

**MINUTES OF TARPORLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 13th JULY 2020**

Parish Council

Chairman – Cllr Gordon Pearson

Cllr Elaine Chapman

Cllr Gill Clough

Cllr Andy Hallows

Cllr Catherine Helm

Cllr Lisa Miller

Cllr John Millington

Cllr Mark Ravenscroft

Cllr Peter Tavernor

Cllr Nigel Taylor

Cllr Andrew Wallace

Clerk Ann Wright

Deputy Clerk Abbie Webb

Other

CW&C Cllr Eveleigh Moore Dutton

Public 1

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Toni Burke – work commitment.

2. Declaration of Interests

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

3. Public Participation

Beeston & Tarporley Railway Station

Mr Flynn updated the Council on the bid to the Department of Transport for funding to undertake a feasibility study on the reopening on the Beeston and Tarporley Railway Station. It was noted the station was closed in 1966 as part of the Beeching cuts and since that time there have been various campaigns to reopen the station. Studies were undertaken in 2001, 2004 and 2006 on reopening the station however issues have been identified with these reports. The 2006 survey noted that there was insufficient patronage to support the station however since then there has been a significant increase in population.

The proposed station if built would be a simple unstaffed country halt with 2 platforms, covered seating and lighting.

It was noted that the distance between Chester and Crewe is the longest stretch of railway in England that does not have a stop.

Land has been identified in the Local Plan for Tiverton for the station and it is thought this land belongs to Network Rail and CW&C this would be confirmed as part of the feasibility study.

It was noted that this was just the very start of the process and that approximately 50 applications have been submitted for the funding of which approximately 10 will receive funding.

The feasibility study if funded will include three sections:

- 1) Commercial – business case, forecast patronage
- 2) Technical – Outline design
- 3) Legal – land ownership

It was asked if the station would include a large car park, it was confirmed that this would be looked at as part of the feasibility study but it was understood that there would need to be

parking for the station to be successful.

It was noted the line is served by 2 services the North Wales Express or intercity services to London which would not stop at the station and the two hourly shuttle services between Crewe and Chester which would stop. It was noted it takes 13 minutes from Beeston to Crewe.

It was discussed if opening a station would increase development in the area by making it more attractive place to live.

The Chairman thanked My Flynn, who agreed to keep the council updated on progress made on the funding bid, for attending the meeting and providing the update.

4. Minutes

Resolved 20/186 – That the Chairman signs the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8th June 2020 as a true and proper record when possible.

5. Minutes of Working Groups and Other Meetings

The Council noted the notes of working groups and other meetings, from page 266 of the minutes book.

6. Actions List

The Council noted the actions list as circulated which had not been circulated since the Council's March meeting.

7. Cemetery Committee Recommendations

The Council noted the minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting held on the 29th May 2020 and recommendations from page 282 of the Minutes.

Resolved 20/187 – That the Council accept the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee including the price increase which will come into force from the 1st August 2020.

8. High Street Re-Opening

It was reported that despite the positive conversations which had initially taken place with CW&C regarding steps to introduce a one way system on the High Street to allow some alfresco dining there had been no further communication from CW&C until before the weekend, it was understood the scheme was to be discussed at a meeting on the 14th July, it was hoped an update would provide after that meeting.

9. Planning

1) Planning Register

The planning register was noted, and that a comment of 'no objection' had been submitted for application 20/01915/FUL 18 Torr Rise since the agenda had been published.

2) Planning applications for consideration

Appeal – 19/01598/OUT – Development of detached dwelling inc. demolition of existing vehicular garage adjoining existing dwelling – Land at the Avenue, Tarporley, CW6 0BA.

Resolved 20/188 – Resubmit previous objection to the inspector.

Cllr Helm joined the meeting.

20/02084/FUL, Change of use from office to predominantly a Barber Shop (& beauty services), Suite 2, Quinplex house, Birchheath Road, Tarporley, CW6 9UR.

Resolved 20/189 – No objection.

20/02236/S73, Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on 16/03340/FUL, Ash Hill Farm, Rode Street, Tarporley, CW6 0EF.

Resolved 20/190 – No objection.

3) 19/02899/FUL, Erection of 65 Bed Nursing Home - Update

It was reported that Liberty properties (applicant) had received advice that the success of any appealed would be largely based on the inspector and the weight that they gave to heritage assets and conservation as such they were not planning to submit an appeal or a further application at this time. However, they would consider submitting an application if there were changes to the Neighbourhood Plan including changes to the settlement boundary and designation of the land in question.

It was noted that a working group was still considering undertaking a review of the neighbourhood plan and if it was decided to do a review any changes would be based on community need and support rather than the aspirations of a developer and that the review process should not be accelerated by a developer.

It was suggested that the recent covid-19 pandemic has changed shopping and working habits and that it would be problematic to base decisions on analysis done previously on parking needs etc for the next 3 to 6 months until these changes can be quantified.

It was noted that the Council had a mandate to support the planning application but not to change the neighbourhood plan and that any changes including designation of land had to be subject to public consultation. It was noted the working group will continue to consider reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Aldi

The Chairman reported he had been contacted by a company working for Aldi looking to find a site in Tarporley for a store, he confirmed he had highlighted the Neighbourhood Plan and also the Community Benefits list. It was noted in the future the agent should be directed to the Clerk.

10. Brook Road Sports Field

1) Progress Update

The Council noted the following update from Cllr Millington.

Works on Site

Dunkil completed the currently available works on 9th July 2020 and have left the site secure. Not all work is yet complete, as some work is awaiting final instruction or is seasonal. The principle items remaining to be completed are:

- Installation of palisade fencing around the pole transformer – Awaiting agreement of final details with SP Power Networks, which is due shortly
- Tree, shrub, hedge and bulb planting – To be carried out in November
- Installation of outdoor gym equipment – Following final selection (see below)
- Installation of goal posts – To be carried out once pitch established
- Installation of signage – To be carried out once details finalised
- Removal of newt fencing – Following completion of all work and sign off by Ecologist

- Additional items, if instructed – See below

Dunkil will be returning periodically to carry out grass cutting, rolling, overseeding, and maintenance items related to the pitch (as the surface becomes established) and to the parkland areas as the grass grows. Twelve months maintenance is included in the original Dunkil order.

Dunkil Valuation Number 3

Valuation Number 3 was received from Dunkil on 29th June. This takes the value of work applied for up to that date to £176,805.75 (excl. VAT). The valuation has been checked and is recommended for payment.

S106 Drawdown

The S106 Commuted Sum Transfer Agreement has now been signed by the Parish Council and returned to CW&C. The Clerk reported she had received a paper copy of the sealed agreement but not the transfer of funds which is expected imminently.

OS&R Phase 1 Project Costs

A forecast of the final cost of the Phase 1 works, including all project management and consultant fees, is expected to be just over £356,000, including all variations agreed to date and the pond fencing/wildlife area upgrades approved at the last meeting. These forecast costs are within the total of the S106 drawdown and Parish Council allocated funds for the car park, which is not eligible for S106 funding.

Although the original scope and significant enhancements/variations are forecast to be delivered within the original budget envelope, the value of Dunkil's contract is expected to exceed the £270,000 limit agreed at the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 25th July 2019 (Resolution 19/057), by some £16,000.

Approval is sought from Councillors to increase this limit from £270,000 to £290,000 to enable Dunkil to complete the increased scope of their works.

CW&C Ponds Grants

We were unsuccessful in securing one of the grants from CW&C for creation or restoration of ponds because our pond is cited in the Newt Mitigation Licence and the works are already underway.

Access Road

According to the programme received Andrew Jamieson of CW&C following our Zoom meeting with him on 26th May, work on construction of the Access Road (which is the responsibility of CW&C) was due to commence on 5th July. No work has been started to date; however it is understood that a land surveyor from CW&C's delivery partner visited site last week to carry out a topographical survey. It was noted that CW&C had confirmed the access road design and costings should be completed this week and that works should commence on site by the end of July as such it was hoped the works would be completed by the end of August. It was agreed that CW&C should be approached to fence off each side the access road so as to secure their land. It is a Planning Condition that the road is constructed before the facility is opened.

