

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 31st March 2016

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Chairman)

Alan Carman
Helen Harrison
Bob Griffin
Guy Rawlinson
Angela Symonds
Lesley Tuck (nee Jones) – Late Arrival

Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary’s Church)
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

The chairman expressed his thanks to the retiring Town Clerk, Mrs Judith Payne, for all her help and support she had given the committee since 2001.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Pam Shipp (other meeting)
Martin Trueman(work commitment)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

Jack Hainsworth reported that all the grass areas in the churchyard had been cut and that Chris Davey, Council’s outside Supervisor had serviced a mower for the group. The working party had met last month working hard to clear and tidy the churchyard but that Council had not yet cut back the suckers from a large tree as had been requested. The Clerk informed him that Council had a member of the outside staff on long term sick but that the works would be carried out as soon as possible. Members were also informed that the bees that were in the churchyard were now coming out from the winter and that the bee keeper was maintaining the area.

He continued to inform committee that recent storms had caused a headstone to topple over but a member of the team had propped it up against the wall. The Clerk advised that the stone should be laid flat on the grave as it was dangerous to leave it propped up.

Mr Ainsworth asked if there had been any progress with the electrical problems with the floodlight as the notice not to switch them on was still in place. He was informed that Council had arranged for electrical contractors to make a return visit to check the electrics.

Lastly it was reported that the recently renovated war memorial had cement coming away at one corner which it was thought was probably due to the very wet weather. It was agreed to contact the stone mason and request that he return to investigate the problem.

Mr. Hainsworth was thanked for his attendance and before leaving the meeting he offered his best wishes to the clerk on her retirement.

(b) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

The chairman had been in discussion with the youth worker Dan Potter and it had been decided that Dan would investigate a fund raising strategy to enable the improvements to be carried out. It was agreed to discuss with both South Gloucestershire Council Property Services and the Circadian Trust who maintained the Leisure Centre the proposal to site a shipping container at the skate park to be used as a cafe for the skaters. Cllr Clive Parkinson agreed to convene this meeting.

(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 new dog bins were awaiting delivery. The information was noted

(d) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

The order for the defibrillator to be sited at the Mundy Playing Fields had been placed. It was to be sited on the wall of the pavilion facing the entrance and close to the caretakers flat.

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson reported that the paperwork for the consultation was complete and that Alan Cole the St Mary Centre Manager had offered an empty shop to display the information on Saturday 16th April. He was hoping that there would soon be a press release to advertise the consultation.

(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

There was to be a grand opening of the Tennis Court on Saturday 7th May and it was hoped that the then Mayor would be able to officially open Council’s courts. Cllr Clive Parkinson agreed to liaise with the tennis Club on further arrangements for the day.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Resurfacing of Car Park

The cost of resurfacing the car park had been included in the next year’s budget and members would investigate the matter at a later date.

(b) Replacement of Safety Surfacing under Swings at Mundy playing Field

The Open Spaces Supervisor had reported that the safety surfacing under the tyre swings at the Mundy Playing Fields had been worn away and was now in a dangerous state. A quote for £2261.25 plus VAT from Matta the safety surfacing company had been received. The Clerk reported that there was money in the budget for the repair and it was agreed to instruct Matta to supply and carry out the works.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

Since the last meeting the Cemetery had accommodated five interments of cremated remains, one burial and one scattering of ashes. The information was noted.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Tim Thorne request to Hold Geocaching Event at Mundy playing Fields

An email had been received from Tim Thorne who was interested in geocaching which involves the finding of caches hidden by other catchers and is all run online involving smart phone to navigate you to the hiding place. Once found the cacher signs the book and replaces it for other cacher to find. The idea is to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. Mr Thorne asked if he could hold a social event on 4th June at midday where he would invite fellow catchers he knew to meet and swap experiences etc. Prior to this event Mr Thorne requested that he hide a cache in the perimeter hedge of the playing fields which would mark his 200th hide in South Gloucestershire.

Members welcomed the idea and gave permission for Mr Thorne to carry out his event.

(b) Request from local resident To Upgrade Osprey Park Play Area.

An email had been received from a resident of Swallow Park requesting that Council look at upgrading the play equipment at Osprey Park. It was agreed that there may be some money in the budget next year and Cllr Parkinson would contact the resident to discuss the matter.