

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee  
held on Thursday 7 September 2017

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Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)  
Cllr Bob Griffin (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Helen Harrison  
Cllr Pam Shipp  
Cllr Angela Symonds  
Cllr Martin Trueman  
Cllr Gail Whitehead

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

(Cllr Gail Whitehead – absent)

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**1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Jayne Stansfield (another meeting)  
Cllr Lesley Tuck (indisposed)

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Martin Trueman declared an interest in Thornbury Football Club.

**3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Richard Shorey (Thornbury Football Club), Tony Watola (Thornbury Football Club), Bernard Doyle (Architect) and Stuart Rackham (Architect) attended in relation to item 6 on the agenda.

**4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 29.06.17 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

The report of the meeting of 29 June 2017 had been circulated and was noted.

The Clerk reported that the war memorial QR code was being progressed by South Gloucestershire Council. Cllr Bob Griffin queried whether the plan was to erect this on a concrete plinth and the Clerk agreed to look into this.

The Clerk reported that there had been a complaint from South Gloucestershire Council about damage to the war memorial during the recent cleaning and repair. The report from their Conservation Officer has been forwarded to the company who carried out the work and we are awaiting a response from them.

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

Jack Hainsworth reported that fortunately there had been no damage to a wall and shed following a tree falling recently in Thornbury Castle grounds. The Clerk confirmed that tree surgery and the checking of the tombstones was still on the to do list.

*(Jack Hainsworth left the meeting)*

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

Bernard Doyle and Stuart Rackham (architects) outlined the plans for the development of football facilities. The application would be divided into two parts – part one would be for the dugout/stand/shelters and part two would be for the floodlights and fencing. It was agreed that the footpath could be removed from the plans as Thornbury Town Council could arrange this. The plans were discussed in some detail including the fence positioning and access for maintenance vehicles, sufficient distance for run off areas around the pitches, concerns over the floodlights and how often they would be needed, the bat survey and ecological concerns, etc. Cllr Clive Parkinson confirmed that the Committee was happy to agree in principle to the plans subject to the Clerk and Cllr Parkinson overseeing the final version of the applications when they were ready to be submitted. This was accepted by the representatives of the football team.

**7. TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT FEES AND CHARGES CONCERNING THE BLOCK BOOKING OF PITCHES**

The Clerk asked the Committee to consider adding a new line to charges for use of pitches for a block booking of up to 15 matches for seniors, in addition to the current charge of up to 20 matches. Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that this be agreed. Cllr Bob Griffin seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

**8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CLUB THORNBURY**

Cllr Clive Parkinson provided an update on Club Thornbury including funds that had been awarded to the organisation to enhance facilities for sports clubs in Thornbury. It was agreed that subject to the correct dissolution of the organisation, the funds could be placed into a ring-fenced reserve which Thornbury Town Council would control and ensure it is spent in line with the original purpose.

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

The Clerk provided an update on play equipment. The basket swing in the Mundy Playing Fields is still out of action and we are awaiting further parts for it.

The splash pad is not working and has had to be closed down earlier than planned. Ustigate will service and repair it in the spring. The Committee discussed options for entering into an annual maintenance agreement, improving the water supply, adding in additional features, etc. It was agreed that the Clerk would continue to investigate the cost of improving the water supply and adding in non-water features.

The two new slides in the Mundy Playing Fields have been installed and the zip wire is now operating.

Cllr Martin Trueman enquired about the timescale for improving play equipment in Osprey Park. The Clerk reported that funds should be allocated to this in the next financial year.

**10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RESURFACING OF THE CAR PARK AT THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION OF WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that there had been some changes made to the specifications for the work to be carried out by the resurfacing contractor. Less excavation work needed to be done but some additional edging work was needed. However, the savings made on the excavation work meant that overall the new price was around £5000-6000 less than originally expected including the additional edging work. Notices had gone up and neighbours and clubs had been informed. The work will start on Monday 11 September 2017 and should only take one week. Cllr Martin Trueman asked that the Clerk write to the Tennis Club to ask for a contribution to the work as they would benefit from it. Cllr Clive Parkinson agreed to check what guarantee Thornbury Surfacing would provide for the work.

**11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LEASE FOR VILNER LANE**

The Clerk reported that discussions were ongoing with Leisure Trust, specifically relating to the use of land for an overflow car park. The composting and allotments groups are happy with the plans. Once all groups are happy, we will refer back to South Gloucestershire Council to progress the lease.

**12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE SKATEPARK**

The Clerk reported that the pre-application has been submitted to South Gloucestershire Council. Assuming a positive response, the plan is to begin consultation towards the end of September/early October, prior to submitting a planning application. Working group meeting dates have been set up and a specification is being worked on for the appointment of a project manager.

**13. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON USING THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS AS A BASE FOR PARKRUN**

The Clerk reported that Thornbury Town Council had given permission to Parkrun to use the Mundy Playing Fields and they were now waiting for their national HQ to finalise details. The expected start date was the end of October.

**14. TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PREMISES LICENCE FOR EVENTS**

The Clerk reported that the Carnival and Family Fun Day events had gone well with just one complaint about noise levels during the Family Fun Day. It was agreed that for future events more notice should be given to neighbouring residents (at least one month) and options for positioning the stage differently could be looked into.

**15. TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL FOR PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR CRICKET AT THE CHANTRY FIELD**

The Clerk reported that a local resident had enquired about the possibility of marking out a cricket wicket in the Chantry Field and had also suggested that he may be able to obtain funding for cricket nets to be installed. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out more details about this and advise the Committee further.

**16. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) The Clerk reported that Alan Burberry was retiring from the Environment Committee after 33 years service as an added member.
- (b) The Clerk reported that a population explosion of nematodes had been diagnosed on the pitches at Poulterbrook and we are carrying out the necessary treatment works. The area has been closed off and it should be sorted out within a month, although further maintenance treatments may be required in the future, to manage the population.