Outdoor Gym Equipment

A comprehensive four-page Brook Road OS&R Update booklet has been prepared and includes public consultation on the final choice of the gym equipment. It is planned to deliver the booklet to every household in Tarporley. Plans for a face-to-face consultation event had to be

cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is not possible to wait until such an event may be possible before an order for the equipment is placed.

Caloo were selected as proposed suppliers of the gym equipment earlier in the year, following a competitive process. A selection of ten items, chosen to enable an all-body workout, has been put forward by Caloo. The most cost-effective procurement solution is for the Parish Council to purchase the equipment direct from Caloo and for Dunkil to install it and lay the grass matting.

With no scheduled Parish Council Meeting in August, approval is sought from Councillors to place an order for outdoor gym equipment with Caloo for up to £16,000 (allowing for modest changes to the currently proposed equipment following the consultation) by the end of August.

The £16,000 equipment budget and installation costs are included in the current forecast project costs for the Phase 1 works.

Items Additional to Phase 1 Scope

Children's Play Equipment

Indicative proposals for a limited selection of play equipment have been received from John Seiler. A further brief has been provided and quotation sought from a supplier. It is hoped that two pieces of equipment (suitable for children aged between 3 and 14 years old) could be installed for around £20,000.

Approval is sought from Councillors to continue to develop proposals within this budget. There is no allowance within the current forecast project costs for this equipment, however there are a number of modest S106 allocations for Children's Play available to the Parish Council from various residential developments in the village, and these would be sufficient to cover the budget.

Sports Equipment and Bin Store

An allowance has been made within the current forecast project costs for a 1.5 x 3.0m store to house up to two commercial wheelie bins, adjacent to the car park, for depositing refuse emptied from the litter bins.

A proposal has been developed to construct a larger timber building of 6.5 x 3.0m which could act as a storage unit for sports equipment (goal nets, junior goals, line marking machine, training equipment, etc.) at one end and a bin store at the other. Quotations were sought earlier in the year from suppliers and a number of proposals were received based on their product ranges. Following analysis, a preferred supplier has been selected based on price and technical aspects (including robustness). An updated quotation has recently been requested from this supplier to include a steeper roof pitch (to discourage climbing) and revised door details. The additional cost of the combined Sports Equipment and Bin Store, over the stand-alone Bin Store is expected to be approximately £7,500 including installation. This would be an extra cost to the project.

Councillors are asked as to consider whether they would support the provision of this store and the additional expenditure. It might be possible to fund the store from remaining S106 monies for Playing Pitch available to the Parish Council.

Access Road Enhancements

If CW&C do not intend to develop the additional affordable housing land in the near future, it would be worth considering making modest enhancements to improve the appearance of the OS&R vehicular access route.

The Access Road will bisect and open up the affordable housing plot, which was previously secured behind a timber post and rail fence. The area is unkempt, overgrown and boggy in places, with the remains of an old hedgerow running across it. Cultivating a 1m wide verge to the back of the footpath line on each side of the new Access Road and installing a timber post and rail fence behind this would tidy up the approach to the facility, prevent the housing plot from being used for ASB and improve pedestrian safety. A budget of £2,000 would probably be sufficient for this work, if necessary, after CW&C have constructed the road.

2) Dunkil spending Limit

Resolved 20/191 – That the Parish Council increase the spending limit previously agreed on the 25th July 2019 from £270k to £290K.

3) Outdoor Gym equipment

The Council agreed to circulate the consultation document on the outdoor gym equipment. A concern was raised about the style of equipment suggested and maintenance costs and whether wooden equipment may be more appropriate. It was agreed the outcome of the consultation would be discussed in an informal meeting.

Resolved 20/192 – That the Parish Council agree a budget of up to £16k for supply of outdoor gym equipment noting installation would be carried out by Dunkil at a cost of approximately £5k, it was noted these costs had been included in the financial forecast.

4) Children's Play Equipment

Resolved 20/193 – That the Parish Council agree a budget of up to £22k for the supply and installation of 3 pieces of play equipment to be funded by S106 funding which had not yet been drawn down.

5) Combined Bin and Sports Equipment Store

Resolved 20/194 – That the Parish Council agree the supply and installation of the store at a cost of £7011 plus vat to be funded by S106 money.

The Council thanked Councillors Millington and Ravenscroft for all their hard work on this project.

11. Additional Car Parking

The Council noted the letter from response from Andrew Lewis, CW&C Chief Executive regarding additional parking.

12. Public Rights of Way

The Council noted the annual report of Mr David Press the Council's footpath officer and that the PROW Working Group had met in May to discuss the report and its recommendations (from page 285 of the Minutes).

Resolved 20/195 – That Council agree the recommendations of the PROW working group from pages 291-292 of the minutes.

13. Poppy Lane Car Park Planting

Resolved 20/196 – That Council agree a budget of up to £7k for the supply and planting of the scheme on Poppy Lane Car Park including the removal of some trees, the provision of bicycle racks and asphaltting of the small triangles on the car park, and that this money would be allocated from the CIL funding.

14. Village Maintenance

It was agreed any concerns relating to village maintenance be highlighted to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk to be raised with Grants as appropriate.

Resolved 20/197 – That Council record a vote of thanks to Roy Johnson for his services to the Parish Council.

15. Village Rebranding

1) Update & Actions

The notes of the last working group meeting on the 24th June were noted, from page 280 of the minutes.

Resolved 20/198 – That Council purchase a Royal Mail response licence if required at a cost of £99.50 plus VAT.

2) Village Website

It was agreed the working group would investigate the creation of the village website further and report back to the Council's September meeting.

16. Dementia Friendly Tarporley

It was agreed the Council supported in principle Tarporley becoming dementia friendly and would be happy to raise awareness of appropriate schemes. It was agreed the idea should be raised with the business community.

17. Allotments & Bowling Green Leases

It was noted that leases were not yet finalised, and that information is still outstanding from the Council's solicitor, it was hoped it would be ready for the Council's September meeting.

18. Accounts & Payments

1) First Quarter Accounts & Budget

It was noted that the Council is in a strong financial position and against budget.

It was agreed that the Community Infrastructure Funding (CIL) of £53,929.00 be allocated as below:

£31.5k – Brook Road Outdoor Sports & Recreation Field car park

£10k – Tarporley Community Centre Roof

£7k – Poppy Lane Car Park

Total £48.5k

Resolved 20/199 – That the Council approve the first quarter accounts as on page 92 of the Cashbook including the below payments.

Grants Gardening Services	Poppy Lane Hedge	430.00
A. Webb	Reim - Banner	71.82

L. Marley	Paint & Compost	102.00
G. Bark	Mileage - 26 miles @ 45p	11.70
Grants Gardening Services	Poppy Lane Path Hedge	100.00
G. Pearson	Emergency Phone	142.80
R. Johnson	Lengthsman	1260.00
L. Marley	Misc. sunflowers	173.72
C. Helm	Weed Killing Equipment	72.68
L. Miller	Plants etc for planter	89.26
A. Wright	Bowser Battery	37.92
J. Millington	Bowser safety equipment	38.92
L. Marley	Canes	52.33
G. Bark	Mileage - 6 miles @ 45p	2.70

2) Accounts and Payments

Cllr Millington declared a pecuniary interest in the payments of Jack Millington and took no part in that discussion.

Resolved 20/197 – That the Council approve payments as listed on page 93 of the Cash Book and the bank reconciliation plus additional invoices received:

Business Print & Design	Play area notices	153.60
ICO	Data Registration	35.00
Grants Gardening Services	Ground Maintenance & Poppy Lane	1865.00
Tattenhall & District PC	Contribution towards Zoom (2 months)	23.98
Jack Millington	Watering (x5)	110.00
Gaskells	Cemetery Bon	77.72
Abbie Webb	Salary	781.33
Ann Wright	Salary	774.75
HMRC	Paye/Ni	180.28
Dunkil Developments Ltd	Brook Road Payment 3	101393.93
Nest	Pension contribution	146.21
Rose Fam Shop	Emergency food parcel	25.00

19. Tarporley Parish Council Volunteers – Covid 19 & Sunflowers

It was reported that the emergency phonenumber was expected to close on the 31st July and that users had been advised that if they still required support after the 31st this would be put in place, Cllrs Helm, Ravenscroft and Tavernor will review how this is achieved. The last Tarporley Information flier is due to go out towards the end of the month and will focus on the Sunflower

Day which will include a sunflower trail, and art competition submissions will be displayed around the village.

