there are 3 events in Tarporley over the summer which might be of interest to the Trust and will attract visitors to Tarporley.

May – VE Day Celebrations including a large street party.

June - TarpFest which includes art displays etc.

July – Tarporley Carnival

It was noted that the Trust owns all the art work by Kim Atkinson which is used on their promotional materials and as such have 31 original prints which they could display.

Gordon Pearson agreed to raise this at the Tarpfest Committee and see if a suitable location could be found.

The Trust agreed to consider producing a limited number of prints for sale at the event.

It was noted the Trust was seeking to develop a project with CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) to refurbish finger posts and milestones, it was highlighted that there is a listed milestone on the High Street which needs attention.

It was noted that the Ridge will be running the walking festival again in October following the success of the festival last year as such if Tarporley had any walks to include on the programme that would be welcomed, it was noted the Council has an active footpath officer and that there had been a successful ghost walk in Tarporley at the last Tarpfest which could possibly be repeated.

Derek Bell and Andrew Hull were thanked for attending the meeting.

Branding Project

The working group undertook a discussion regarding the branding of Tarporley.

It was agreed that there are several dimensions to the branding including practical actions including entry signs, information boards, roundabout improvements.

It was agreed that it was important to identify the reason for the branding project. Why it is being done? What is the purpose? the following reasons were identified:

- 1) Make Tarporley a better place to live.
- 2) Create Sense of place
- 3) Well-being
- 3) Economic improvements
- 4) To benefit businesses

It was noted that these objectives should be considered alongside the Neighbourhood Plan objectives noting the Plan is to be reviewed.

It was agreed there was a need to develop a vision and priorities and take this out to the community and various groups to obtain their support to help develop these ideas.

The project should not be project done to Tarporley by the Parish Council.

It was agreed the vision should a single sentence and that should be developed and expanded into a mission statement for the branding project.

It was suggested it would be worth looking at the CW&C Thrive Objectives as some of these are relevant to Tarporley. (see Appendix 1)

The following were suggested as a possible vision statements:

To secure the long-term future of Tarporley for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations.

For the benefit of those who live, work and visit Tarporley.

It was noted that residents are key stake holders but that people who work in Tarporley are also important as are those who live in surrounding villages that rely on Tarporley and identify with the village.

The importance of engendering a sense of place was recognised and the need to create:

- A sense of belonging
- Pride in the village
- A sense of ownership
- A sense of enjoyment from living in or visiting Tarporley.

What do people like about living in Tarporley?

It was noted the branding project should encompass the following:

- Sandstone Trust involvement – focus on Ridge
- Involvement of businesses – to seek to improve economy
- Arts S106 project
- Delivery of additional parking

- Identification of walks – linking Tarporley to surrounding countryside and Ridge – noting Tarporley has more in common with other villages on the Ridge than Chester and Winsford.
- Entry signs
- Roundabout improvements

Actions – Visualise + Articulate + Deliver

- 1) Draft Vision & Mission Statements – taking into account the Neighbourhood Plan review.
- 2) Consider the above at March Parish Council meeting.
- 3) Take to Businesses for comment.

4) Wider Consultation

Including other businesses, stakeholders' groups inc., Churches, schools, U3A, History Groups, Tarporley Community Centre Committee.

5) Compile results developing an action plan and areas of focus

- 6) Take to May Parish Council meeting to progress and use to develop S106 Arts brief/scope.

Ann Wright
27 02 2020.

Appendix 1 – CW&C Thrive Objectives



Notes of meeting to discuss Plans for VE Day Celebrations

3rd March 2020, The Swan, High Street, Tarporley.

Present:

Royal British Legion & Poppy Appeal – Ian Diskin (ID)

Tarporley Parish Council - Gordon Pearson (GP), Ann Wright (Clerk)

Purpose of meeting: To discuss VE Day Celebration Plans

The following points were discussed at the meeting:

Road Closure

- To run from Rising Sun to Spar/Garage junction, with access for residents and TCC Car park and as far as Park Road. TCC car park confirmed as available for parking for the event.
- The event will take place from the Rising Sun and Lychgate.
- It was noted that all residents and businesses along the road need to be notified in advance on the closure.
- Diversion signs may be needed on the by-pass and roundabout.
- Signage required to include advance notice of closure, road ahead closed and business open signage.
- Chapter 8 Training – 3 Royal British Legion members, Andrew Wallace, Gordon Pearson, Abbie Webb (Deputy Clerk).

Action – GP to confirm signage required for ordering.

Action – Deputy Clerk to order of orange barriers and signage.

