

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 21st May 2015

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Chairman)

Cllrs: Alan Carman
Bob Griffin
Lesley Jones
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Church)
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)
Guy Rawlinson (Out of Thornbury)

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Cllr Bob Griffin be elected as vice chair for the ensuing year.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

(i) General Report

Jack Hainsworth reported that the bramble clearance, reported at the last meeting, was being undertaken adjacent to the front wall and not the back as stated in the last report. The ivy had also been sprayed and a working party had been removing the dead vegetation which had resulted in some holes appearing in the wall. The Clerk advised that she would ask the open spaces supervisor, Chris Davey, to monitor the situation.

Mr. Hainsworth also reported that the grass had been growing since March and the volunteers (known as 'the holy mowers') had been cutting it regularly. He advised that the volunteers could not cope with the clearance of the large amount of brambles at the back of the church yard and also that they were, unable to remove any of the brambles that they had cut down. The Clerk said that she and Chris Davey would arrange a site meeting with Mr. Hainsworth to assess the situation with the brambles and the trees in the churchyard.

(ii) War Memorial – Grant Application

Information had been received from The War Memorials Trust that more than one quotation would be required before a grant could be considered. The Clerk had obtained a second quotation for the repairs which was vastly different from the first and she was now in the process of trying to get a third so that an informed comparison of the quotations could be made.

The Chairman raised the issue of the letter that had appeared in The Gazette from the British Legion and also the one that had been received by Council. The local branch of the Legion appeared to think that the Town Council had an obligation to either move the existing War Memorial to a more central place in the town or provide a new one.

The Clerk had responded to the Chairman the Legion advising that Council had a statutory power to provide funding for the repair of the existing memorial but did not have the power to incur expenses for the provision of a new memorial. It was assumed, therefore, that the Legion would be considering the most appropriate way to raise the money for such a project. A response was awaited.

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

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

(Cllr. Martin Trueman declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Thornbury Town Football Club)

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Richard Shorey recently who had advised that he had received a few questions from the Football Foundation in the previous week regarding the funding application and had been able to advise the Foundation that the information had already been provided in the application.

The Football Club had identified a consultant and was ready to go out to tender. Once funding from the Football Foundation was confirmed, it was hoped that work on the construction of the pitches would commence immediately after the Carnival in July.

The information was noted.

(c) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

The Clerk advised that the improvement works to the ramps and the installation of the new manual pad had been completed and were proving to be very popular with the youngsters. The information was received and noted.

(d) Dog Fouling – Mundy Playing Fields

The Working Group had met and had discussed a form of words to be included on the signs to advise all owners that dogs had to be kept on leads at all times in the Mundy Playing Fields. The Clerk would produce a copy of the sign for members' perusal. Members of the working group also recommended that the white posts should delineate the areas where dogs would not be allowed which were the football pitches and around the play equipment.

Cllr. Angela Symonds asked if Committee could consider fencing the play area, providing more waste bins and supplying dog bags. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of providing dog bags and a couple of new waste bins but members felt the imposition of the new dog control measures should be monitored before consideration was given to fencing the play area.

(e) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

After careful consideration, it was agreed that the installation of a defibrillator in the Mundy Playing Fields, similar to the one in St. Mary Centre, should be pursued. It was anticipated that the cost would be in region of £4,000 and it was agreed that funding for the project should be sought from local organisations. As Thornbury Lions and the Thornbury Hospital League of Friends had contributed to the first defibrillator it was agreed to contact both organisations again and it was also suggested that Thornbury Town Football Club could also be asked to contribute. Cllr. Martin Trueman volunteered to speak to the Football Club.

Cllr. Clive Parkinson advised that works to replace the rails around the number 1 pitch would be undertaken by the Football Club after the Carnival in July.

(f) Public Tennis Court Refurbishment

The Clerk advised that the Tennis Club was pursuing a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association for the shortfall in the funding for the improvements to Courts No 1 and 2. Members would be advised of the outcome of the application once a response had been received from the LTA.

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson advised that he would be willing to organise the Consultation Document with Castle School pupils, Emma and Megan, and Cllr. Bob Griffin also expressed his willingness to help Cllr. Parkinson with the preparation of the document.

(h) Purchase of Play Equipment

The Clerk produced copies of the play equipment that members had selected prior to the election and it was agreed to place orders for the Sutcliffe Play Schools Climber at a cost of £6,000 (including safety surfacing and installation) and the Playdale Combo Unit comprising swinging steps and rope walk at a cost of £1,850. The Clerk would need to ascertain whether the Combo Unit needed safety surfacing and how much installation would be.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) ROSPA Report Action Plan

Copies of the Action Plan had been tabled for members' information. The Clerk advised that the items that had been deemed to be high and moderate risk had now been rectified. The information was noted.

(b) Extra Toilets at the Chantry Field

P.C. Natalie Draper had asked if members would consider installing extra toilets at the Chantry Field. The Clerk had written to P.C. Draper asking if this was a formal request from the Police and, if so, could some background/reasons be provided on why the Police deemed it necessary to increase the number of portaloos. A response was awaited.

It was agreed to wait for the police response before considering the request.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Request to Serve Refreshments at the Mundy Playing Fields

An email had been received from a lady requesting permission to site a small cart on the Mundy Playing Fields for the purpose of serving teas, coffees, smoothies and crepes during the summer holidays. Members had no any objection in principle but instructed the Clerk to obtain more information before the next meeting so that consideration could be given to the request.

7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2014-15 were received and noted. A comparison of actual balances with 2014 revised projection showed a total of £90,601.01 available for re-allocation.

Agreed that the re-allocation be made as follows: _

Play Area Development	£13,000.00
Machine/Vehicle Repairs/Main.	£3,000.00
New Security Compound	£1,400.00
Cemetery Improvements	£1,000.00
Signs	£1,000.00
Paths, Roads, Tree etc.	£5,000.00
Heating and Lighting	£15,000.00
War Memorial Repairs	£30,000.00
Courts and Pitches	£2,000.00
Superannuation	£3,000.00
Uncommitted	£16,201.01