Meeting closed: 9.44pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Ann Wright
14-07-20

Next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting:
Monday 14th September 2020, 7pm.
Location TBC.

Tarporley Parish Council Minute Book

Committees, Working Groups and Other Meetings

Presented at the July 2020 Meeting

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Notes of Branding Working Group Meeting 10th June 2020, Held Virtually via Zoom.

Present:

Catherine Helm, Gordon Pearson, Mark Ravenscroft, Peter Tavernor, Nigel Taylor, Ann Wright (Clerk).

Purpose of meeting: To discussion ways of moving the branding project forward.

It was noted that the working group had last met at the beginning of the year and had agreed a terms of reference for the group which were agreed by the Council at the March meeting.

Chairman

It was agreed that Cllr. Mark Ravenscroft would Chair the working group.

Discussion

It was discussed that the scope of the group should be broader than just the branding aspect associated with how Tarporley is perceived but should also cover potential substantive changes to the village. Nevertheless, it should have reasonable boundaries and a realistic time frame for delivering its objectives. The Group should seek to bring about real change and to achieve this residents and businesses need to be actively involved in order to be able to relate to the project. The title of the Working Group should reflect this broader scope.

It was noted the project links to the Neighbourhood Plan which wanted to encourage tourism and to Parish Council scheme to maintain public rights of way (PROW).

It is about how Tarporley looks and how it presents itself.

It was noted that discussions with the Sandstone Ridge Trust had highlighted the importance of creating a sense of place and belonging, something which is present in the Neighbourhood Plans vision and objectives.

The project should deliver practical results.

It was discussed how this project could be linked with the Tarporley Village Project which has been developed by the covid-19 volunteers comms team.

It was agreed there is a need for the working group to develop the project further and see if the 2 projects can fit together and work in partnership.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had looked to promote and support 'Destination Tarporley' and one of the actions had been to commission a professional study of how tourism could be encouraged.

This links with the Sandstone Ridge Trust concept of Tarporley as the heart of the ridge and the desire to promote the PROW and links into and out of Tarporley.

Action: Group to consider title for the project and working group.

Village Website

It was discussed whether the Parish Council is the correct body to commission a village website, separate to the Parish Council's site.

The site should include business directories, marketing and what's on guides.

It was suggested the best body to do this would be the Parish Council due to its permanence and that the Council should consider developing a specification for the website and should have a degree of control of the website by owning the domain and hosting and agree regulations regarding content but that the site should be managed under a contract with another body.

Action: Group to consider what they would want on the website, find good examples (e.g. Ludlow) and look at possible funding models.

Action: To identify any web design companies currently based in Tarporley.

It was agreed that there was need to broaden the membership of the working group. It was noted that what Tarporley looks like is driven by those who live and work in the village as such for the project to be a success residents and businesses need to buy into the project and have a sense of shared ownership.

Core Material

It was agreed a core pack of material needs to be created which can be used as the basis for focus groups and consultation which includes:

- Neighbourhood Plan Ambitions
- Sandstone Ridge Trust Aspirations
- Post-Covid19 Opportunities

These will link to the Deliverables list which includes:

- Agreed branding identity
- Tarporley Logo
- Graphic design elements for Signs, Website, etc
- Village entry signs
- Information signs
- Village website
- Village marketing
- Roundabout revamp
- Entry road verges revamp
- High Street redesign
- Village centre facilities revamp – car parks, toilets, phone box, bike racks, planting, seating, etc
- Public art brief

Plus, there is a link with the S106 Arts Funding.

It was agreed that focus groups could look at specific topics and that these groups would feed back into a steering group to drive the project forward.

Action: That the public should be made aware of the project as soon as practicable.

It was noted that some people should be specifically invited to attend focus groups as well as calling for volunteers to take part.

To attract people to get involved it was noted the project must be relevant – unique post-Covid19 Opportunities for the High Street.

It was noted that there was a need to engage with and seek input from the wider community, perhaps via a newsletter and questionnaire, in a similar way to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. This would likely be after the establishment of the Focus Groups

It was noted that the proposed review of the Neighbourhood Plan should take place after the scope of this Working Group becomes more clear.

It was noted this is also a time of change for the Parish Council with increasing ownership of village assets including Poppy Lane Car Park, The Bowling Green, Allotments and Brook Road field.

In addition, there is a large amount of heritage assets and history to promote.

It was suggested the briefing would include visual information to open discussions.

Action: That the group identify people to invite to the focus groups.

Action: That Gordon Pearson would produce a “storyline” for the proposed briefing pack, which would provide the basis for the Working Group to develop the briefing pack.

Action: Clerk to contact Sandstone Ridge Trust to confirm intention to progress Tarpoley as heart if the sandstone ridge.¹

Action: That Peter Tavernor create visual aids for the briefing pack

- Showing - Neighbourhood Plan ambitions, Sandstone Ridge Trust Aspirations, Post-Covid19 Opportunities.
- Showing – ‘Positive Noise’ – Stay @ Home Tarp, Brook Road field etc.

**Next Meeting
Wednesday 24th June, 4pm.
virtually via Zoom.**

Ann Wright
11 06 2020.

¹ 10 06 20 – conversation with Andrew Hull of the Trust, confirmed still looking to progress the scheme and 2 additional Parish Councils have also expressed an interest in linking up with the Trust.

Notes of Informal Meeting
Temporary Covid-19 Traffic Arrangements for Tarporley High Street
Thursday 11th June along Tarporley High Street 11am

Present:

Jerry Gibbs – CWAC Highways

Ian Tordoff – CWAC Events Planning

Gordon Pearson – Tarporley Parish Council

1. The objective of this meeting was to establish what temporary arrangements are necessary to enable socially distant queuing and, where possible, al fresco dining as businesses re-open along the High Street.
2. CWAC decisions on the relaxation of al fresco licensing and planning permission requirements have yet to be decided/announced but it is understood that they are working to achieve this.
3. CWAC are now rolling out a phased set of measures in towns and villages throughout the borough, these include:
 - a. Social distance signs on pavements
 - b. Social distance repeater signs along pavements
 - c. Closure of parking bays alongside narrow pavements where necessary to create socially distant passing space.
 - d. Implementing one-way systems where appropriate to create socially distant passing space and to enable al fresco dining on pavements
4. Much of this work is experimental and will be adjusted as lessons are learned.
5. Traffic safety regulations still apply and will determine the space available for al fresco dining.
6. The scheme for Tarporley will involve a mixture of the measures identified in point 3, specifically:
 - a. A one-way system running North to South down the High Street between Forest Road and Birch Heath Road.
 - b. Removal of some parking bays along the road (particularly in front of the Co-op to enable delivery lorry parking.)
 - c. Removal of some double yellow lines to create additional parking bays where reduction of the road to one-way traffic allows.
 - d. Coning some stretches to move the one-way lane more to one side of the road or the other to create additional space for al fresco dining. Much of the road length would not be coned.
 - e. Possibly additional dropped kerbs in places.
 - f. The al fresco dining would generally be only one table deep in front of the property.
 - g. Together with the net 7 new spaces in the Rising Sun car park the overall impact on the number of car parking spaces would be positive.
7. It was noted that we could ask Jones Homes to retain and make public the 7 temporary car parking spaces by their sales office until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
8. Parish Council to communicate to residents and businesses to explain what is going to happen and why, albeit the exact details are yet to be worked up into a plan for the traffic management company to implement.
9. Ian Tordoff would attend the work to make sure the traffic management plan is implemented as intended.
10. Timescales:
 - a. Signage and removal of some parking bays should be in place for next week.
 - b. The whole scheme should be in place before 4th July, possible sooner.
11. Adjustments may be made to the scheme as necessary or desirable once we have experience of how it works out in practice.

