

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 17 May 2018 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Gail Whitehead (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Vincent Costello
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Helen Harrison
Cllr Shirley Holloway
Cllr Jayne Stansfield

Mr Jack Hainsworth (St Mary's Church)
Louise Powell (Town Clerk)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator)

(Cllr Pam Shipp – absent)
(Cllr Martin Trueman – absent)
(Cllr Lesley Tuck – absent)

(Items were discussed in a different order to that stated on the agenda.)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Angela Symonds (out of Thornbury)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no members' declarations of interest.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chair welcomed representatives from Thornbury Town Football Club who were present at the meeting as observers in relation to item 8 - development of football facilities at the Mundy Playing Fields.

4. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLAYING FIELDS AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that Cllr Gail Whitehead be elected Vice Chairman of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Shirley Holloway. There being no further nominations, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Gail Whitehead be duly elected.

6. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM ALISON RICHARDS, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL, ON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs) AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICES (CPNs)

Alison Richards, from South Gloucestershire Council, outlined the legislation on PSPOs and CPNs and how these could be used to address dog control issues. A number of issues were discussed in more detail including the costs involved in enforcement of Orders/Notices, the

fact that our own staff can act as witnesses for the Orders/Notices but cannot issue them, that our byelaws remain in force until a PSPO is put in place covering the same area which will then override the byelaws, and finally that the Orders/Notices make enforcement action much more simple and straightforward. The Chairman thanked Ms Richards for the presentation and the very useful information. It was agreed that the Clerk would put together a summary of our existing dog control byelaws for the next Committee meeting.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOTBALL FACILITIES AT THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

- (a) *To consider any changes relating to the development works that may need to be approved*

The Clerk reported that the Football Club have had to submit a revised planning application that moves the location of the grandstand due to a gas pipe.

The Clerk also outlined additional requirements that had been identified by Thornbury Town Football Club in order to allow them to play in the higher League, including an area of hardstanding which would need to be covered by a canopy. The Football Club are seeking Council's agreement, as landowner, to submit a planning application for these additional requirements. The hardstanding and canopy were discussed and it was agreed that, subject to the Clerk being able to examine the specific canopy that would be used and checking that issues such as drainage would be adequately dealt with, the Committee was happy to support the Football Club's application, agree the contractors, methods, public liabilities insurance, etc.

The Clerk outlined issues relating to the supply of electricity that the Football Club would require for flood lights and how this supply might be obtained. The Football Club have applied to Western Power to access supply from cable put in by Thornbury Tennis Club and the Town Council (technically owned by Western Power). However, there was some uncertainty with regard to the amount of surplus electricity available and the future needs of the Tennis Club. There was a possibility that, in the future, additional costs would be incurred in order to provide additional capacity, and therefore a fair method of covering these additional costs would need to be agreed. The Clerk suggested that one possible method would be a three-way split between the Football Club, the Tennis Club and the Town Council. This issue was discussed in detail. It was proposed by Cllr Clive Parkinson that the Committee agrees in principle to allow the laying of power lines to the Football Club, subject to further meetings being held with the Football Club and the Tennis Club to negotiate a fair method of paying for any future electricity requirements, and subject to the issue being referred to the extra-ordinary meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on Monday 21 May 2018. A vote was taken on the proposal. There were four votes in favour, two abstentions and no votes against, therefore the proposal was agreed.

- (b) *To consider a joint application to the FSIF for the new football facilities*

The Clerk referred to the draft Grant Acceptance Form from the FSIF (Football Stadia Improvement Fund) which had been circulated. As the Football Club are not the owner of the ground nor do they have a lease for it, Council would need to act as joint applicant. The Clerk reported that there were concerns about the risk that Council would take on with regard to the "clawback" clause, and that she had been unable to clarify those risks through discussion with the FSIF. The issue was discussed in detail and it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the extra-ordinary meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on Monday 21 May 2018, and also that the Clerk should attempt to obtain some independent legal advice on the draft document in advance of the meeting.

