

REPORT of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and
Cemetery Committee held 25th June 2015

Present: Cllr: Bob Griffin (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs: Alan Carman
Helen Harrison
Lesley Jones
Guy Rawlinson
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Church)
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)

Apologies : Cllr : Clive Parkinson (Out of Thornbury)

Absent : Cllrs : Pam Shipp

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Charles Eardley-Wilmott asked that consideration be given to the provision of a building on the Chantry Field that would contain changing rooms and toilets. Mr. Eardley-Wilmott was advised that the matter would be placed as an item on the next Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee agenda.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

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

(i) General Report

Jack Hainsworth reported that progress had been made with the removal of the brambles and ivy. The scaffolding erected for the roof repairs was still in place and would be removed once the work had been completed. He also reported that the stone slab path next to the shed needed attention and the Clerk would ask Council's handyman to investigate the problem.

(ii) War Memorial - Repairs

The War Memorials Trust had advised that it could not provide any names of monument surveyors but suggested that Council contact English Heritage to ascertain whether that organisation could help. The Clerk had telephoned the English Heritage South West Region branch and was told that its Monument Inspector Sarah Ball may be able to assist. The Clerk had made several attempts to contact Ms. Ball but, so far, had been unsuccessful. The information was noted.

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

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

(Cllr. Martin Trueman declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Thornbury Town Football Club)

Confirmation had been received from the Football Foundation that the grant had been approved. The Clerk had met with representatives of the Football Club and Howard Giddens, the Consultant, to look at the tender documents and receive the programme of works. Four contractors would be asked to tender all of which would be approved by Sport England. It was anticipated that all tenders would be back in by July and the target date to start the work was mid August.

The information was noted.

(c) Skatepark - User Group and Proposed Improvements

Cllr. Bob Griffin welcomed Dan Potter to the meeting and invited him to address Committee

Dan Potter thanked members for the installation of new features at the skatepark and provided prints of the youngsters enjoying the facilities. The skatepark was now attracting youngsters from Yate and Bristol and it was anticipated that the Skatefest to be held on Saturday 27th June would be very popular. The User Group has expressed some concerns about the visibility of the skatepark and feels that bad behaviour would be curbed if the facility could be seen clearly from the car park. Dan Potter had a letter of support from the police for the removal of the boundary hedge to open up a gap to the right of the composting site. It was agreed to write to the Leisure Centre Trust requesting permission to remove the hedge.

Dan Potter said that the User Group would like to produce a grand master plan to bring to the Committee for consideration. One initial idea would be to install a cafe made from a container and he had provided some prints of working examples for members' information. The cafe would be run by adults and adult supervision at the skatepark would encourage a safer environment.

Cllr. Bob Griffin advised that the matter would be placed for consideration at the next Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee in September.

Dan Potter was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

(d) Dog Fouling – Mundy Playing Fields

As the new play equipment had not yet been installed it had not been possible to undertake the delineation of the area where dogs were not allowed. There could also be some disruption from heavy vehicles accessing Poulterbrook for the construction of the new football pitches. The dog fouling prevention measures would be instigated as soon as it was feasible that compliance could be monitored.

Cllr. Angela Symonds suggested that a large information sign be provided at the entrance to the Mundy Playing Fields and the Clerk said that signs would be placed at all entrances advising dog walkers of the new regulations for dog fouling control.

(e) Installation of Defibrillator at Mundy Playing Fields

There was no progress in this matter and Clerk would endeavour to have more information available for the next meeting.

(f) Public Tennis Court Refurbishment

The works to refurbish Court 1 and 2 would commence on the 13th July and because the courts could not be relined until 2016 it would be necessary to paint on temporary lines in the interim. Members were asked by the Tennis Club to consider contributing £200 towards the cost of this work and it was agreed unanimously to contribute a further £200.

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

Cllr. Clive Parkinson has spoken to Megan and had arranged to meet her and Emma after he had returned from holiday.

(h) Purchase of Play Equipment

Contractors from both companies had visited the Mundy Playing Fields to look at the proposed sites and the Clerk had, subsequently, placed orders for Sutcliffe Play's Schools Climber and Playdale's Combo Unit. It was anticipated that the equipment would be installed before the end of the school's summer holiday.

The information was noted.

(i) Extra Toilets at the Chantry Field

The Clerk had not received any further information from P.C. Natalie Draper and it was understood that she was not at work for the next couple of weeks.

(j) Request to Serve Refreshments at the Mundy Playing Fields

The Clerk had not received any further information on this matter.

2. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Request for Running Event at Mundy Playing Fields every Sunday

A request had been received from a newly-formed local group wishing to organise a weekly run at the Mundy Playing Fields on a Saturday morning. The run would start at 9.00am and was not anticipated to last any longer than one hour. The number of runners could range from 10 to 200 depending on how popular the event would become. The Clerk had advised that there would not be sufficient parking at the Mundy Playing Fields in the summer months and that the group could park at the Leisure Centre and use The Close entrance. She also advised that the Groundsman decision on the state of the running area would be final and that insurance cover for the group would be required.

It was agreed in principle to permit the group to use the Playing Fields subject to various conditions.

3. OPERATIONAL REPORT

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.