Notes of Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan Review Working Group**17th June 2020, Conducted via Zoom.****Present:**

Toni Burke, Michael George, Gordon Pearson (Chairman), Peter Tavernor, Nigel Taylor.

Clerk - Ann Wright

Louise Kirkup (LK) - Kirkwells - town planning and sustainable development consultants

Purpose of meeting: To discussion possible review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The group stated they wanted to understand what they can do when reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, how easy the process is, can the settlement boundary be amended and is it possible to allocate development space.

It was asked if Plans should be reviewed and if not, do they become vulnerable.

LK explained that the extent of change dictates the process which has to be followed and that there are three levels of changes:

Level 1 Minor Amendments

Which make non-material changes to the plan including corrections and updating references.

These changes would be implemented by the Local Authority.

Level 2 Material Modifications

Where changes do not change the nature of the plan, including tightening design criteria, allocating 1 or more sites for development.

These would go out for consultation and be referred to the examiner who would decide if these changes can be adopted or should go to referendum.

Level 3 Material Modifications

Major changes which change the nature of the Plan.

These would go out to consultation, to the examiner and out to referendum.

Settlement Boundary

It was noted that the settlement boundary was drawn tight around Tarporley and that the Daffodil Field (Chestnut Grange) outside it, was asked if the boundary should be redrawn to bring the development inside.

It was suggested that this might be achieved as a level one change.

NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework)

Since the Plan was made in 2016 there has been a shift in planning policy which can be identified in the revised NPPF published early 2019.

This shift includes biodiversity, climate change/sustainability, and changes to High Streets it was thought there may be further shifts resulting from Covid-19.

It was noted some Neighbourhood Plan reviews result from Local Authorities revising and reviewing their Local Plans and housing allocations.

Former Royal British Legion Site

It was noted that the section on the former RBL is now out of date as that land has been developed including a replacement car park off the High Street, Bowling Green and 2/3s of the allotments being retained and the development of 10 houses.

It was though this section could be removed from the Plan as a minor amendment, bringing it up to date.

Local Green Space

It was noted that designated green space is a very strong protection like green belt and any development requires very special circumstances to be identified. It was noted that these very special circumstances are set out by the NPPF and are specific.

LK stated where green spaces are designated it is generally to enhance the control over the land and prevent development. As a result of this local authorities may resist development of these areas as it could set a precedent for green spaces designated in other neighbourhood plan areas.

It was stated that examiners are now paying increased attention to this designation and ensuring they meet the criteria in the NPPF.

It was noted of the 9 designated green spaces in the Plan, 1 has been lost and a 2nd reduced as such these should be brought up to date and all the remaining sites should be reviewed against the criteria. In addition it was noted to change the designation of one green space all the allocated green space would need to be reviewed.

It was noted that all but very minor changes require a Regulation 14 formal 6-week consultation after which the plan would be submitted to an examiner.

It was noted that discussions as to what are Level 1 or Level 2 changes needs to be discussed with CW&C and the examiner will decide if a referendum is required. As such it was important to set out to CW&C what changes are wanted.

It was suggested even with significant changes the plan could be revised in 12 months.

It was believed that prioritisation of objectives would possibly be a level 1 Change, Changes to policy wording to clarify or strengthen policies would possibly be a level 2 change.

It was noted predicting the levels of different changes was difficult and would only be confirmed in discussion with CW&C and following examination.

It was noted that land can be designated for specific things including a care home, car parking or community use/infrastructure rather than general development.

It was noted that removing all designations on land outside the settlement boundary could open it up for general development if the CW&C falls short of its 5 years housing land supply.

Parking

It was noted when the Plan was being written that the priority had been bringing about appropriate development and infrastructure, although this is not identified as a priority in the Plan itself.

Now with Tarporley having met its housing numbers things have changed and parking has become a priority, noting that parking was one of the key issues identified in the survey at the time.

It was noted that parking is a 'tricky' issue in the current planning climate as policy is trying the shift away from use of private cars towards walking and cycling and parking can be a point of conflict with this shift.

Parking should include charging points for cars and bicycles as well as bike racks.

It was suggested discussions need to take place with the local authority in terms of the transport strategy. It was noted CW&C published a Parking Strategy and Action Plan for Tarporley in January 2019 which identified a requirement for 50-100 additional parking spaces.

Prioritisation

It was noted that the Plan policies should not be prioritised as the Plan should be seen in the whole however objectives could be reordered.

Calls for Sites

Calls for sites do not have to be just for housing and could be for a car park or any other form of development. Sites put forward need to be assessed and can be consulted on and do not have to be taken forward.

The submission of a site confirms the intention for that site to be developed.

A call for sites shows that all landowners have had an equal chance of their land being utilised.

Future Planning Policy

It was noted planning policy already promotes development.

Neighbourhood Plan Protection

It was noted that if the Local Authority fails to have a 5-year housing land supply a neighbourhood plan area can be protected from inappropriate development if it meets a number of criteria:

- If the LA has a 3 years land supply or 45% of its requirement.
- If the plan has been made or reviewed in the previous 2 years
- If the plan includes land allocations.

It was noted by LK that a Plan which is aligned with the revised NPPF will have more strength.

It was noted the examiner was severe when reviewing and removing policies from the Plan and the removed policies could be revisited as part of the review.

To review the Plan and not the policies would be a missed opportunity.

LK confirmed she was now working with groups to review plans one of which was older than the Tarporley Plan another was 2 years old and was being reviewed as that Local Authority was reviewing their Plan.

LK reported that one plan rather than allocating sites had designated sites as 'Housing Opportunity Sites' this was yet to go to examination.

It was suggested when writing the Plan there had been an emphasis on the background to and the justification of policies rather than of the wording.

High Street Design

It was confirmed Neighbourhood Plans could look at High Street design but not in terms of traffic regulations.

Localities are now funding technical support for the development of design codes for neighbourhood plan groups

Consultation

It was noted that consultations and surveys can be done as part of the review but that there is no necessity to undertake the detailed survey work done when originally writing the Plan.

Shifts in Planning PolicyBiodiversity

The emphasis is moving away from protection of biodiversity to the towards net gains.

Climate Change

The Centre for Climate Change produced a number of technical reports earlier in 2020 which are likely to start feeding into Planning Policy, there is a massive global shift towards climate resilience and being able to cope with extreme weather as well as moves towards carbon neutrality.

Health

Health is being linked with planning and is part of the revised NPPF.

The chairman thanked Louise Kirkup for attending the meeting and taking part in the discussion.

Ann Wright 18 06 2020.

DRAFT

Tarporley Parish Council meeting
Poppy Lane Car Park Site Visit Friday 19th June at 1pm

Attendance:

Cllr Gill Cloughw

Cllr Catherine Helm

Cllr Lisa Miller

Abigail Webb

Grant Howard – Grants Gardening Ltd

New hedge along Oathills footpath:

Grant's work to comprise digging out and disposal of excess soil, debris and roots. Levelling off soil, either flat between path and kerb where possible, or sloping down between path and kerb elsewhere. Border to be left in a suitable state ready for planting, with no further preparation required.

Planting to comprise Hypericum rescued from Oathills Lea. Hypericum chosen because it will bind the soil in the sloping part of the border better than slower growing hedging plants. Shortfall in plants to be made up with bought Hypericum plants. Grant's to get us a price for the plants and we can compare this with a price that we can obtain from Morrey's.

Planting team possibly volunteers?

Also noted, the light pole is unsafe and needs work.

Action - Grant's to provide a price by Monday 22nd June for getting the border into a fit state for planting. **Update Grants quote for this work is £200 plus the cost of a skip to remove the excess soil and debris etc. Grants are available to complete the work the week commencing 29th June 2020.**

Triangular border next to Poppy Lane sign

Discussed putting bike racks with grass surrounds and to leave space for a car park sign if required.

Grant's work would comprise digging over and making good the ground, seeding the grass.

Seeding is a late summer job. (Not discussed, but PC might have to organise regular watering of new seeded area).

