

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 10th September 2015

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs: Alan Carman
Helen Harrison
Guy Rawlinson
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Church)
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

Apologies : Cllr : Bob Griffin (Family Commitment)
Lesley Jones (Family Commitment)
Pam Shipp (Out of Thornbury)
Maggie Tyrrell (Out of Thornbury)

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) St. Mary's Closed Churchyard - General Report

(i) General Report

Jack Hainsworth reported that the scaffolding had now been removed leaving the mowing team busy clearing away the bricks etc. and looking to tidy the east end of the area. They had been removing ivy from the front wall of the churchyard and requested that as the wall appeared to be in a bad state of repair Town Council inspect and carry out any repairs necessary. It was also reported that the back wall of the churchyard adjoining the Castle was covered in ivy and crumbling so it was agreed to investigate ownership of this.

Mr Hainsworth also informed members that the group were hoping to plant a small wild flower area and continue to make several improvements to the churchyard. It was suggested that he talk to the PCC and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

Cllr Martin Trueman entered the meeting

(ii) War Memorial - Repairs

It was reported that there had been no response from English Heritage Monument Inspector, Sarah Ball. A further quote from another company, Bristol Stone Masonry, had been received for £1000. The company felt that a light clean of the memorial was all that was required and that it was possible to replace the damaged slabs without removing the memorial. After some discussion members agreed that the matter needed to be moved on quickly now and so it was unanimously agreed to employ Bristol Masonry to carry out the work. It was also agreed that if it was possible to slide out the steps without removing the memorial then it would be preferable to replace all the sandstone steps and requested the Clerk obtain a price from the company for this.

Mr. Hainsworth was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

(b) Development of Land at Poulterbrook and Field Adjacent to Leisure Centre

The Chairman reported that work had started to clear the site and it was hoped that drainage work would start in the next week. There had been some stone from a collapsed wall found in the small copse which formed part of the environmental area and it had been decided to leave these trees as removing them would expose the stone and could cause problems.

Members were informed that the £50,000 loan from the Public Works Load Board in respect of Council's contribution to the development, had now been received.

The information was noted.

(c) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

A reply was awaited from the Leisure Centre Trust regarding the request from the User Group to remove of a section the hedge to make the facility more visible from the car park.

It was reported that Dan Potter sent apologies that he had not been able to investigate further the idea of using a container for a cafe at the site.

(d) Dog Control Measures – Mundy Playing Fields

The Deputy Clerk reported that once the last piece of new play equipment had been installed in the next few weeks, measures would be taken to impose restrictions to ban dogs from the area around the play equipment.

(e) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

There was no progress in this matter and Clerk would endeavour to have more information available for the next meeting.

(f) Public Tennis Court Refurbishment

The works to refurbish the courts had now been completed and temporary lining had been laid until new could be installed next year.

(g) Request from Castle School Pupils for Various Works to Oakleaze Green

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had met with Megan and Emma, students at Castle School who had proposed several ideas to enhance Oakleaze Green which included goal posts and a small primary school play area. It was hoped that a formal consultation document would now be compiled to bring back to the next meeting for members consideration.

(h) Purchase of Play Equipment

It was hoped that the last piece of play equipment to be installed by Playdale would arrive in the next couple of weeks.

2. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Review of Cemetery Charges

Following the review of cemetery terms conditions and charges the Clerk had circulated her findings and recommendations with the agenda. Although charges would rise substantially, Council would still need to subsidise the operation of the cemetery. A copy of the recommendations is attached to this report.

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Helen Harrison seconded by Cllr Angela Symonds and unanimously agreed that these recommendations be adopted and implemented on 1st October 2015.

3. OPERATIONAL REPORT

Since the last meeting the Cemetery had accommodated eight burials and six interment of cremated remains. The information was noted.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.