

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

Present: Cllr: Clive Parkinson (Chairman)

Cllrs: Alan Carman
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Church)
Peter Craig (St. Mary's Church)
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)

Apologies : Cllr : Bob Griffin (Out of Thornbury)
Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)
Lesley Jones (Family Commitment)
Martin Trueman (indisposed)

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

(i) General Report

Jack Hainsworth reported that the wildflower area had not come to fruition and the area had been cut and the vegetation removed. An attempt would be made to propagate wildflowers next year. The grass was still being cut and the 'holymowers' had managed to keep the mower operating.

Peter Craig advised that a list of tasks that the church would like to undertake had been handed to the Clerk. These tasks included pruning of trees, shrubs and bushes plus ivy and bramble clearance. It was also suggested that the state of tombstones should be inspected to identify any unsafe structures.

Some ivy clearance work was required to the Castle wall and the Clerk was asked if she knew who owned the wall. She thought that the Castle owned the wall and that permission would be required before any work could be undertaken.

(ii) War Memorial - Repairs

The Clerk advised that Bristol Stone Masonry had been asked to provide a specification for the works to the memorial and a copy would be sent to the Church. The works would include replacement of the broken sandstone slabs and a light clean of the memorial. It was also hoped that the works would be completed by Remembrance Sunday but if this was not possible Peter Craig asked if could be advised accordingly.

Peter Craig expressed his heartfelt thanks to members and said that it was a pleasure and privilege to work with Council and looked forward to further association in the future. Members thanked Mr. Craig for his comments and asked for Council's appreciation to be extended to the Parochial Church Council.

Mr. Hainsworth and Mr. Craig were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

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

The Chairman reported that work on the site had stopped during the wet spell but had continued once the area had dried out. The drainage work had been completed, the ditch had been cleared and a bridge constructed over the culvert. Once rotavation of the soil had been completed, the area would be seeded and, if the weather was good this autumn, there was a chance that the seed could germinate. If this was the case there was a likelihood that the pitches could be played on in autumn 2016.

Members were advised that South Gloucestershire Council would be providing £30,000 towards the project from the New Homes Bonus scheme.

The Chairman suggested that consideration should be given to producing a press release once the work had been completed. The information was noted.

(c) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

The Chairman advised that Penny Baker would help to set up a café at the skatepark and she thought there may be a possibility of obtaining funding for the project. Penny had started the process and would work with Dan Potter to try and progress the project.

The Clerk reported that the obsolete kit that had been removed from the skatepark to accommodate the new manual pad had been dragged back on to the tarmac next to the quarter pipe. A bar had also been removed from the quarter pipe to allow the skateboarders to jump from one piece of equipment to the other.

Members agreed that this situation was potentially dangerous and it was agreed to drag the obsolete equipment off the skatepark and arrange for the safety rail on the quarter pipe to be replaced. The Chairman said that he would advise Dan Potter of members' decision.

The Clerk advised that she had not yet received a response from the Circadian Trust concerning Council's request to create a gap in the hedge to make the skatepark visible from the car park and it was agreed that she should telephone the Trust to try and progress the matter.

(d) Dog Control Measures – Mundy Playing Fields

The installation of the new play equipment had been completed and the agreed dog control measures would now be put in place. Cllr. Angela Symonds suggested that new bins should be installed in the playing fields as present provision was inadequate. Members agreed in principle to extra bins being installed and Cllr. Symonds was asked to provide the Clerk with suggestions for locations. The matter would be considered at the next meeting.

(e) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk had received a response from AED Locator about the possibility of installing a defibrillator on the pavilion at the Mundy Playing Fields and she would be arranging a site meeting with a representative of company in the near future. The information was noted

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had met again with Megan and Emma and advised that information for the consultation would be produced for the next meeting. The information was noted

(g) Purchase of Play Equipment

The Clerk advised that all the new play equipment purchased for the Mundy Playing Fields had been installed. The information was welcomed.

2. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Construction of Pavilion at Chantry Field

Charles Eardley-Wilmot had requested at a Council meeting that consideration be given to his suggestion that a pavilion should be constructed on the Chantry Field. He thought that a pavilion would overcome the problem of people urinating in the field and would be used by hirers of the pitches. Mr. Eardley-Wilmot had first proposed this pavilion construction as a millennium project together with the construction of an outdoor bowling green.

It was agreed that, as only one resident had made a complaint about rugby players urinating in the Chantry Field and a portaloos had been provided to solve this problem, the construction of a pavilion would not be a priority. No requests for such a scheme had been received from sports clubs and the matter would, therefore, not be given further consideration at the present time.

(b) Repairs to Tractor

Council's New Holland tractor had broken down and repairs were required urgently. The deputy clerk had attempted to obtain quotations but the only company able to carry out the repairs was the retailer of the equipment. The deputy clerk had consulted Chairman of Council and Chairman of Committee and it was agreed that the £7,000 repair should be undertaken as a matter of urgency. The information was noted.

(c) Transit Truck

(i) End of Lease Agreement

The Clerk advised that the lease agreement for the truck expired in March 2016 and that a quotation of £11,000 had been provided to purchase the vehicle. It was agreed to extend the lease for a further year and put £10,000 in the estimates to purchase the vehicle in March 2017 when it was anticipated that the cost of purchase would have reduced.

(ii) Accident Repairs

The transit truck had sustained damage to the wing mirror and door. One quotation for its repair had been received and the Clerk would endeavour to obtain at least one more for members' consideration at the next meeting. The information was noted.

3. OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson suggested that, as the revised charges for the cemetery had now been implemented, members should consider reviewing the charges annually. A report should be prepared with a comparison of prices charged by cemeteries of a similar size and operation.

Cllr. Clive Parkinson reported that he had held preliminary discussions with Thornbury Town Football Club representatives on how improvements to the facilities could be made if the Club was promoted to a higher league. Representatives of the Club would attend the next meeting to present their ideas for improvements.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.