Regular maintenance would comprise cutting the grass. Also cutting the hedge at the back.

We didn't discuss who would put in cycle racks or when this would happen.

Thin border at western edge of car park

Grant's to dig over and improve the visual quality of the border but agreed that the border is too narrow and too close to parked cars to be planted up.

Regular maintenance would comprise hedge cutting and spot-spraying

Main E-W Border

Grant's to dig over and level soil as much as possible and prepare the soil ready for planting.

Agreed that no liner would be placed as it causes too many weed problems and border can be barked after planting. Weeds can be spot-sprayed when needed.

There are significant barriers to potential planting in this border as there are large self-sown weed trees, which cast significant shade, make the soil dry and fill the soil with roots.

Agreed that, in particular, the self-sown ash and large sycamores in this border are a significant barrier to successful planting and in some cases these trees are unsafe.

Agreed that it would be best to remove the ash and the 3 large sycamores. The 2 sycamores each side of the school gate are dangerous anyway, as the car park contractor has cut away a reasonable proportion of the roots, especially on the tree just west of the school gate. Photos on separate email. All the trees have unsightly and potentially dangerous branches.

Agreed that the 2 damson trees and 2 cherries that are mixed in with a large holly tree should be removed, one is dangerous as it appears to be supported by a wooden pole, which also should be removed. The other damsons and cherry are thin and straggly and unsightly.

Agreed that the holly tree should be cut to about 6ft in height, to encourage healthy growth from the base and reduce shade to the border.

Agreed that further east along the border are a yew and a further holly that should probably also be removed. The yew is a potential problem for children as it has toxic berries. Both trees are unsightly and cast shade over the border.

Grant's indicated that the cost of just the tree work in this border would be at least £1000 and would take a few days. It would need to be done over the school holiday, when the car park is quieter and no children are around. Part of the car part would need to be coned off and the neighbouring householders notified about noise and working hours, which are likely to be 8am to 6pm.

This work would open-up the border, allow levelling off and improvement of the soil and would give newly planted shrubs a good chance of healthy growth.

Discussed planting an evergreen hedge at the back of this border where the school barrier is an open wire fence. This would give a good planting backdrop and a dense hedge would fulfil the school's requirement to safeguard children playing in the yard. Agreed that Portuguese laurel would be a good candidate for this.

Regular maintenance would comprise spot-spraying and pruning to keep kerb edge clear only. Hedge cutting, if a hedge was planted.

Regular shaping/pruning of shrubs is **definitely not required**, what we want is a tapestry of growth, not mounds of neatly cut shrubs with bare soil between them.

Thin border along wall at eastern edge

Agreed that the soil needs digging over and possibly improving.

Agreed that a patchwork of Euonymus would look good here as the proposed Hypericum is now going in the border along the Oathills pathway.

Minimal regular maintenance, mainly keeping stray branches off the kerb.

2 Small triangles at edge of access road

Agreed that these should be covered in tarmac or concreted over.

No regular maintenance required.

Border at Poppy Lane houses entrance

Agreed that despite already being planted-up this border is an eyesore and out of keeping with plans for the rest of the site.

Agreed that the hedge needs tidying up, including removal of self-seeded ash and sycamore.

Agreed that the mature sycamore next to the wall needs some crown lifting work, mainly over the Oathills path. Grant's indicated that this tree work would take about 3 hours and the path would need to be closed.

Agreed that this border could be planted with Hypericum to be in continuity with the rest of the Oathills path border.

Regular maintenance would comprise spot-spraying, hedge cutting and pruning of branches over-hanging the kerb.

Misc Poppy Lane

Grant's said they could do all this work in a couple of weeks time but needs to provide a price first for the Parish Council to agree.

Burton Square

Gill discussed lopping the laurel hedge around the gas station. We need to ask Grant's for a price to do this work.

Chestnut Pavilion

It is not in the contract for Grant's to cut the grass at the Chestnut Pavilion however Grant said that this is a very small job and he will add this onto his work schedule. (Do we need to add this onto the maintenance contract?) Grant's agreed to do this work soon.

The cobbles around the Chestnut Pavilion were sprayed by Grant's.
Discussed possible bulb planting under the tree as an option in the autumn.

Decision from the Council

To approve quote to remove soil/debris for new hedge along Oathills path. (£200 plus cost of skip – work to take place the week of the 29th June if approved).

To ask Grants to quote for the work on the different areas of Poppy Lane Car Park.

To ask Grants to quote for the work at Burton Square (reduce size of Laurel hedge).

Tarporley Parish Council Update Meeting Monday 22nd June 2020 6.30pm Via zoom

Present

Cllr Gordon Pearson
Cllr Catherine Helm
Cllr Mark Ravenscroft
Cllr Andrew Wallace
Ann Wright – Clerk
Abigail Webb – Deputy Clerk

Cllr Gill Clough
Cllr Lisa Miller
Cllr Peter Tavernor

Cllr Elaine Chapman
Cllr John Millington
Cllr Nigel Taylor

High Street – One-way system.

A temporary one-way traffic system is still under consideration by CWAC to help support the local businesses along Tarporley High Street. The provisional date for this is 4th July although no decision has been made yet. Overall, the High Street businesses are in favour of the new one-way scheme and 5 businesses have already suggested that they would make use of the new alfresco dining guidance.

Arriva bus company has refused to use the one-way system along the High Street if it comes into force however their decision will not stop CWAC from implementing the new scheme.

If the Parish Council have not received any updates within the next couple of days, an email will be sent to all businesses to inform them of the latest information and then the wider community will be informed.

If the one-way system is approved, the Parish Council will consider circulating a flier to every household advising them of the changes being made, this may be combined with the distribution of the latest information on the Brook Road development.

Tidy up the High Street

The area outside the old NatWest bank, outside St Helen's Church and the Chestnut Pavilion need tidying up.

Action – Peter and Lisa to arrange a work party for this weekend ((27/28th June) to target these areas. A request for help will be posted on the Best Kept Village / Tarporley Facebook pages plus an email will be sent to all the volunteers asking for assistance.

Catherine is now able to weed kill as she holds a certificate of competence for spraying on hard surfaces and soil.

Action – Catherine to spray the weeds outside the school the primary school.

Path from Forest Road to Cottage hospital

The holly is very overgrown along the path and needs cutting back. Members of the 41 Club will lay the stones once the holly has been cut back.

Action – Deputy Clerk to ask Grants for a quote to cut back the holly.

Weeds

There are a lot of weeds outside Coral booking shop and the Sorting Office.

Action – Clerk to write to Coral and Sorting office to ask them to remove.

Action – Lisa to get photographs

Helpline

The helpline will continue until the 31st July. The number of calls have reduced week on week and only 20 calls last week. A discussion will take place on Tuesday 30th June with the team

leaders to discuss how to close the scheme down. The telephone number will be kept available in case it is needed in the future.

Stay Sunny Tarps

There has been a positive response with regards to the planting effort by the Stay Sunny Tarps team. Tarporley Gardening Centre have offered to sponsor the event and are providing prize and The Swan Hotel have offered to host the Stay Sunny Tarps event.

There has been approximately 30 pieces of artwork that has been submitted so far and Louise Marley is collecting artwork from both the primary and secondary school this week.

There has been some issue with the sponsorship form online which states that the donation fee is £5 as opposed to £2 but Louise is working with the Cottage Hospital to try and change this.

Lengthsman Update

A meeting has taken place with all involved and an agreement has been reached.

Teen shelter

There has been a number of incidents of young people hanging around the teen shelter. The shelter has been taped up twice now and the tape has been removed.

The roof is due to be replaced as such it was agreed that heras fencing be erected around the shelter to make it secure with a notice to inform people that the shelter is out of use until the roof has been replaced.

There have been a number of complaints regarding ASB in the village, mainly on the playing field and broken glass bottles have been found on the grass.

Action – PCSO to be asked to patrol the playing field, particularly on a Friday and Saturday evening.

Care Home and Car Park

Following the decision by CWAC to refuse the planning application for the Care Home and car park in Tarporley, the Developer is waiting to hear back from their legal advisers regarding whether to appeal the decision.

