

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 14th January 2016

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Chairman)

Alan Carman
Bob Griffin
Helen Harrison
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Guy Rawlinson (Out of Thornbury)
Lesley Tuck (nee Jones) (Family Commitment)
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Church)

As Brian Jordan of Thornbury Tennis Club was in attendance it was agreed to take Agenda Item 3(a) as first business.

3.(a) Thornbury Public Tennis Courts – Improvements – Thornbury Tennis Briefing Paper

Mr. Jordan had provided a detailed briefing paper reviewing the status of the programme for Courts 1 and 2, highlighting the work needed to complete the project and examining how the courts might be maintained in future years.

The programme, to bring the Courts up to competitive standard had started in Spring 2014 and was 90% complete. In Mr. Jordan's opinion, 100% completion was achievable by Spring 2016 providing resources were available.

The remaining proposed works were as follows:-

- Further fencing repairs at a cost of £2,400 excl. VAT which the Town Council was asked to fund.
- Colour coating the courts at a cost of £2,640 incl.VAT, the cost of which to be covered by a recently awarded South Gloucestershire Council grant. The work was schedule for Mar/April 2016.

Mr. Jordan advised that future maintenance of the courts was important and that, with the Tennis Club purchasing equipment and using Town Council's existing equipment, this could be achieved at an annual cost to Council of approximately £160 per year. It was envisaged that the maintenance work could be carried out jointly between Tennis Club representatives and Council staff.

Members were also asked if a sign could be produced for placement on the Courts setting out the rules and regulations for public use of the facilities. Mr. Jordan also asked if members would be happy to allow the Tennis Club to place a sign giving members of the public information on the Tennis Club.

The Clerk advised members that the budget had been exceeded in the current financial year for the improvements works to Courts 1 and 2 and suggested that, if members agreed, the works could be carried out in April 2016.

It was agreed that Council would finance the repairs to the fencing at a cost of £2,400 in April 2016 and that the Clerk and Mr. Jordan produce an agreement formalising the proposal to allow the Tennis Club to use Courts 1 and 2 for 100 hours a year.

A maintenance agreement for the Courts would be considered at the next Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee meeting.

Mr. Jordan suggested that an official opening of the courts could be linked with the opening of the Tennis Club's new Clubhouse on 7th May 2016.

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

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

As Jack Hainsworth was not in attendance, there was nothing to report at the present time.

(b) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

The Clerk reported that Dan Potter was pursuing, with the Circadian Trust, the proposal to create a gap in the hedge to give increased visibility of the skatepark from the car park. Members were advised by Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell that, as the land adjacent to the Leisure Centre was green belt it may be necessary to obtain planning permission for the proposed siting of a container for use as a cafe.

(c) Dog Control Measures – Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that eight 'Keep dogs on leads' signs had been ordered. One litter bin and three new dog bins were also on order.

The information was noted

(d) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that the Groundsman had been experiencing some problems with his broadband and was attempting to ascertain what was causing the intermittent signal. Members agreed that if the problem could not be rectified, steps should be taken by Council to provide a reliable Wi-Fi connection and pay for the broadband rental.

The defibrillator would be ordered as soon as the broadband issues have been resolved.

(e) Oakleaze Green

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson was working on the preparation of the Consultation and hoped to have a final draft for members' perusal at the next meeting.

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had visited the resident in Oakleaze Road that required access to his hedge but unfortunately he was not at home. Cllr. Parkinson had spoken to his wife and was now awaiting a telephone call back.

(f) Construction of Pavilion at Chantry Field

There was nothing further to report on this matter at the present time and it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

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

Members had considered the Football Club’s proposals for upgrading the sport’s facilities at the Mundy Playing Field at the last Full Council meeting and supported the scheme subject to a full public consultation being undertaken and all necessary planning permissions being obtained. All members voted in favour of supporting the proposals except one, who abstained.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Thornbury Public Tennis Courts – Improvements

This matter was taken as first business.

(b) Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment Action Plan had been provided previously to all Councillors, but it was now agreed that Committee members should be given a copy of the whole Risk Assessment document to consider any issues pertinent to the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee. Any comments should be brought to the next meeting in February.

The Clerk would try and circulate a copy of the report to members electronically.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

The Clerk was advised that the tarmac at the entrance to the Mundy Playing Fields car park at the top of Wellfield Lane was in a poor state and she agreed to investigate the matter.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.