

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 18 January 2018 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Griffin (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Martin Trueman
Cllr Lesley Tuck

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

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Helen Harrison (out of Thornbury)
Cllr Gail Whitehead (another commitment)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Clive Parkinson declared an interest in the consultation relating to Chantry Playing Field as a resident of Church Road. Cllr Martin Trueman declared an interest in Thornbury Football Club as a member of the Club.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chair welcomed Mrs Alice Rainey, resident of Elmdale Crescent, who was present to hear the discussion on the consultation relating to the proposed improvements to Oakleaze Green. Mrs Rainey confirmed that she was strongly against the proposal for a petanque court, but in favour of the proposals for a path and planting of trees. It was agreed to bring forward item 9 of the agenda.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 23.11.17 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting of 23 November 2017 had been circulated and was noted.

The Clerk provided an update on a number of issues. The Riverbank Rollick which took place on 14 January 2018 had been very successful with nearly 400 participants and no damage to the fields. Work was continuing with the Park Run organisers to mitigate ground damage by establishing alternate routes. We are awaiting advice from a grass specialist with regard to the nematode infestation at Poulterbrook as the work done so far had not resolved the issue.

5. **TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD AND TO CONSIDER APPLYING FOR PLANNING PERMISSION TO REMOVE A TREE IN ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD**

Jack Hainsworth updated the Committee on several issues. The Laurel bush had been taken out and the brambles had been cut back. The issues with the floodlights had also been resolved. All of the Churchyard winter works had been carried out, with just some clearing to be done.

The Clerk advised that a small tree in the churchyard was affecting walls, guttering and windows of the church and needed to be felled. This required planning permission from South Gloucestershire Council as it is in the Conservation Area, but there would be no charge for this. The process was likely to take several months and with the need to avoid nesting time, it may be October before it could be felled. In the meantime, trimming could be carried out. Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that the Clerk apply for planning permission. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and agreed by all. Mr Hainsworth confirmed that the PCC supported the proposal and would take responsibility for consulting the diocese. The Chair thanked Mr Hainsworth for attending the meeting.

(Jack Hainsworth left the meeting)

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

The Clerk reported that the Football Club were waiting for final determination from South Gloucestershire Council on the two planning applications, but it was possible they may impose conditions with regard to the maintenance of hedgerows so that the bat habitat is not affected.

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

(a) **An update on the refurbishment of the Streamleaze play area**

The Clerk reported that before final confirmation had been received from South Gloucestershire Council regarding awarding of s106 money for the play area, an announcement had been made in the local press about the refurbishment which was unfortunate. The Clerk confirmed that an order could not be placed for the play equipment until we have received final confirmation from South Gloucestershire Council.

(b) **To consider the draft tender specification for the replacement of the Mundy Playing Fields play area**

A draft tender specification was tabled and discussed. The Clerk talked through the proposed timeline including identifying a preferred supplier by the end of February, final designs agreed in March/April (including consultation), an eight week lead time on orders and installation of new equipment in June/July. The Clerk confirmed that there was money in the budget to improve the water supply to the splash pad, and to make improvements to the splash pad area. Cllr Bob Griffin proposed that the draft tender specification be approved and that the Clerk could go out to tender for the works. Cllr Lesley Tuck seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

(Cllr Martin Trueman arrived at the meeting.)

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LEASE FOR VILNER LANE AND THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE SKATEPARK FOLLOWING THE RECENT CONSULTATION

The Clerk reported that we are still awaiting landlord approval from South Gloucestershire Council to move forward with plans for the skatepark, and had provided more information to them today. The Clerk tabled and talked through a report on responses to the recent consultation on the plans. Apart from a small number of concerns expressed regarding the plans and particularly the cycle track, the response had been very positive with the vast majority of responders supporting the plans for the Hub. The Committee noted the responses to the consultation and agreed that further consultation would be needed in the future regarding the longer terms aspects of the plans, for example for the cycle track. The Clerk confirmed that it may be possible to go ahead with plans for the Hub under permitted development rules. Meetings were ongoing with Penny Baker and Dan Potter to agree the best model of management for the Hub and this may include a representative from the local community on the Steering Group.

9. TO CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT CONSULTATION ABOUT PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO OAKLEAZE GREEN

The Clerk tabled and talked through a report on responses to the recent consultation on proposed improvements to Oakleaze Green, namely the building of a petanque court, the building of a footpath across green and the planting of three small ornamental trees in one corner of the green. The Committee noted that the responses were very much in favour of the trees and the footpath, but very much against the petanque court. The following was proposed by Cllr Bob Griffin, seconded by Cllr Lesley Tuck and unanimously agreed:-

- (a) The trees are planted, subject to confirmation that concerns from residents near to the proposed planting area be addressed, and that the trees be properly maintained.
- (b) The footpath is built.
- (c) We do not go ahead with the petanque court, and that instead the Clerk goes back to South Gloucestershire Council to explore the flexibility of the criteria set for the s106 funds.

10. TO CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT CONSULTATION ABOUT PROPOSED CRICKET FACILITIES AT THE CHANTRY PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk tabled and talked through a report on responses to the recent consultation on proposed cricket facilities at the Chantry Playing Field. The majority of responders were in favour of the proposal, with the main concerns raised being in relation to the position of the wicket. It was agreed that the wickets should be positioned as centrally as possible, although this was restricted by the position of the other pitches. Council noted the results of the consultation and agreed to support the proposals and to continue to work with Mr Robert Sherrard to secure funding.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE CLERK ON THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TENNIS FACILITIES AT THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THORNBURY TENNIS CLUB

The Clerk reported that there was a meeting next week with the LTA and Thornbury Tennis Club to discuss improvements to the courts, possibly including floodlighting and upgrading of the fencing and pathways which would include our courts. Cllr Clive Parkinson would

be attending the meeting and Cllr Bob Griffin offered to attend as well.

12. TO REVIEW THE FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CEMETERY AND PLAYING FIELDS

The Clerk tabled revised fees and charges for Thornbury Cemetery and hiring of the playing fields for 2018/19. The revisions are just small increases in price along with the removal of the “purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial for internment of cremated remains in the lawn area” which is no longer available. Cllr Bob Griffin proposed the revised fees and charges be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Jayne Stansfield and unanimously agreed.

13. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

None.