Poppy Lane Car Park

A report was circulated to all Councillors regarding the planting scheme at Poppy Lane Car Park.

Action – Grants to clear the debris and soil next to the path leading up to Oathills Lea so that Hypericum can be planted there. Work to take place the week commencing 29th June.

Action – Grants to provide quotes for work on the other areas of the car park for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action – Deputy Clerk to liaise with Grants re: quotes.

Action – Deputy Clerk to write to resident in Coronation Crescent re: overhanging branches.

Action – Deputy Clerk to contact Conservation Officer re: cutting down trees in car park as it is in a Conservation area.

Notes of Branding Working Group Meeting 24th June 2020, Held Virtually via Zoom.

Present:

Catherine Helm, Gordon Pearson, Mark Ravenscroft (Chairman),
Peter Tavernor, Nigel Taylor.
Ann Wright (Clerk).

Notes of previous meeting.

Approved.

Working group title.

It was agreed if possible, to use 'Tarporley Village Project' as a name for the working group and project as whole.

Action – MR to contact volunteers regarding use of the name.

Focus groups membership.

MR confirmed he had identified a list of 20 people to be invited to take part in a focus group, however it was recognised that the people had similar socio-economic backgrounds as such more people needed to be identified of different ages and backgrounds to be more representative of a cross section of Tarporley.

It was agreed that an invite could be circulated through social media.

It was discussed that it would be good to include the High School and Primary schools.

It was noted that it was important to try and make all residents aware of the project and encourage them to get involved.

The possibility of producing a questionnaire was discussed and running this in parallel with the focus groups.

It was noted there was a need to have a business's focus group.

Action – GP to identify participants in a business's focus group.

It was agreed that focus groups may be more attractive and efficient as zoom sessions.

It was agreed to develop a postcard to distribute to every household with simple message based on:

- 1) Do you like the High street?
- 2) How can it be improved?
- 3) Contact information?

Action – NT to work on wording.

Action – Group to review brief prepared by GP & NT to feedback comments.

It was agreed that a link to the sandstone ridge website needed to be included.

Village website specification.

GP had circulated a draft specification for the website.

It was noted the website will be the primary vehicle for marketing Tarporley and its businesses.

MR reported he had spoken to the developer of the Ludlow site which had initially been funded by Ludlow Town Council, Tourist Information and the Chamber of Commerce and has been in

place for around 20 years. The site is now funded by the businesses and the Town Council has no editorial rights over it.

It was agreed that the Council should consider funding the website to get it established and for it to be maintained. It was suggested the site should be created to allow information to be easily added and that perhaps volunteers could post information and businesses keep their own information up to date, however it was recognised that some professional administration will be required as well.

It was agreed that criteria will need agreeing as to what businesses can be included on the website, which is aimed at promoting Tarporley, for example could Rose Farm shop be included.

Action – GP to develop tender document for website to be agreed by the Group.

Action – July PC agenda to include update and budget for commissioning village website.

Next Meeting
Thursday 16th July, 4pm.
virtually via Zoom.

Ann Wright
25 06 2020.

Tarporley Parish Council Cemetery Management Committee Meeting
Held virtually via ZOOM on Monday 29th June

(following visual inspection of the cemetery on Thursday 25th June 2020.)

Committee Members

Chairman – Cllr John Millington

Cllr. E Chapman, Cllr. P Tavernor, Cllr. A Wallace.

Clerk Ann Wright

Other

Public 0

1. Chairman

Resolved - Cllr. John Millington was confirmed at Committee Chairman for 2020-2021.

2. Apologies for Absence

All members present.

3. Declaration of Interests

No interests declared.

4. Minutes

Resolved - that the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting held 2nd April 2019 as a true and proper record as soon as possible.

5. Public Participation

No public in attendance.

6. Committee Standing Orders & Membership

Resolved – that the Committee recommend no change to the standing orders.

7. Cemetery Rules

The Committee reviewed the Cemetery Regulations.

Section 3 - Graves

It was agreed that the Committee would write to all exclusive rights holders with an update regarding the installation of the path and replacement fence and to remind them of section 3 of the Regulations and the need to keep graves clear of ornaments etc to allow the cemetery to be maintained to a high standard at all times.

It was agreed to erect a notice in the cemetery noticeboard highlighting Regulation 3.

It was agreed to insert a section to the interment and memorial application forms that a copy of the Regulations have been received and will be abided by.

It was agreed not to amend the Regulations in relation to items allowed on graves at this time but to review the Cemetery again in 2021 and if required impose tighter Regulations at that time.

An amendment was agreed to Regulation 3.4 to read:

No person is allowed to plant any tree, shrub or plant on any grave in the Cemetery, any such

plant material found will be removed and disposed of. The Parish Council will arrange for newly opened graves to be raked over and grass seeded once the grave has initially settled.

It was agreed to obtain prices for the supply and installation of a standard plinth as part of the burial package so that all plinths are the same size and are installed in line.

Section 4 – Memorials

It was agreed to insert a plinth size for the conventional and cremation graves memorials, in Regulations 4.2 and 4.w respectively, for convention graves this will be 36x24x3 inches, the size for cremation graves was to be confirmed and that any variation on this would need to be approved by the Clerk and that the plinths are to be set proud of the ground.

An amendment was agreed to Regulation 4.11 to read:

The rear vertical surface of each of the headstones to be aligned with all the other memorials in the same row.

8. Cemetery Fees

Resolved – that the cemetery fees be amended to the below as of the 1st August 2020, subject to approval by the Parish Council:

EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS (Including pre purchase)

Exclusive right of burial in an earthen grave	500
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Exclusive right of burial of cremated remains in Cremated remains burial plot	250
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INTERMENT FEES

1st (Adult)	375
Subsequent burials	(*as above)

1st (Child up to 16 years)	no charge*
Subsequent burials	(*as above)

Public Grave (Adult)	375
Public Grave (Child up to 16 years)	no charge

Cremated remains plot	
1st (Adult)	145*
(Child up to 16 years)	no charge
Subsequent burials	(*as above)

OTHER CHARGES

For the right to erect a Headstone inc. first inscription	120
For the right to each additional subscription	50
Transfer of burial rights	50
Certified copy of the records	50
Search in the Register per year	50

9. Cemetery Maintenance

It was noted that the Clerk was still awaiting confirmation of when Northwich Town Council will replace the fence and install the path, once the fence has been installed the stone wall around the garden area can be rebuilt.

It was agreed that the cherry tree by the entrance gate to the Cemetery needed cutting back but that this could be done by volunteers.

It was agreed to get the hedge cut back to allow access for the next two grave spaces and to obtain a price for cutting the whole hedge back once the nesting season is over.

It was agreed to obtain a schedule of when the Cemetery grass is cut.

10. Grave Inspection

It was noted that the graves and headstones had been inspected on Thursday 25th June 2020 and that all were in a good safe condition.

11. Communal Ashes Area

It was agreed to review this matter including possible plaques for those whose ashes have been scattered once the path has been installed.

12. Headstone Application

The Committee reviewed the headstone application for plot 29.

It was noted that the Regulations do not permit the erection of an additional headstone however the committee was prepared to allow it if the new plinth and main headstone is aligned forward with other headstones on that row and that there should be no gap between the main and new memorials. The cost for erecting the new memorial will be £120.

The Committee reviewed the headstone application for plot 13B.

It was noted this headstone had been installed despite the application being refused as it was too large for a cremation plot. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the stonemason and ask for confirmation that the family is aware that the memorial will require amending and that the memorial will be amended by the 1st September 2020 at which point the Council will contact the family directly and seek to have the memorial removed.

The meeting closed at 8.39pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Ann Wright
Clerk
30th June 2020

TARPORLEY FOOTPATHS IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

REPORT BY DAVID PRESS, PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATH WARDEN

INTRODUCTION

In January and February this year I have walked all the Tarporley paths to audit the condition of our rights of way and identify changes since my last audit in January/February 2019.

This report: summarises the overall condition of paths and notes developments since my last annual report in January/February 2019, records my findings for each path, makes recommendations for decisions and actions

SUMMARY OF OVERALL CONDITION AND ACTION DURING THE LAST YEAR

Most of our paths are signposted.

In the past year no more of the Parish Council gates have been installed, meaning that nine of the ten metal gates and the one wooden kissing gate which the Parish Council purchased have now been accounted for. There is one redundant kissing gate on the Sandstone Trail north of FP3 available for re-use. Therefore we have the opportunity to install two more kissing gates. This is in addition to the two we hope to relocate from FP17.

The diversion of footpath 17, to follow the route most people use to skirt the regularly flooded area, awaits action from CWaC. The landowner has agreed and CWAC has been asked to consider a diversion in the public interest.

The usual culprits for paths ploughed, planted and not reinstated are FP3 (north west of the Sandstone Trail) FP8 and FP23. Currently they are walkable, but the absence of a line on the ground may deter someone uncertain of the route.

The route from the A51/A49 roundabout following RB9/Delamere Loop/RB20 to Forest Road is often overgrown each year, but looks as if it has been well cut back and I'm hopeful that the route will be better this year.

The PROW Officer and I repeated our efforts for a third time in four years to improve drainage on FP18 and it does appear to have maintained the improvement throughout the year, apart from the day I walked in January when it was a running stream.

Led by Andrew Wallace volunteers have laid gravel on about half of fp12, with a very positive outcome. It would be good to complete the southern half.

Lisa Miller, prompted by members of the silver band, organised the laying of woodchip on FP4 between High Street and the band hut. The woodchip was donated by a local tree surgeon, Oliver Davies, and barrowed onto the path by band members. It is a significant improvement.

DWH development have improved a short length of FP1, which is now frustratingly almost, but not quite, good enough for walking in town shoes. Similarly, FP10 from Utkinton Road to behind Heathfields has some lengths of very good surface interspersed by muddy sections. The PC might consider improving these two paths' surfaces.

The landowner has said that when she applies for planning permission for development at Tiresford farm then she will consider formalizing a route through the A49 underpass. The Parish Council might want to ensure that this is the case.

Last year the Parish Council agreed that the Parish Council website would become a host, or at least incorporate links to, the walks on my Tarporley Walks Facebook page. This remains to be done.

REPORT ON EACH PATH

FP 1 from Captains Walk to junction with Tiverton FP21 (south of Birch Heath and west of by-pass)

This path is in pretty good order from Nantwich Road to the David Wilson Homes site and DWH have improved the surface on a part of the path. This should be a popular route for residents on the new estate to access Nantwich Road, but it needs further improvement for it to be used as an urban path. On the far side of the by-pass the path continues in good order.

FP 2 from St Helen's churchyard to Birch Heath Road/Redhill (between Redhill cottages and Redhill farm)

The path is in good condition. The finger post on the wooden sign beside the lych gate has been renewed.

Where the path runs alongside the churchyard it gets very muddy and could be a candidate for investing in surface improvement. Woodchip might work well here. However, because of the alternative well surfaced routes through the churchyard, I wouldn't consider this a priority over FP1 and FP10.

The sign at the junction with Redhill has been re-installed.

FP 3 from car park behind Rising Sun to west of the Sandstone trail and junction with Iddinshall FP1/FP2

Most of the path is in good condition, apart from one section which in February was submerged by a newly formed pond – West of the bypass just before the dismantled tree stile.

We now have kissing gates on nearly the entire route. The stile on the far side of Moss Lane has been replaced with a gate. Stiles remain either side of the by-pass and there are two stiles on the last 20 metres to the Iddenshall boundary.

As always, the section of the path to the east of the Sandstone Trail was extremely wet and muddy in January.

As is frequently the case, during the year the path headed north west beyond the Sandstone Trail toward Iddinshall was planted without any reinstatement, but in January the crop was long harvested and ground perfectly ok to walk, although indistinct on the ground.

At the Iddenshall end of the path it is perilously narrow on a high bank beside the stream. One solution would be to ask the landowner to move the barbed wire fence.

FP 4 from High Street next to The Close to the junction with the branch of restricted bridleway 5 which loops around cottages on Back Lanes west of bypass.

This path is in good condition and the short length on the west of the bypass seems to have been kept clear of vegetation once again this year.

Once the open space which remains of the Daffodil field is handed to the Parish Council, I suggest that we create a route onto the footpath.

Band members have laid woodchip to successfully upgrade the surface of the path from the Silver band hut to High Street.

RB 5 Moss Lane from south east of roundabout on A51/A49 on SE side of by-pass to North of Moss Cottage and junction with FP3 (and also semi-circular loop of Back lanes NW side of by-pass)

This restricted bridleway has two routes: one directly from the roundabout to Moss Cottage and the other following back lanes and looping around Cromwell cottage on the north west side of the by-pass.

The route is good.

FP 6 A51 opposite Rode Street Farm following the Sandstone Trail route south to junction with Tiverton FP 13 (a few fields north of Crib Lane/Pudding Lane junction)

The route is generally in good condition.

The replacement of the one remaining stile with a gate has now been completed. This was part of the Sandstone Trail project and therefore didn't use a Parish Council gate.

More than two a years ago I obtained permission from the landowner, and asked CWAC, to put a litter bin beside the track near the A51. It has not yet been done. The Parish Council might consider making a written request.

The PROW Officer had proposed removing the redundant gate where the path emerges from the edge of the wood a hundred metres north of FP3 and using it elsewhere on our network. This remains to be done.

FP 7 from A51 next to Rode Street Farm following the Sandstone Trail route north to junction with Utkinton FP11

The route is in good order.

FP 8 from A51 NW of roundabout to Utkinton Road between bridge over By-pass and Heath Green

After a few years of the path being reinstated after planting, this path seems to have returned to previous bad practice.

At the A51/Rode Street the hedge had been cut back to provide adequate access to the path, but it's now starting to get overgrown again.

RB 9 From SE of roundabout on A51 following south side of By-pass to Utkinton Road

The path is currently in good order and has been maintained in terms of vegetation during the year. As reported last year, the sign at the A51 is leaning over.

The drainage alongside the path at the roundabout end could be improved, but it's not yet causing a problem for the path itself.

FP 10 from Utkinton Road between Rose Mount Farm and Newlands to Oswalds way, junction with FP 11 and on to Heath Green

The removal of the hedge and replacement with a fence has made the first section from Utkinton Road much easier. The owner of the concrete posts on the South side off the path objected to their removal, but the Clerk, nevertheless, asked for the leaning posts to be straightened. It's not happened.

A resident has written to the Clerk a couple of times complaining about the condition of the muddy surface, with photographs which appear to be of the section running behind Heathfields.

FP 11 from Forest Road opposite Woodlands Way to junction with FP 10 at north east end of Oswalds Way

The stone which the Parish Council laid two years ago has maintained an improvement to the path. It could still be further improved, but not before FP1 and FP10.

In summer the hedge either side of the path uncomfortably restricts the width. I believe the Parish Council should be very assertive with the Heatherways management company. I complained to them when they, in my view, quite unnecessarily planted the hedge, and they undertook to maintain it.

FP 12 from Forest Road (south of Forest House) to Park Road

Led by Andrew Wallace volunteers have done an excellent job laying gravel on the first half of the path off Forest Road. I believe Andrew plans to organise the second half.

FP13 from Park Road to Cobblers Cross

This is a very well used path and in good order, although it gets very muddy after rain. This could be a candidate for laying woodchip if we got the landowner's permission.

FP 14 from High Street beside entrance to British Legion to Oathills Close and then following roads (Oathill Drive/Churchill Drive) to Eaton Road

This path is in good order.

FP 15 from Tilstone Lane (the lane between Eaton Road and the A51) to Wettenhall brook where it becomes a Tilstone Fearnal path

Although muddy the path is distinct and unobstructed.

FP 16 from Birch Heath by Birch Heath Farm north to FP2

The route is very muddy near the farmyard. The stile at the Birch Heath end of the path is rotted and has been reported to CWaC.

FP 17 from junction with FP 2 behind St Helens to junction with FP 3/RB5 N of Moss Cottage

Over a year ago I secured the landowner's permission to divert the route so that it follows the line most people currently use and avoids the area that floods most winters. He has agreed that we can then use the gates to replace the first couple of stiles on FP2 walking away from the Church.

