

DRAFT MINUTES of the Shurnhold Fields Recreation Development working party held on Thursday 6th September 2018 at Crown Chambers, Melksham (following the initial “Friends of Shurnhold Friends” meeting) at 8.35pm.

Present:

Cllr Richard Wood	Melksham Without Parish Council
Cllr Paul Carter	Melksham Without Parish Council
Cllr Adrienne Westbrook	Melksham Town Council
Cllr Terri Welch	Melksham Town Council

Members of the “Friends of Shurnhold Fields” were in attendance as observers:
Roy Dobson, Jason Reeves, Sam Reeves

Officers: Teresa Strange (Clerk) Melksham Without Parish Council
Lorraine McRandle (Committee Clerk) Melksham Town Council

30. Chair of Meeting: *Resolved:* Cllr Richard Wood took the chair of the working party.

31. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr John Glover and Cllr Pat Aves.

32. Minutes of the last meeting, held Monday 24th July: With the correction that Mr Robson be corrected to Mr Dobson in the minutes. ***Resolved:*** *The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.*

33. Update on Actions from last meeting, 24th July:

a) Update on land transfer from Persimmon to Melksham Without Parish Council

(Min 27b): Teresa explained that she had chased the parish council solicitors on the land transfer and he was well aware of the time constraint. It was suggested that the “Friends” may wish to invite Persimmon to their tree planting event as it would be a good incentive for a speedy land transfer, possible funding and a good news story for both parties.

b) (Min 28) Copies of the Ecology report from the original Ecology report from the initial planning application for the George Ward housing development were shared. The land that the Shurnhold Fields project covers was described as “Playing Field land” on the report.

c) (Min 28) Details of the trees ordered by Teresa Strange and Claire Harris had been detailed in the earlier “Friends” meeting. These were free of charge, from the Woodland Trust.

d) (Min 28) Melksham Oak School will not be contacted for tree planting, as the “Friends” wished to do this themselves as a group activity.

34. Actions from the earlier “Friends of Shurnhold Fields” meeting:

The working party were very impressed by the number of residents who had formed the Friends group, and agreed to be committee members. The working party wished to

formally thank the new group for putting themselves forward, all their work done to date, and look forward to working with them in the future as the project develops.

ACTION: Officers to contact the local media to let them know that the Friends group has been formed and invite them to contact the Friends group to find out more and run a good news story; and officers to post on social media too. It may be worth the group setting up a “friends of” of email address that several members can access and give it some longevity.

ACTION: Officers to write to Persimmon to advise the good news that the “Friends” group has been formed, to invite them to the tree planting event, chase the legal transfer and ask for permission to cut the grass ahead of the tree planting (before parish council ownership).

ACTION: Obtain a quote from the parish council contractor for grass cutting.

ACTION: To invite a Tree Warden to the next “Friends” warden to advise on tree planting. It was felt that the best choice was Annie Benham-Taylor as she had shown an interest in this project and was also heavily involved in the Melksham Remembers project.

35. Planning application:

It was noted that the “Change of Use” to public open space was required if the condition from Persimmon’s permission had not been activated before August 2019; or some signage indicating it was public open space and contact details could be erected, but would have to be when the land transfer had taken place.

The other things that would need permission, were the attenuation pond (but this would be part of the Wiltshire Council/Environment Agency wider flood management scheme) and the access, a car park and allotments. (*Refer to Min 27d 24/7/18.*)

36. Next meeting:

As the “Friends” group were now formed and their agenda next meeting was concentrating on tree planting issues there was not a requirement for the Working Party to meet straight afterwards. The next meeting will be held when there was a requirement for something to be agreed.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm