



**Tattenhall & District Parish Council**  
**Informal Meeting – Glebe Meadow & Barnfields**  
**6<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**PRESENT**

Tattenhall & District Parish Council – Iain Keeping (chair), Jonny Kershaw, Neil Matthews.  
Ann Wright (Clerk).

TWiG – Terri Hull.

Chloe Aldridge – Expert in grasslands & resident.

**Purpose of Meeting: To discuss management of Glebe meadow & Barnfields.**

**Background**

It was reported that the Spinney Project is now well underway as such the Council was starting to look at the future management of Glebe Meadow and Barnfields, at one point creating a Wildlife Park for Tattenhall had been discussed which would include the two meadows, the Spinney and other areas, however a phased approach had been agreed based on available funding.

It was noted both Glebe Meadow and Barnfields were being mown (flailed) annually.

It was noted that Glebe Meadow is identified by CW&C as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS), it was not known if Barnfields is also listed as LWS.

It was agreed that a revised plan for management of these areas was required.

**Management Options**

1) Continue current maintenance – cut annually.

It was discussed that this was not the best option as the cuttings left on the ground suppresses the wildflowers/grasses. The cuttings provide nutrients for more vigorous plants allowing them to dominate the grasses etc.

2) Cut annually & remove cuttings

This had been done previously.

3) Introduce livestock

It was noted a combination of livestock for part of the year and moving and removing cuttings was the best option. Previously the Cheshire Wildlife Trust had provided Dexters (cattle) to graze the land however they had escaped.

4) Incorporation into wider Wildlife or Nature Park

It was stated the area is very special and has county importance.

It was suggested that it would be worth obtaining specialist advice on the management of the sites and it was suggested that Dr Hilary Ash, a specialist in this area, maybe able to provide help and advice.

A discussion took place that the area was not attractive and was of no benefit to residents. It was highlighted that wild areas are not manicured and can look unkempt.

It was noted that nettles and docks grown in more shaded areas which unfortunately are next to the paths and are therefore more visible. It was suggested an additional cut per year may help.

It was suggested that the site which is a precious resource is sensitive to disturbance, however there had been several education visits undertaken on Glebe Meadow including by environmental groups, uniformed groups and postgraduates. It was suggested that there could be days when access to the field was made available and guides walks undertaken.

It was suggested that structured, limited access could be introduced to prevent the site been damaged.

Chloe Aldridge confirmed that she had been on Glebe Meadow and there was still a lot of grasses and flowers on the site, and that it is still a valuable habitat.

#### Livestock

It was discussed that putting livestock on the field is not really an option due to past experiences and regulations around movement of animals.

#### No Management

It was confirmed that it was not possible to do nothing with the site as it would quickly become covered in saplings and trees and the grasses and wildflowers would be lost.

#### Funding

It was highlighted that there are a number of funding streams which maybe available to help fund the maintenance of the Glebe Meadow. There is also funding available for education visits on the site through countryside stewardship schemes.

#### Graveyard Extension

It was discussed that in the future the church may ask for more land for the graveyard and a view would need to be taken on this at some point.

It was noted that many residents would like to see the Glebe Meadow more accessible to the public particularly with the loss of other areas in the village. It was discussed that perhaps more information needed to be available so that residents understood the significance of the site.

#### Barnfields

It was noted that there is some uncertainty about the ownership of this land as there seems to be 2 land registry listings, this needs to be resolved.

#### Transition Tattenhall

It was reported that Transition Tattenhall will be contacting the Council to request inclusion on the working group.

#### Next Steps

Council to consider obtaining specialist advice on the management of Glebe Meadow.

Ann Wright  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2021