7. **TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

Mr Jack Hainsworth referred to the report of the meeting in February and said that he felt unable to adequately survey issues with one of the walls in the churchyard and it was agreed that our outdoor staff would look at it. Mr Hainsworth also reported that they had experienced problems with the electrics tripping out in the church and so had temporarily switched off the floodlights in an attempt to identify what was causing the problem.

5. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29.03.18 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

The report of the meeting of 29 March 2018 had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk reported that the Human Circus had decided that they could not go ahead with an event in the Mundy Playing Fields due to accessibility issues. The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a representative from South Gloucestershire Council with regard to our response to the consultation on playing pitches, indoor and built sports facilities strategies. The plan would be to arrange a meeting to discuss Council's concerns about inaccuracies in the information they had on Thornbury's facilities.

9. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S PLAY EQUIPMENT**

(a) *Verbal update on the installation of new equipment for Mundy Playing Fields*

(It was noted that the new Streamleaze play equipment was now installed.) The Clerk reported that Council now needed to decide on the optional extras that it wanted with the new Mundy Playing Fields equipment. Options were discussed and it was agreed that an additional trampoline would be ordered, especially bearing in mind the very positive feedback on the trampoline that had been installed in the Streamleaze play area.

The Clerk reported that there had been an on-site meeting with the contractor. They had confirmed that week commencing 4 June 2018 they would begin moving the adult play equipment to its new position further away from the children's play equipment and week commencing 11 June they would fence off the whole play area and begin removal of old equipment and installation of new. It was believed that the splash pad could remain open throughout this process and the new panels around the splash pad could be installed in one day. The contractor was confident that all installation works would be complete before the Carnival. It was hoped that the climbing pyramid could be removed intact and installed into another play area in the future. The Clerk confirmed that the fencing-off of the play area for the installation works would be well publicised.

(b) *Feedback from the latest RoSPA Play Safety Inspections*

The Clerk tabled and talked through a summary of the 2018 RoSPA Play Safety Reports. It was noted that the only "high risks" were in the Mundy Playing Fields play area and which would be dealt with by the removal of the old play equipment and installation of new. It was agreed that the Clerk would work through the "medium risks" identified and report back on progress at future Committee meetings. The Clerk highlighted that there may be difficulties in getting quotes for more specialised work in the Skatepark. The Clerk agreed to circulate the full Reports to Committee members.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LEASE FOR VILNER LANE AND THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE SKATEPARK

The Clerk reported that she was continuing to chase South Gloucestershire Council for a draft Tenancy at Will. The Clerk and Cllr Clive Parkinson had met with Penny Baker and Dan Potter for further discussion on project management, budgets and roles and responsibilities. The Clerk will produce a written report for a future meeting with more details on this. Cllr Clive Parkinson offered to show members of the Committee around the Skatepark and explain the development plans.

11. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR THE UPDATE TO THE KITCHEN IN THE FLAT ABOVE THE PAVILLION

The Clerk reported that she had received three quotes for the update to the pavilion flat kitchen, only one of which was within budget and was from a local firm who had previously completed work for us to a good standard. Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that the lowest quote be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

12. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REGARDING THORBURY FOOTBALL CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLANS

A letter from a Thornbury resident dated 15 April 2018 had been circulated and was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply including reference to the fencing being temporary, that we were aware of the gas main issue, that we had been updated recently on the latest laws regarding dog control and that the public right of way had been diverted around the football pitch.

13. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Clerk reported that she had been approached by ParkRun to ask Council to consider allowing a children's ParkRun at the Mundy Playing Fields. This would take place on Sundays at 9.00am, with a shorter 2km route and should involve fewer runners than the adult ParkRun. It was agreed that this should be put on the agenda for the next Committee meeting for full discussion.
- (b) Cllr Clive Parkinson raised the issue of the s106 money from the developers of Grace Lodge and the possibility that this might be used by the Tennis Club. He also highlighted requests from Grace Lodge residents for seats to be placed next to the path at the top of the hill in the Mundy Playing Fields. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.