

Tarporley Parish Council Minute Book
Committees, Working Groups and Other Meetings
Presented at the December 2020 Meeting

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Notes of Play Area Working group (via zoom)

Thursday 17th December 2020

Present

Tarporley Community Centre (TCC) - Linda Martin, Tony Yeates.

Tarporley Parish Council - Cllr Elaine Chapman, Cllr Lisa Miller, Cllr Gordon Pearson, Cllr Mark Ravenscroft, Ann Wright (Clerk).

Tarporley Residents – Mike Atkin.

Apologies

Lisa Allerton Harris, Neil Roberts.

Purpose of meeting: To discuss the scope of work and design for the play area.

Notes of Meeting 18th November

The Group noted the notes of the previous meeting held on the 18th November.

Terms of Reference

The following points were agreed:

That the working group was tasked with developing a long-term strategy for the play area including the option to expand the area and redevelop it.

That given the far-reaching impact of the project the working group is extending to include other stakeholders including TCC representatives and members of the public.

That the group is responsible for consultation and community engagement in the project.

That the group should develop a design or scheme on which to consult.

That the group would seek to obtain quotations for works through the Parish Council.

That the group would seek out grant funding for the works through the Parish Council.

That the play area should complement rather than duplicate or compete with Brook Road Playing Fields.

That all the above tasks be undertaken in consultation with the Parish Council.

Play Area Lease

It was noted that in the absence of an agreed lease that a new lease needed to be drawn up between TCC as the landowner and the Parish Council as tenant and that details of the lease would be dealt with by the Parish Council and TCC rather than going through the working group.

It was stated that public interest in the scheme should not be underestimated as the play area is very well used in a central location and if the Group presents an imaginative scheme it is likely to receive a huge positive response.

TCC Car Park

TCC representatives reported that the car park is now deteriorating quickly including the bay markings also public buildings over the next few years will have to move away from using gas powered heating as such TCC are due to start looking over the next couple of years at the possible installation of a ground source heating system under the car park.

Update inc. CAD Drawings and CW&C Response

It was agreed that extending the play area and relocating the path to eliminate the steps created a good opportunity.

The 2 CAD drawings showed an increase in the play area size of 35% or 38%.

The group felt the drawing that produced the smaller increase in area was more appropriate with grass verges rather than engineered brick retaining walls and was likely to be cheaper to deliver as well as being more aesthetically pleasing.

It was noted the path or slope created needed to be DDA¹ compliant.

It was suggested that incorporating part of the slope into the play could be incorporated into the design of a scheme possibly including slides.

It was noted that the decision on which land will be included in the Play Area needs to be taken to allow the lease to be finalised.

It was noted that the proposed schemes would result in some tree works which would require CAT² applications and approvals.

It was also noted that the project should look to provide some form of lighting on the path as it may be possible to run power from the light by the youth shelter if the play area surface is redone.

Age Range

A discussion took place regarding what age group the play area should be aimed at, the current play area is aimed for up to 12-year olds. It was noted that it is difficult to police the ages of children using the play area and that older children will be accommodated on the Brook Road Playing Fields when the play equipment is installed.

It was felt that at least one piece of equipment should be geared towards teenagers.

It was reported that most of the Play area equipment is described as being for up to 14-year olds.

It was discussed if there was an option to place some equipment on the solid surface area at the bottom of the play area and that this might be a suitable location for equipment for older children.

It was noted that the area is currently used for the fair during the carnival.

It was agreed that at this stage the area should be considered.

Field Drainage

It was highlighted that there are significant drainage issues with the field which can result in visible water running off the field and that it would be beneficial to discuss this with the person working on the scheme and that it would be helpful to have a professional opinion on the issue.

It was reported that in the past it had been suggested that draining the field would cost approximately £100k and that attenuation tanks would be required or pond to manage runoff water.

It was suggested that the drainage may not be addressed by this project.

It was suggested that if the drainage is addressed at some point this will provide an opportunity for further development of the playing field and possibly a path around the whole field which could be used by children to learn to ride bikes.

It was noted depending on costs that a scheme could be developed with a number of phases.

It was agreed the village deserves a great facility in its centre.

Anti-Social Behaviour

It was noted the field has attracted some anti-social behaviour which had resulted in the picnic tables being removed earlier this year.

Next Steps

The Clerk reported that she would complete the notes from the meeting and circulate them before and would seek to arrange a site meeting with CW&C in the new year to discuss these options.

¹ Disability Discrimination Act

² Conservation Area Tree application

It was agreed to run a drawing competition at the Primary School and other organisations in the village for children to design a 'weird and wonderful' play area and provide prizes, this would not only highlight what things the children might like to see on the play area but would raise the profile of the working group and awareness of the project.

It was suggested the Primary School newsletter was a good way to disseminate information.

It was noted that at this time there was not intention to relocate or remove the teen shelter.

It was reported that TCC as a result of the pandemic restrictions was currently running at a loss and are relying on their reserves however when things come under control and some normality is returned the TCC Committee hopes to provide some funding towards the project.

Tarporley Community Centre Trustees/Membership Update

It was reported another Trustee was in the process of being appointed. It was agreed that it would be a good time to advertise for volunteers to become trustees in the new year when people are looking for new challenges and that it was important the advert clearly state the roles that are available.

It was noted that work is progressing on the conversion of the management Committee to a CIO³ which can be undertaken in parallel to establishing the play area lease. It was reported that the Barbour Institute in Tattenhall had become a CIO and were happy to discuss this with TCC members.

Ann Wright
18/12/2020

³ Charitable Incorporated Organisation