

Bartestree with Lugwardine Group Parish Council

Christopher Gibbons Field Working Group

10th June 2025

7pm

Notes

Present: Ron Williams, Fran White, Roy Ovel, Jonathan Jackson, Siobhan Green, Clare Gibbons

Apologies: Paul Hodges

- Jonathan confirmed that Ed Thomas and Carley Tinkler were now on board as planning consultant and landscape architect. Finding an ecologist is proving slightly more difficult due to the lack of and current workload of those we had approached. A number of other options available, Jonathan is still actively pursuing. Fran had gotten hold of the ecology survey done when village way was being planned, it is hopeful that this will help with ours.
- No further work can proceed on planning until an ecologist is engaged.
- Jonathan advised that the excavation works would result in over 600cm³ of soil needing to be removed from the site, several options were discussed including the potential for using it to level out areas of the existing football and cricket pitches. The subject of a pump track was also brought back to the forefront. Following on from the May meeting and a residents comment about ensuring we are working to the requests set out by the consultation JJ pointed out that a pump track was requested more than a zipwire, now that the mound had been removed from the plan the working group feel we need to look into and consider the implementation of a pump track, there is now room if we remove the zipwire,

and we could use the removed soil to build it. The insurance question was answered when we enquired about the zipwire so this is no longer an issue. It was agreed this would be brought to the council but that also discussions would need to be had with some residents due to where it would need to be located.

- Discussed the situation with setting up the charity, HALC had advised that it would be better to do all fundraising in house, due to VAT implication and insurance matters for the volunteers. This was discussed at length but it was agreed that given the current level of disquiet and disdain in the parish towards the PC that this would prove to be an incredibly difficult task and that to procure the level of funds needed the best idea would be a completely independent charity. We talked about HALCs concerns, we didn't feel the VAT element would be a problem as the charity would simply raise the funds and then give them to the PC to spend therefore the VAT would still be reclaimable. With regards to the insurance, there are currently no plans to hold fundraising events that would require insurance, the initial plan is to approach businesses and residents to ask them to donate, reaching further afield if necessary, this would be revised after 6 months if significant levels of funding had not been located. It was also felt that business would not want to donate if it was a PC run fundraiser due to the potential for the bad publicity. There are also considerably more grants that can be applied for by charities that PCs are precluded from. Roy Ovel agreed to act as chair and Clare Gibbons agreed to be another trustee, RO would reach out to the local community to get a third trustee and further volunteers, he would then begin the process of setting up the charity and the bank account. It was agreed it would be "The Christopher Gibbons Trust" or wording similar.
- Following the agreement to proceed with the marketing material the plan was discussed for the layout. It was agreed

that the front page would be a watermark of the field with the name of the project and a picture of Christopher, the inside would then layout some back story on Christopher, followed by what we are seeking, some of the feedback we received when conducting the consultations with the children and outlining our focus on this being a fully inclusive space for all. The back page would be a copy of the plan, potentially a 3D rendering, contact details for the charity and a QR code with the contact details which for future could be changed to link to a website. SG agreed to put something together for the group to look at and would see if she could find someone to the 3D rendering.

- We discussed the situation with the benches that are in the car park, an alternative storage location has been found and we agreed that we would move these until such time as they can be built and put into place on the field.

Potential next meeting date: 1st July 2025.