Event

2.30 – Event Start

2.55 – Last Post

- 3.00 – Performance Area by Coast - Bag Pipes
- Live Music
 - Disco

Performance area opposite Old Fire Station – children’s performances, balloon modelling & face painting.

7.00 – Cry of Peace by Rev’d Watmore & Bell Ringing.

Event Closes.

7.15 – Clear up commences

8.00 – Road reopens.

Businesses will be open as usual.

People can bring picnics or buy food from existing businesses.

Action – ID to confirm layout of tables for event depending on tables provided.

It was noted emergency vehicle access to be retained.

Action – Clerk to email PC Monks regarding police attendance, noting ID had raised the matter with PCSO Williamson.

High Street Parking

It was noted vehicles that are parked on the High Street during the event will create an issue.

Action – Clerk to confirm if there are any powers to remove vehicles and who can do so.

Action – Deputy Clerk to create notices to be laminated on streetlights etc on High Street – no cars on High Street – arrange distribution with ID/GP.

It was noted that there was a need to monitor any guidance regarding public events due to the Coronavirus, and check fees to performers etc if the event is cancelled.

Action – Clerk to develop risk assessment for street party and Saturday night event.

Action – ID to organise High Street window display competition and organise sandbags for display, also to investigate creating an Anderson Shelter for display in woodland walk area.

Bunting

Parish Council to purchase union flags on poles, union flag bunting and fund installation and removal of bunting.

Action – Clerk to confirm length of bunting required.

Action – Deputy Clerk to order union flag bunting and large Union Flags to go in Xmas tree brackets – to check with ID if available through Poppy Appeal.

Action – ID to speak to all shops on High Street about event inc. window displays and road closure – Deputy Clerk to send out follow up email to businesses distribution list – ID to provide info to circulate.

Insurance

Parish Council insurance to cover street party and Saturday night dance.

Saturday Night Dance

Event 7.30 to 11pm.

Entertainment, Big Band and Vocalist.

Food to be provided by volunteer.

Bar provided by Rising Sun – who will complete licence applications.

Action – Clerk to contact insurance company regarding implications of serving food.

Tickets to cost £15 – max 100 attending.

Money raised at both events to be split 50/50 between the Poppy Appeal and War Memorial Hospital.

Action – ID creating programme of events to be sponsored by local business.

Tarporley Rebranding

Terms of Reference

Vision

To ensure the long-term sustainable future of Tarporley as a thriving community for the enjoyment, well-being and benefit of those who live, work and visit there

In particular, as per Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan:

By 2030 Tarporley will be:

- • A village where our everyday essential needs are catered for without the need to travel elsewhere.
- • A village with social diversity and cohesion which continues to be a safe, secure and healthy place to live.
- • A village with a cherished history which has retained its unique character, scale and atmosphere, where residents have a strong sense of pride and belonging and visitors are attracted and welcomed.
- • A village which continues to be a key rural service centre, providing significant employment opportunities to the local population.
- • A village with a picturesque, vibrant High Street which is enriched by its open aspect to the countryside, marked by buildings of character whilst offering a diverse range of independent shops and services.
- • A village which ensures easy access and safe movement for pedestrians and cyclists into and throughout the village.
- • A village which has managed its growth, with infrastructure and services which meet the needs of its local population.

Why Rebranding?

- As a Parish Council, we have been predominantly in reactionary mode, responding to threats and opportunities as they arise.
- We need to become more proactive, taking ownership in shaping the future of Tarporley
- To move forward we need to align the community at large and key stakeholders around the Vision for Tarporley. If it just comes from the Parish Council, it will fail. We need to work together.

Mission Statement

Work with the Community and key stakeholders to articulate and realise a consistent and shared sense of place that we can all own and be proud of, built around our Vision for Tarporley.

In particular we will:

- Promote Tarporley as a great place to live, work and visit
- Better inform the community of what Tarporley and surrounds have to offer, eg recreation, events, employment
- Build on the notion of Tarporley as the “Heart of the Sandstone Ridge”

Action Plan and Way Forward

- Discuss and seek support at March TPC meeting
- Share and refine the Terms of Reference in consultation with key stakeholders (eg businesses, community centre, churches, schools, U3A, Rotary...)
- Establish cross-community team
- Draw up detailed action plan, identifying areas of focus, eg signage, communications, roundabout, artwork

- TPC sign-off in May?
- Seek funding, eg Arts S106
- Community event to get wider buy-in
- Implement

DRAFT

Tarporley Parish Council

This page has been left intentionally blank.