

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 26th November 2015

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Chairman)

Cllrs: Alan Carman
Bob Griffin
Helen Harrison
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Lesley Tuck (nee Jones)
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Church)
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

(i) General Report

Jack Hainsworth reported that the grass was still growing and required cutting. The Clerk agreed that she would arrange for the Outside Spaces Supervisor to meet with Mr. Hainsworth, on site, to ascertain what remedial works were required to some of the trees in the churchyard

Mr. Hainsworth also reported that one of the old memorials in the churchyard had broken off near the base and the Clerk advised that the policy at the cemetery would be to lay the memorial on top of the grave to avoid any health and safety issues.

(ii) War Memorial - Repairs

The Clerk reported that the repairs to the War Memorial had been completed and that the work, undertaken by Bristol Stone Masonry, had been to a high standard. The light clean of the memorial had made vast improvement to its appearance but it had been noted that one small area at the very top of the memorial had been missed so the Clerk said that she would advise the company accordingly.

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

(b) Development of Land at Poulterbrook and (h) Request from Thornbury Town Football Club to Upgrade Sport Facilities at the Mundy Playing Fields

As representatives of the Thornbury Town Football Club were in attendance it was agreed to take this item and 2(h) at this juncture.

Toni Watola, Chairman of Thornbury Town Football Club and Richard Shorey, Secretary of the Club's Youth Section, were welcomed to the meeting and invited to address members.

Mr. Watola reported that the grass on the new Poulterbrook pitches was growing well and it was anticipated that the facility would be handed over from the developer in October 2016.

Copies of the proposals to upgrade the sporting facilities had been e-mailed to members for information, prior to the meeting. The proposals for the No.1 pitch were as follows:-

- Installation of Floodlights
- Construction of 100 seater covered stand
- Construction of 1m wide paths to North and West of pitch
- Enclosing pitch with a 1.83m high Fence with gates provided in East and West fences to allow access for maintenance vehicles.
- Change to User Agreement to allow for Referee, at a higher level than County League, to be the sole arbiter of the playing condition of the pitch
- The changing facilities currently met requirement for the next level but facilities would need to be refurbished in due course.

Mr. Watola advised that Thornbury Town had finished well last season and was making good progress this season. However, if the team won the league it may not be able to go up to a higher league unless its ground fits the criteria required.

Mr. Watola gave members more information of the proposals as follows:

- The light spillage from the floodlights would be well contained and would only be used on Saturday afternoons in the winter months and two or three times a season midweek.
- The construction of a 100 seater covered stand would be an advantage for elderly spectators and the far side of the pitch opposite the pavilion was the best option as that location would be least affected by the low winter sun.
- The proposed fence would be green weld mesh which should have the least visual impact.

It was hoped that grants for the proposed plans could be obtained from the Football Foundation so there would be no cost to Council.

Cllr. Helen Harrison asked if fencing around the pitch would alleviate the dog fouling problem and was answered in the affirmative.

Cllr. Bob Griffin asked if consideration had been given to extra car parking if spectator numbers increased and was advised that the Football Club had not considered the issue at the present time.

Members also asked how the proposal to fence the pitch would affect the Carnival and Mr. Watola advised that the gates would be wide enough to allow large vehicles on to the pitch so that the carnival use would not be restricted.

It was agreed to give positive support in principle to the Football Club's proposals subject to ratification by Full Council in January and subject also to a full public consultation being undertaken and all planning approvals obtained.

Mr. Watola and Mr. Shorey were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

(c) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

Members welcomed Dan Potter to the meeting and invited him to address members. He introduced Chris, a member of the User Group who had experience with groundworks.

Members were provided with a plan of a proposed extension to the skatepark which had been prepared in consultation with the User Group and included the café unit discussed previously by Committee.

The groundworks of the extension would be the same as existing consisting of type one stone covered by 6mm of tarmac. The cost of the groundworks would be approximately £30,000 but it was hoped that some cheap stone may be available from local quarries.

Dan Potter was asked if he knew of any funding bodies that would award grants for this sort of facility and he said that he did have some contacts.

Members considered the design concept which consisted of three new large structures made of coated galvanised steel which should not need repainting and from which graffiti could be easily removed. A quotation of £63,000 plus VAT for the equipment and installation had been received.

The proposed café had been sited between the hedge and the existing part of the skatepark and, it was hoped, that local companies could be encouraged to sponsor it.

It was agreed to support the proposals in principle and suggested that Dan Potter go ahead and seek finance for the project.

The Clerk reported that she had now received a response from the Circadian Trust concerning the removal of part of the hedge and would forward the response to Dan Potter.

(d) Dog Control Measures – Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk advised that dog control signs would be erected in the near future stating that all dogs must be kept on leads at all times but consideration was being given to ways in which dogs could be excluded from the play area.

Members considered providing extra bins in the Mundy Playing Fields and it was agreed to purchase one new litter bin and three dog bins.

(e) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk had been advised by AED Locator that, as broadband was available at the Pavilion there was no need for a representative of the company to meet on site.

It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of the equipment at a cost of £2,950 plus VAT

(f) Oakleaze Green

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson produced the first draft of the wording for the consultation and advised that he would circulate it to all members of Council and request comments on the draft. Megan and Emma would also be asked for their comments. The consultation would be put on Council's website.

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

An e-mail had been received from PC Natalie Jones advising that during the summer months the Police had received several complaints from local residents about youths gathering in a corner of the green shouting, swearing, smoking cannabis and leaving a lot of litter

Town Council was requested not to cut the grass in the area and also to remove a dead tree. The grass was left to grow for a while, the tree was removed and the police patrols were increased in the area.

PC Jones requested that, to stop the problem reoccurring, Council does not cut that particular corner of the green.

The Clerk advised that the grass had been cut because a local resident complained that he would not be able to access his hedge if the area was allowed to become overgrown. Also the grass had not grown sufficiently to deter anyone from using the area yet the problem had not arisen again.

Cllr. Clive Parkinson agreed to visit the resident in Oakleaze Road who required access to his hedge to try and negotiate a solution that would be advantageous to all parties concerned.

(g) Construction of Pavilion at Chantry Field

(i) Request from Thornbury Rugby Club

A letter received from Mike Tinney, Chairman of Thornbury Rugby Club, concerning facilities at the Chantry Field had been tabled for members' information.

Mr. Tinney had assumed that when Council had been discussing toilet provision at the Chantry Field, members were considering facilities for the Rugby Club.

The Clerk had responded to Mr. Tinney advising him that the portaloos at the Chantry Field had been put there in response to a complaint from a local resident who had alleged that Rugby Club players were urinating against his garden wall. This matter had been discussed at length by members and resolutions recorded.

The information was received and noted.

(ii) Response from Club Thornbury

Club Thornbury had not met recently so there was nothing further to report at the present time.

(h) *This matter was dealt with under Item 2(b)*

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Purchase of New Mower for Outside Spaces

The Clerk advised members that a new mulching mower was required for cutting outside spaces and she had obtained three quotations as follows:

Quotations in descending order

£754.00 + VAT
£720.00 + VAT
£666.67 + VAT

Suppliers in Alphabetical Order

Powercut
Sullivans
P. Tuckwell Ltd.

It was agreed to purchase a new mower and to accept the lowest quotation.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

5. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.