

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 23 November 2017 at the Town Hall

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

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

(Cllr Martin Trueman – absent)
(Cllr Lesley Tuck – absent)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cllr Clive Parkinson welcomed Mr Robert Sherred to the meeting and item 6 on the agenda was brought forward (see below).

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 12.10.17 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting of 12 October 2017 had been circulated and was noted.

The Clerk reported that the first Parkrun event took place on Saturday 18 November 2017 and had been very successful. Due to the weather and the large numbers attending, the condition of the ground had suffered, especially in the Poulterbrook area and hotspots like the entrance. The Clerk has met with the organisers and outdoor staff to decide on two alternative routes to help mitigate this issue. Car parking had generally gone well, although the organisers would be removing St Marys Street car park as a parking option on their race literature as this had interfered with market traders setting up. It was agreed however that we would need to monitor the car parking situation, although it was anticipated that fewer runners would attend from now on.

The Clerk reported that the outdoor staff had completed the first part of pesticides training, with the second part to be completed next week. Paul Le Riche and Andy Heybyrne had laid hedges between the playing fields and Poulterbrook which looked very good and Cllr Helen Harrison asked for Council's thanks to be passed on to Paul and Andy. The Clerk also reported that the nematode treatment was complete and would continue to be monitored.

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

The Clerk reported that there was still an issue with the outside lights at the church and an electrician would look at this within the next week or so. Mr Hainsworth reported that there was an overgrown Laurel bush protruding over one of the walls which needed cutting back. The Clerk confirmed that this could be added to the winter works programme. The Clerk reported that the outdoor staff are carrying out a memorial inspection programme in the cemetery and closed churchyard. The Clerk confirmed that the Environment Committee would be dealing with the replacement of the seat outside St Marys Church which should hopefully be in place before the end of the year. Cllr Clive Parkinson thanked Mr Hainsworth for attending.

(Jack Hainsworth left the meeting)

6. TO CONSIDER HOW THE POTENTIAL FOR CRICKET FACILITIES AT CHANTRY PLAYING FIELD COULD BE EXPLORED AND DELIVERED

Mr Robert Sherred addressed the Committee regarding the possibility of cricket facilities at Chantry playing field, including a cricket wicket and nets. Mr Sherred provided details of the size and costs of nets, as well as possible funding routes. The idea was discussed in some detail by the Committee including ongoing maintenance issues and costs, access to the facilities, hiring to cricket clubs, etc. It was agreed that providing a cricket wicket was relatively straightforward in terms of costs and maintenance. Cllr Clive Parkinson thanked Mr Sherred for attending and proposed that Council support the principle of working with him, and possibly local cricket clubs, to further explore the possibility of introducing nets including gathering more information on costs and funding, and subject to consultation with local residents. Cllr Helen Harrison supported the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

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

The Clerk reported that the football club had made changes to the applications as suggested by Council including more detail on access and minimising of the land contained within the fencing. The two planning applications had now been submitted but had not yet been sent to Council by South Gloucestershire Council for comment.

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

The Clerk reported that she would shortly be preparing the tender specification for the new play equipment in the Mundy Playing Fields. The Clerk also reported that she had heard from South Gloucestershire Council regarding s106 funds for Streamleaze play equipment, and that once confirmed she would place an order (which would have an approximate eight week lead time).

9. 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 were still waiting to hear from South Gloucestershire Council with regard to the lease for Vilner Lane. The consultation on the development plans for the Skatepark was progressing well and there had been a good turnout at the drop in events. The consultation finishes at the end of November. The Clerk had meet with Dan Budd, Penny Baker and Helen Black from CVS to look at governance, and the provisional plan was for Council to own the facility and Krunch and StreetSpace to run the operation, although there were some issues around rates. The pre-application has been submitted and we are awaiting final feedback, but it was hoped that the full application could be submitted in January. Krunch and StreetSpace are looking to set up a Community Interest Company and needed Directors/Trustees for this and had asked that if Councillors knew anyone who may be interested in this to contact Dan Budd, Penny Baker or the Clerk. Cllr Bob Griffin offered to act as the Council representative/observer for this organisation.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE CONSULTATION ABOUT PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO OAKLEAZE GREEN

The Clerk reported that there had been a good response to the consultation with a lot of debate on social media and 30+ letters and emails received. The consultation finishes at the end of November. It was agreed that it would be important to know the views of residents of Grace Lodge. It was also agreed that it may be necessary to go back to South Gloucestershire Council to discuss what other options could meet the criteria for the s106 funds.

11. TO CONSIDER INSTALLING A DROPPED KERB TO PROVIDE EASIER VEHICULAR ACCESS TO CHANTRY FIELD

The Clerk reported that there was difficulty with vehicles accessing the Chantry Field at the Clare Walk end, with some damage being caused to vehicles including Council vehicles. The Clerk asked Council to consider spending £300 in order for South Gloucestershire Council to assess the area and grant a license for installing a dropped kerb (the actual work would be either done by South Gloucestershire Council or our own staff could do it as long as it met the specifications). Cllr Helen Harrison proposed that we agree to the £300 costs involved, Cllr Bob Griffin seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

12. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO HOST AN ORIENTEERING EVENT AT THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS AND AROUND THORNBURY IN 2018

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from BOK to run an urban orienteering event in Thornbury on 16 June 2019. Around 300-400 people had attended similar events. At this stage, BOK were just looking for an indication as to whether Council would support such an event. Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that this suggestion be welcomed, Cllr Helen Harrison seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

13. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

None.