



Christopher Gibbons Field Working Group

24th April 2025

Minutes

Present: Cllr Siobhan Green, Cllr Ron Williams, Mrs Fran White, Mr Jonathan Jackson,
Cllr Polly Smith, Cllr Wendy Soilleux and Cllr David Welton

Apologies: Clare Gibbons

Cllr Wendy Soilleux started the meeting expressing her wishes that Mrs Clare Gibbons know that several people had reached out to check on her and pass on their love and support, Cllr Siobhan Green agreed to pass this on to Mrs Clare Gibbons.

1. David Welton shared a comprehensive breakdown showing the funds the Parish Council currently have available to proceed with the field project, it was suggested that there could potentially be further funds available but that would be down to the council to decide upon. Current funds available are around £125,000.
2. It was discussed that the money obtained through the precept be returned, Cllr Siobhan Green raised the possibility of further consultation with the parish giving the option of a refund or to spend the money on a specific project of the parish's choice. It is worth noting that if the precept cannot be reduced, we will need to consider how we will return it in respect of those who sell homes mid-year, this could become very complicated.
3. It was noted that a member of the parish had come forward and expressed their interest in helping with fundraising. It was agreed that Cllr David Welton and Cllr Siobhan Green would reach out to this person and arrange a meeting.
4. Discussions were had over the best path forward. It was agreed that it would be best to obtain planning for the whole project and then proceed in a piecemeal fashion as and when we have the funds. This would reduce the cost and workload with regards to planning and will allow for works to happen immediately upon receiving funds. Mr Jonathan Jackson would continue with further investigating quotes to have this work done.
5. Cllr Wendy Soilleux and Cllr Siobhan Green met with a resident who lives within the proximity of the field who had expressed some concerns over the plans. Their biggest concern was the noise from the play equipment given its proximity to their home, Cllr Siobhan Green agreed that the plan would be looked at again and we would aim to move the equipment and site it further from the property, Cllr Wendy Soilleux and Cllr Siobhan Green believe this is feasible now that we are not having the mound. The resident also expressed that they would be applying for the footpath to be moved from their garden so that it runs along the Christopher Gibbons Field instead, having looked at this it does seem like a very sensible idea, the resident wished to gauge whether the Parish Council would support this prior to submission of the application.

Actions for Parish Council:

- Agree to apply for planning permission for the whole project
- Agree to hire a ecologist to support in the BNG element of the planning application
- Agree to hire a planning consultant to help put together the planning application