

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 12 October 2017 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Griffin (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Helen Harrison
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Lesley Tuck

Jack Hainsworth (St Mary's Church)
Clare Nelmes (Town Clerk)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator)

(Cllr Martin Trueman – absent)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Pam Shipp (indisposed)
Cllr Gail Whitehead (out of Thornbury)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 07.09.17 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting of 7 September 2017 had been circulated and was noted.

The Clerk reported that we were still awaiting a response from the contractor regarding the Conservation Officer's report on the war memorial. The Clerk is planning to look into the costs of improving the water supply, and hopefully this will feed into the budgeting process. Parkrun is due to start on 18 November 2017. The second of four weekly treatments for nematodes control at Poulterbrook had been carried out.

5. TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD

Jack Hainsworth reported that the war memorial plaque was being fitted at 10.00am on 13 October 2017 and he would be attending. The Clerk will see if a member of the outdoor staff can also attend.

Mr Hainsworth reported that one of the flood light bulbs still needs changing. There have also been some problems with the electrics in the church, but as this was on a different fuse box to the flood lights it was uncertain whether this was connected. The Clerk advised that a member of the outdoor staff would look at the blown flood light bulb.

10. TO CONSIDER COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES THAT IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

It was agreed to bring forward this agenda item so that Jack Hainsworth could be present for the discussion. The Clerk reported that the Council is responsible for a large number of trees and currently we do not know the number or condition of the trees, and are simply reacting to reports of falling branches or other problems with them.

(Cllr Helen Harrison arrived at the meeting)

The Clerk proposed that we use the services of a tree specialist to map the trees, clarify their condition and provide a prioritised five year programme of any works necessary to ensure they are safe. This would be good practice, particularly in relation to our insurance, and could also be fed into the budgeting process to ensure the necessary funds are available. The proposal was discussed and it was agreed that our own outdoor staff would carry out an initial survey to identify which trees we are responsible for, and the Clerk would obtain quotes for a tree expert to provide a more detailed register of trees, risk assessment and maintenance plan. It was agreed that it was important that obtaining quotes for any work to be done should be a separate process to obtaining the maintenance plan.

(Jack Hainsworth left the meeting)

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOTBALL FACILITIES ON THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

The Clerk reported that copies of the application for the path and stands had been received from the Football Club and there were no issues with this. We have also received copies of the second application for fencing and floodlights. There was some information missing from this application, including the design and access report and the lighting specifications, therefore more time would be needed for the Clerk and Cllr Clive Parkinson to consider this application fully. The Clerk reported that it was likely that the footpath works would now be deferred until Spring 2018.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S PLAY EQUIPMENT

- (a) The Clerk reported that the proposals for s106 funds for redevelopment of the Streamleaze play area would be going to the Executive Member at South Gloucestershire Council at the end of the month. If approval was forthcoming, equipment could be ordered in mid November and with an 8-10 week lead time, work would begin in the New Year.
- (b) The Clerk reported that s106 funds were available to spend on sports facilities that would benefit the new residents of the former police station building (Grace Lodge). The options were discussed in detail by the Committee and it was agreed that a petanque court may be the most suitable option to satisfy the funding criteria, possibly located in Oakleaze Green. The Clerk agreed to carry out an informal consultation to ask for peoples' thoughts on this option – whether the court would be used and whether Oakleaze Green would be an appropriate location – and what

other ideas on location people may have. It was agreed that the consultation should focus on residents of Grace Lodge and also residents around Oakleaze Green, but feedback from all Thornbury residents would be welcomed.

- (c) The Clerk reported that we would shortly need to go out to tender for the refurbishment and replacement of Mundy Playing Field play area equipment. The tender specification will include the consultation results, an indication of budget and timescales and a requirement to consult with residents on provisional plans. As part of the changes to the play area, the adult outdoor gym equipment must be moved away from the children's play area. The Clerk will draft a tender specification and circulate this on email for comment.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LEASE FOR VILNER LANE

The Clerk reported that the Leisure Centre were happy with the plans, and she had met with all appropriate neighbours. The plans have been fed back to South Gloucestershire Council with a request to proceed. The plans include the Leisure Centre having occasional use of the field as an overspill car park.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SKATEPARK

The Clerk reported that the pre-application had been submitted to South Gloucestershire Council. The advice that had been received so far was that the level of approval needed would depend on who is developing the area. Thornbury Town Council would own the site and a third party would only operate it, therefore it was believed that full planning approval was not needed as it would be covered under the Council's permitted development. Once this is received in writing, the development can progress. The Leisure Centre are happy with the proposals and have agreed to host a consultation event. The working group will be meeting shortly to move things forward.

10. TO CONSIDER COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES THAT IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

Covered after agenda item 5 – see above.

11. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Clerk reported that there had been an unsuccessful break in attempt at the Cemetery this morning. The incident has been reported to the police. The damage has been repaired and we are looking into improvements to CCTV.
- (b) The Clerk circulated a copy of a plan by Myles Couzens, a member of the outdoor staff, to redevelop an area of land by the car park entrance in the Mundy Playing Fields. This had been done as part of his horticultural post-graduate course. The Committee felt that the plans were excellent and asked for their compliments to be passed on to Myles.
- (c) The Clerk reported the good news that Thornbury had been awarded Champion of Champions by Britain In Bloom and invited to participate in the national awards next year.