

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 15th January 2015

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Chairman)

Cllrs: Bob Griffin
Graham Lanfear
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Maggie Tyrrell
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Church)
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Chris Clifford (Out of Thornbury)
Helen Harrison (Other Meeting)
Phyllida Parsloe (Indisposed)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

(i) General Report

Jack Hainsworth advised that the brambles in the churchyard were causing a problem and he was attempting to set up a working party to tackle the clearance of the vegetation. It was intended to concentrate on the south wall where the brambles had taken over. The eastern side of the churchyard next to Castle Cottage also needed clearing but there was a problem of low branches on one the trees preventing access into that section. The Clerk advised that any tree works would require planning permission because, even if the tree did not have a tree preservation order, it was situated within the Conservation Order. Mr. Hainsworth agreed that he would provide a photograph of the tree and the Clerk would pursue the necessary permissions with South Gloucestershire Council's Tree Officer.

Mr. Hainsworth had met with Chris Davey and discussed the condition of the mowers and Mr. Davey had advised that the platform on one of the mowers was now in a poor state and a new mower would be required for the forthcoming season.

Mr. Hainsworth also raised the matter of the state of the wall that had been deemed to be safe by Council's handyman. The Clerk advised that the wall was being monitored

(ii) War Memorial – Grant Application

A grant application had been submitted to the War Memorials Trust and a response was awaited. The Clerk would be applying to the Diocese for a faculty to enable the work to be carried out.

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

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson and the Clerk met with Richard Shorey on 2nd December 2014 to discuss the Gloucestershire Football Association Grant sign off form and Thornbury Town Council's responsibilities. Mr. Shorey, on behalf of the Football Club, requested certain information such as the existing maintenance programme and the Clerk had now provided the necessary facts.

When applying for a grant from the Gloucestershire Football Foundation it would be necessary to comply with one of two of the following options.

- Option 1 - To provide a 21 year lease to the Football Club and if during that time the Club ceased to exist then a lease could be reassigned to another football club thereby ensuring the continued use of the pitches. If a lease was granted to the Football Club, it could apply for the grant as a single applicant.
- Option 2 – The provision of an agreement to ensure security of tenure for 21 years rather than a formal lease, would require talks with the Gloucestershire Football Association to consider ways in which the pitches would continue to be used for football for the duration of the 21 years. If this option was chosen, the Football Club and Town Council would be required to be joint applicants.

Members agreed that Option 2 was the preferred option and the Clerk advised that she had asked that the Football Club provide detailed terms and conditions of the application. This documentation had been received yesterday and as the Chairman and Clerk had been given delegated powers to progress the matter, they would scrutinise carefully the terms and conditions. If there were any sections that caused concern the matter would be referred back to committee for further consideration.

(c) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

The Clerk had received confirmation from the contractor that work on the improvements to the ramps would commence on the week of the 23rd February. Dan Potter had been advised accordingly.

The information was received and noted.

(d) Dog Fouling – Mundy Playing Fields

Alison Richards from South Gloucestershire Council's Street Care had advised that she would be willing to attend a committee meeting to discuss the problem but suggested that the February meeting would be best as there had been some significant changes to the legislation regarding dog control. By February, South Gloucestershire Council should have a clearer understanding on how it would be using these new powers. The information was received and noted.

(e) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Football Club and advised that a defibrillator had been purchased and the equipment would be delivered to the Mundy Playing Fields. The Clerk would need to ascertain whether the defibrillator was suitable for installation at the pavilion. The information was received and noted.

(f) Public Tennis Court Refurbishment

There was nothing further to report on this matter at the present time. Confirmation on the outcome on the Tennis Club's grant application was awaited.

The information was noted.

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

At the last meeting it was agreed as follows:-

‘Members agreed that it would be necessary to undertake a public consultation with residents living near the green. It was also agreed that it would be advantageous if Megan and Emma were involved in the preparation of the consultation including the drawing up of documents. It would be important to make local residents aware that the ideas for the proposals were formulated by Castle School pupils’.

Members felt that the production of a consultation would take several weeks and that it would be sensible to undertake the necessary work to be a position to proceed with the project straight after the election. Members agreed, unanimously, to this suggestion.

(h) Repairs to Wellfield Lane and the Entrance to Cemetery

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received from the contractor that the work would be undertaken on the 6th March 2015. The Clerk was asked to monitor the potholes to ensure that they did not become dangerous before the work was completed. Cllr. Graham Lanfear asked if consideration could be given modifying the traffic calming measures in Wellfield Lane.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Inflatable Theme Park – Mundy Playing Fields

Correspondence had been received from Angus Pedrick, owner and operator of “Inflatable Theme Park” requesting that members consider his request to stage an event at the Mundy Playing Fields on either the 2nd or 3rd weekend in May or the 1st weekend in October. The inflatables would include bouncy castles, slides and play centre and would be fenced off. The Clerk was instructed to obtain references and more information including size of the required site area, reinstatement etc. The matter was referred to the next committee meeting for consideration when it was hoped that all relevant information would have been received.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

The Chairman requested that the Clerk provide suggestions for new play equipment for installation at the Mundy Playing Fields for members to consider at the next meeting. The Clerk also asked that if members had any thoughts on the equipment they would like to be provided at the Mundy Playing Fields could they please advise the Clerk accordingly.

The Chairman advised that he would be requesting that an item be put on the next Finance and Policy Committee meeting to consider a possible amendment to the newly adopted cemetery terms and conditions.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.