

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 18th February 2016

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Chairman)

Alan Carman
Bob Griffin
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Lesley Tuck (nee Jones) – Late Arrival
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary’s Church)
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr: Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

Jack Hainsworth reported that he had met with Council’s Open Spaces Supervisor, Chris Davey, to look at issues concerning overgrown vegetation and tree works in the churchyard. The Clerk confirmed that it would not be necessary to obtain planning permission to remove suckers from around the base of the trees but more extensive works such as crown lift or reduction would require planning approval. Mr. Hainsworth had organised a working party for the 27th February.

Now the mower had been overhauled, it was hoped that the volunteers could cut the grass at the weekend. Mr. Hainsworth also reported that the bees in the hives in the churchyard were active.

There had been a problem with the floodlights tripping the electricity and the Clerk advised that Council’s electrical contractor had been instructed to investigate the problem.

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

(b) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

There was nothing to report on this matter at the present time.

(c) Dog Control Measures – Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that eight ‘Keep dogs on leads’ signs had been received and the litter bin and three new dog bins were awaiting delivery. The information was noted

(Cllr. Lesley Tuck arrives)

(d) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

The broadband/wifi issues at the Mundy Playing Fields pavilion had now been resolved and an order for the defibrillator would be placed in the near future. The information was noted

(e) Oakleaze Green

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson produced a draft copy of the proposed consultation and asked that members peruse it and contact him with any suggested amendments. The consultation period would run from 1st to the 30th April with an opportunity for local residents to discuss any issues arising from the proposal with students and councillors on Saturday 16th April in St. Mary's Centre.

Cllr. Parkinson would endeavour to obtain a plan for inclusion in the consultation and would also ask St. Mary Centre Manager, Alan Cole, if there would be an empty shop available on the 16th April .

Cllr. Martin Trueman advised that the Environment Committee had been considering a Tree Planting Strategy and suggested that trees could be planted on Oakleaze Green sponsored by the schools.

(ii) Request from Residents & Police not to Mow a Section of Oakleaze Green

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had spoken to Mr. Roberts following his complaint that he would be unable to maintain the hedge backing onto his property if the grass was kept mown.

Members felt that an unmown area would be difficult to maintain as litter, glass and dog faeces would not be easily visible. Cllr. Parkinson had spoken to P.C. Sean White who was happy for Council to carry on mowing and if the problem with youngsters congregating in that section of the green reoccurred he would address the matter.

It was agreed, therefore, to continue to mow the identified area.

(f) Thornbury Town Football Club – Upgrade Sport Facilities at the Mundy Playing Fields

There was nothing further to report on this matter of the present time.

(g) Thornbury Public Tennis Courts – Improvements

An e-mail had been received from Brian Jordan of Thornbury Tennis Club confirming the Tennis Club's and Council's financial commitment to the improvements of Courts 1 & 2 together with a proposed timetable for completion of the work. The correspondence had been e-mailed to members prior to the meeting.

Mr. Jordan had also provided a draft letter for Council to send to the Tennis Club covering the Club's use of the Public Tennis Courts. Members considered the letter and agreed to the wording with some minor changes and the Clerk was asked to produce a more formal agreement with similar wording that would be acceptable to both parties.

Members also agreed that the Council would be happy to share the official opening of Courts 1 & 2 with the opening of the Tennis Club's new Clubhouse on the 7th May 2016.

Cllr. Guy Rawlinson advised that the Group working on providing signage for the town have suggested that a fingerpost indicating 'public tennis courts' should be provided at the entrance to The Close. The Group had asked if Committee would cover the cost of the sign which was estimated to be approximately £170 and members agreed to the request.

(h) Risk Assessment

All members had received a full risk assessment and approved all sections pertaining to the playing fields, cemetery and outside spaces.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Eastland Tump – Dog Fouling and Removal of Garages

An e-mail had been received from a resident, abutting the Tump, complaining about dog owners walking their pets at night on the area and not picking up the faeces deposited by their pets. Members felt that it would not be possible to monitor the area at night but the Clerk agreed to see if more prominent anti-dog fouling signs could be erected on the Tump.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

Since the last meeting the Cemetery had accommodated three interments of cremated remains. The information was noted.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.