

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 29 March 2018 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Angela Symonds

Louise Powell (Town Clerk)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator)

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

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Jack Hainsworth (St Mary's Church) (another commitment)
Cllr Helen Harrison (work commitment)
Cllr Jayne Stansfield (out of Thornbury)
Cllr Gail Whitehead (another commitment)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Clive Parkinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Chantry Field as a resident of an adjacent road.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chair welcomed representatives from the Football Club, Mr Richard Shorey and Mr Tony Watola, who were present at the meeting as observers in relation to item 6 - development of football facilities at the Mundy Playing Fields.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 22.02.18 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting of 22 February 2018 had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk confirmed that she was due to have a site meeting with the Human Circus in a couple of weeks time, although at present not all of the necessary paperwork had been provided by them.

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

There was no report provided due to the apologies received from Mr Jack Hainsworth. The Clerk was unaware of any pressing issues.

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

- (a) To consider any changes relating to the redevelopment works that may need to be approved

The Clerk reported that the pathworks were complete. The contractor had been unable to "make good" the works at present due to weather conditions and would return to site as soon as possible to do so. 5% of the agreed price had been retained until this had been completed. Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that the works had been carried out to a high standard so far. The representatives from the Football Club reported that temporary fencing would be erected tomorrow on site and a temporary football stand would be erected on site on Saturday. This would be completed in advance of a League inspection on Saturday.

- (b) To consider and approve the signing of the User Agreement with the Football Club

Copies of the User Agreement were tabled and discussed. The representatives from the Football Club confirmed that they remain responsible for the safety of spectators, although they stated that they did not expect the crowd size to increase significantly. The situation with regard to the Football Club ever leaving the Mundy Playing Fields was also clarified. It was proposed by Cllr Clive Parkinson that the Agreement be approved and signed with the proviso that Council investigates the option of becoming the owner of the floodlights and fencing, including the financial implications, and that any recommendations on this option would come back to Committee for approval. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed. On behalf of the Committee, Cllr Clive Parkinson thanked the Clerk and Paul Le Riche for their significant efforts in getting the path contract awarded, and the works completed, in time for the League inspection.

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

- (a) Verbal update on the installation of new equipment at Streamleaze

The Clerk reported that the some of the existing equipment had been removed from the Streamleaze play area and signage had gone up to inform that the new equipment should be installed week commencing 23 April 2018.

- (b) Verbal update on the consultation of the new play equipment for Mundy Playing Fields

A summary of the responses so far to the Mundy Playing Fields play equipment consultation was tabled and discussed. The Clerk reported that a Working Group would be created, including a representative from Proludic to review all of the consultation responses and agree any changes to the final design as a result of the consultation, including comments regarding accessibility. The Working Group would meet in the afternoon of Tuesday 10 April 2018 in order to finalise the design in time for it to be tabled at the Finance and Policy Committee meeting on Thursday 12 April 2018. Cllr Pam Shipp and Cllr Angela Symonds volunteered to become members of the Working Group and it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the details of the Working Group meeting to members of the Committee not present this evening. On behalf of the Committee, Cllr Clive Parkinson thanked the Clerk for her efforts in carrying out this consultation.

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

The Clerk reported that she had met this week with Chris Thomas from South Gloucestershire Council Property Services to discuss the lease for Vilner Lane to include the Skatepark, the back of the site which would be reserved for football pitches, the front of the site which would be reserved for an overspill car park, and the allotments area. Mr Thomas had been able to offer a compromise until a formal lease was forthcoming, in the form of a Tenancy At Will which would allow us to progress works in the Skatepark including the Hub. This new development was discussed in some detail and the Clerk reported that she would need to look more closely at the details of a Tenancy at Will. Whilst regretting that a formal lease was still not forthcoming from South Gloucestershire Council, Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that assuming the Clerk did not discover any significant problems in the detail of a Tenancy At Will, this be approved by the Committee as a mechanism for starting the Skatepark project. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

There was some discussion on what basis the Skatepark Hub would be owned and managed. Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that at a recent meeting to discuss these issues, the option of forming a Community Interest Company (CIC) had been strongly supported with the Town Council becoming one of the three named partners, with Krunch and the Baptist Church (StreetSpace) being the other two. It was also suggested that any Committee representative would act as a Non-Executive Director only. The issue of Council granting money to a CIC as opposed to a charity was discussed, although the Clerk confirmed that Council could still specify what the grant should be spent on. The Clerk agreed to circulate copies of the Skatepark business plan to members of the Committee.

9. TO CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AREA NEAR THE TENNIS CLUB

The Clerk circulated copies of the plans from Myles Couzens (groundsman) for the land near the Tennis Club at the end of the car park. The Tennis Club had given £100 towards the planting for this area and the Clerk asked the Committee to agree to match this sum to obtain the £200 necessary. Cllr Bob Griffin proposed that £100 be given for this purpose. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Pam Shipp and unanimously agreed. The Committee wished Myles well with the progressing these plans.

10. TO CONSIDER COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE DRAFT PLAYING PITCHES, INDOOR AND BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGIES

The consultation was discussed in detail and Cllr Clive Parkinson highlighted a number of errors in facts relating to pitches and facilities in Thornbury, e.g. there was more than one adult football pitch in the Mundy Playing Fields, errors in the facilities provided for rugby at the Castle School Sixth Form Centre, errors in the facilities available at the Chantry Field, etc. It was also noted that pitches that were provided as part of new developments in Thornbury were not included. It was felt that this was especially concerning as part of the Vilner Lane land was to be reserved by South Gloucestershire Council for potential pitches, but this could be based on errors in estimating the available pitches elsewhere in Thornbury. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond on behalf of Council to this consultation as follows - Council has looked at the consultation paper and noted numerous errors especially in regard to the number of pitches in Thornbury, it was therefore not an acceptable basis on which to develop a strategy for the town and Council would welcome a meeting with South Gloucestershire Council to clarify the facts and figures relating to pitches and facilities in Thornbury.

11. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Clerk reported that the boiler was not working properly in the Pavilion flat and that currently there was no hot water. Repairs made recently had not solved the problem and we had been advised that there were two options, (1) to spend £600 on a new heat exchanger or (2) to spend approximately £1700 on a new boiler. The latter option had been strongly recommended by the electrician as more cost efficient. Cllr Pam Shipp proposed that the Committee recommend to the Finance and Policy Committee the use of £1700 from the reserves to purchase a new boiler. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.
- (b) The Clerk asked for confirmation from the Committee that it wished to enter Thornbury into the Pride of Parks award as part of Thornbury in Bloom. This was unanimously agreed by the Committee.
- (c) The Clerk stated that we needed to respond by 6 April 2018 to an invitation to send two representatives to the consultation on the Buckover Garden Village. It was agreed that names of anyone wishing to attend be sent to the Clerk in advance of 6 April 2018 and that in the meantime the Clerk would find the list of Council's comments regarding this development which had been produced following a Special Meeting to discuss it. Finally it was agreed that whoever does attend on behalf of Council would need to make a statement clarifying that they were attending in order to obtain further details on the proposed development and were not attending in support of it.