Very oddly, given how wet the winter has been this year, it's not flooded.

FP 18 from RB5 on Back Lane at west of By-pass to FP6 (Sandstone Trail)

Most of the year this path has been relatively well drained after a third year of effort from the PROW Officer and me. It was a fast-flowing river in January.

The sign, for which the Parish Council paid and installed, at the junction with the Sandstone Trail remains mysteriously missing.

FP 19 from FP3 behind the Rising Sun to FP4 behind the Silver Band

This path is in good order.

Footway Utkinton Road to Heath Green

This is signposted for the Delamere loop but its status is as part of the highway rather than a right of way.

It is in good condition.

RB 20/Utkinton RB 10 from Heath Green to top of Forest Road /A49

In good order, but would benefit from early season maintenance to prevent it getting overgrown.

FP 21/ Rushton 30/32 from north end of Cobblers Cross through Portal Golf to Eaton Lane

The path is in good order.

FP 22/Rushton FP31 from Cobblers Cross west of the hotel to the golf course and across the course past the 18th hole and then to Saplings Lane

I and the PROW officer agreed with the landowner on the location for a sign which has recently been installed.

As previously reported the path that everyone uses across the golf course is not actually the right of way. For the time being, I've given up trying to get the hotel to regularise the situation.

The path we all use is in good order.

FP 23 & Tiverton FP14 from junction of FP1 (south of Birch Heath)/Tiverton FP24/26 to Nantwich Road south of the By-pass and north of Tiresford Farm

This route crosses two fields: one alongside the bypass (Tiverton FP14) and with a pond in its northerly corner; the second (Tarporley FP 23) beyond the pond toward Birch Heath up to the junction with FP1. In the second field, it's clear from the ground that most people walk around the perimeter of the field, whilst the right of way crosses the field. The right of way has been overplanted without reinstatement.

We should not forget our long term aspiration to gain the landowner's permission to allow a route from Nantwich road around the bottom of the DWH development and under the bypass.

FP 26 Tiverton from Birch Heath toward FP1 to Captains Walk.

The path has been well maintained.

I have made no progress on claiming the rights of way linking this route with Birch Heath road.

Utkinton FP9 A49 Luddington Hill onto golf course.

In good order.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Parish Council:

Ask CWAC to rectify all the leaning and missing signs as detailed in this report.

Remain vigilant to ensure the landowner dedicates a route through the underpass at the south of the DWH development when she brings forward development proposals for Tiresford farm.

Complete the improvement to the surface of Captain's Walk FP1

Write to CWaC requesting a bin at the junction of FP6 (Sandstone Trail) and the A51

Improve the surface of FP10.

Write to the Heatherways management company asking for effective cutting back of the hedge alongside FP11

Ask the landowner to straighten the leaning concrete posts on FP10 where the path enters the narrow section leading to Utkinton Road.

Investigate possible source of woodchip and consider using to improve FP2 beside the churchyard and FP13 from Park Road to Cobblers Cross

Write to CWAC asking for a progress report on diversion of FP17.

Ask the PROW Officer to intervene with landowners to deal with issues identified on FP3, 8 and 23.

Incorporate the Tarporley Walks Facebook page routes onto the Parish Council website.

David Press,
Tarporley Parish Council Footpath Warden,
February 2020

Notes of meeting of Public Rights of Way (PROW) Working Group 6th May 2020, held virtually via Zoom

Present:

David Press, Catherine Helm, Mark Ravenscroft, Peter Tavernor, Andrew Wallace, Ann Wright (Clerk)

Purpose of meeting: To Discuss Recommendations of Footpaths Report & Other Items

RB 9 – Delamere Loop

It was noted this route runs into Tarporley from the Chester direction to the left of the roundabout and then alongside the by-pass to Utkinton Road. It was noted where the route goes from the roundabout to cross Utkinton Road is not a PROW but part of the Highway and therefore belongs to Highways.

The route is included on the CW&C maintenance list, issues in the past have been created by maintenance (grass/hedge cutting) taking place late in the season as such Mr Press had asked the PROW officer that it be cut early in the season.

It was noted the path is currently clear and accessible.

FP 3

It was noted that Footpaths 1, 2, 3 and 4 all cross over the by-pass.

It was reported that FP3 is quite often flooded and it was understood this may be the result of blocked drains, it was reported that the landowners of the land the path crosses and the neighbouring land are trying to resolve this issue.

RB 5

It was noted garden waste has been dumped on RB 5, it was agreed this needed to be reported to CW&C either by Councillors or the Clerk.

It was noted the Council had set a budget of £1k for maintenance works on PROWS for the 2020-2021 financial year.

Recommendations

The group reviewed the recommendations made in the 2020 Footpath Report.

1. Ask CWAC to rectify all the leaning and missing signs as detailed in this report.
Agreed.
2. Remain vigilant to ensure the landowner dedicates a route through the underpass at the south of the DWH development when she brings forward development proposals for Tiresford farm.

Agreed.

3. Complete the improvement to the surface of Captain's Walk FP1.

It was noted that the principle had been accepted that where public rights of way provides access to the centre of Tarporley where possible people should be able to walk in 'town' shoes. It was noted that it was not possible to do so on this path despite some stone being put down on a section of the path.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact David Wilson Homes again and if they were not forthcoming the Council should consider putting stone down to improve the surface.

4. Write to CW&C requesting a bin at the junction of FP6 (Sandstone Trail) and the A51.

It was agreed the Clerk should request a bin but noted that CW&C have implemented a criteria which new bins have to meet otherwise CW&C would charge for the bin and emptying. It was suggested that if this was the case it should be raised with the landowner.

5. Improve the surface of FP10.

It was noted that the path is not suitable for walking in 'town' shoes.

It was agreed to consider putting stone down on the worst sections of the path, Mr Press agreed to mark the sections requiring work on a map.

6. Write to the Heatherways management company asking for effective cutting back of the hedge alongside FP11

Agreed.

7. Ask the landowner to straighten the leaning concrete posts on FP10 where the path enters the narrow section leading to Utkinton Road.

Agreed.

8. Investigate possible source of woodchip and consider using to improve FP2 beside the churchyard and FP13 from Park Road to Cobblers Cross

It was agreed that the Council should consider putting stone down on this path, although it was noted this was not as high a priority as Captain's Path, FP1.

9. Write to CWAC asking for a progress report on diversion of FP17.

It was agreed the Clerk would contact CW&C to receive an update on whether they are now accepting diversion requests and highlight this diversion is in the public interest.

10. Ask the PROW Officer to intervene with landowners to deal with issues identified on FP3, 8 and 23.

Agreed, noting issues relating to FP8 may have already been completed.

11. Incorporate the Tarporley Walks Facebook page routes onto the Parish Council website.

Agreed, it was noted that one of the volunteers supporting the Council may be able to assist with this project and that the various routes need to be made available on the Council's website rather than on a personal facebook page.

It was noted that before laying stone on footpaths landowners' permission will be required as well as agreement from the CW&C Footpath officer.

Mr Press to provide plans showing where stone is needed.

Missing Sign

It was noted that the blades had been stolen from the footpath at Back Lane in Tarporley, CW&C had obtained a quote for the replacement signs which would be one solid blade which would point to Beeston and Tarporley and had asked the Parish Council to contribute to its cost.

The working group recommended that CW&C should cover at least 50%, £129.25, of the cost and the Parish Council consider funding the remainder of the cost, noting a resident had also offered to contribute.

Walkers on PROW

It was noted that there had been increasing numbers of complaints regarding people not controlling their dogs on PROW and not staying on the paths, and this had been worsened by the current covid-19 pandemic as more people are walking on the PROWs.

It was emphasized that the PROWs are ancient walking route across what is private land and that people, and their dogs do not have a right of way across this land other than on the designated path.

It was agreed the Clerk should create some temporary notices for laminating and erection in key positions of the footpaths.

Ann Wright
07-05-20.

DRAFT

Tarporley Parish Council
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