

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 21 June 2018 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Shirley Holloway
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Angela Symonds (out of Thornbury)

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

(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 Vincent Costello (another commitment)
Cllr Jayne Stansfield (work commitments)
Cllr Gail Whitehead (another commitment)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Clive Parkinson declared an interest in matters relating to the Chantry Field as a resident of a neighbouring street.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chair welcomed representatives from ParkRun who were in attendance to address the Committee in relation to item 6 on the agenda.

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

Mr Jack Hainsworth updated the Committee on several issues relating to St Mary's Closed Churchyard. The electrician had replaced one of the floodlights which appeared to have stopped the tripping. The newest motor had been adjusted which meant that both mowers were now back in service. The wall of poppies were in flower and would be left to seed. The Sort It green waste area was now full and so bags of green waste were accumulating. The Clerk confirmed that she would need to speak to Mr Hainsworth regarding documenting the work carried out by the Holy Mowers in order to comply with Health and Safety regulations. The Chairman thanked Mr Hainsworth for attending.

(Mr Jack Hainsworth left this meeting.)

6. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A CHILDREN'S PARKRUN AT THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

Three representatives from ParkRun addressed the Committee to outline proposals for a Children's ParkRun to be held in the Mundy Playing Fields. The run would take place on Sunday mornings, starting at 9.00am, would be open to 4-14 year olds and would have a shorter route than the adult run at 2km. There would be an increased number of marshalls and parents would be able to run with their children. The preference would be to run at the Mundy Playing Fields, but with the Chantry Field as a back up venue in the event of bad weather. A potential 2km route around the Mundy Playing Fields had been identified, most of which would be different to the adult 5km route, with only a small shared section by the football pitch.

The Clerk reported that the outdoor staff had some concerns about this proposal including the additional wear and tear on the Mundy Playing Fields and the additional work involved with unlocking and locking gates, etc, over the weekend (approximately one extra hour for each run). The outdoor staff would rather the run took place at the Chantry Field as this would alleviate some of their concerns.

The proposal was discussed in detail by the Committee. It was felt that there would be issues with using the Chantry Field including the lack of facilities, lack of parking and clashes with sporting fixtures. There was concern about the additional staffing costs involved with using the Mundy Playing Fields and the ParkRun representatives confirmed that they would unfortunately not be in a position to offer any contribution towards this.

The Committee noted the benefits that ParkRun provided to the local community, but were keen to ensure that the outdoor staff were happy with any plans for an additional run. Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that the decision be deferred with a view to holding a site inspection and discussing the proposals with the outdoor staff, including the additional information gained today, and then making a recommendation to the next full Council meeting at the end of July. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman thanked the representatives from ParkRun for attending. The Clerk agreed to email round details of the site inspection.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17.05.18 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting held on 17.05.18 was noted. There were no operational issues or matters arising from the report.

7. TO CONSIDER THE USE OF s106 FUNDS FROM THE GRACE LODGE DEVELOPMENT

The Chairman referred to the s106 funds, approximately £5000, from the Grace Lodge development which had to be allocated to "courts and pitches" and asked that the Clerk write to South Gloucestershire Council to request that the Town Council be allowed by put this towards a project that the Thornbury Tennis Club were running to encourage local people to play, tennis including re-engaging with players who may have given up playing as they got older.

Connected to this, the Chairman reported that Grace Lodge residents had enquired about the possibility of having a seat installed at the top of the Mundy Playing Fields. However, it

was noted that previous seating in that area had led to anti-social behaviour which had

affected one resident in particular. The Chairman agreed to speak to this resident and report back to the next meeting on their opinion of having another seat installed.

8. TO DISCUSS CURRENT BYELAWS AND ISSUES SURROUNDING THEM IN RELATION TO THE PRESENTATION ABOUT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs) AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICES (CPNs)

The Clerk tabled a summary of current issues with dogs on leads and dog fouling, feedback from outdoor staff and complaints received. She confirmed that we have byelaws covering the Mundy Playing Field and all play areas, and that dogs were banned completely from the Chantry Field. The Clerk made a number of suggestions to address the current issues and these were agreed by the Committee as follows:-

- (a) Continue to follow existing policies
- (b) Request that our enclosed play areas are part of a Public Space Protection Order banning dogs from such areas being formed by South Gloucestershire Council
- (c) Ordering larger signs for the Chantry Field
- (d) Discuss repeat offenders with South Gloucestershire Council

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

The Clerk reported that the football club had been given planning permission with some conditions relating to drainage and bat habitat. The diversion of the electrical cables had meant that they were slightly behind schedule with works. Cllr Clive Parkinson agreed to continue to liaise with the football club to ensure they keep to schedule.

10. TO CONSIDER THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AT THE TENNIS COURTS

The Clerk tabled details regards the electricity supply at the tennis courts. It had been confirmed that there should be enough capacity in the existing cables to cover the future needs of the tennis club. However, there were some issues regarding costs involved in enclosing the cables. It was agreed that the Clerk should go back to the company that installed the cables as this should have been done at the time.

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

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

The Clerk reported that the installation works were on track with most of the equipment now in place, and would be followed by the installation of the flooring. A post-installation inspection would hopefully take place on the Wednesday before carnival, with a press launch on the Wednesday or Thursday.

- (b) Progress on matters raised from the latest RoSPA Play Safety Inspections

The Clerk tabled and talked through a schedule of actions taken/to be taken following the latest RoSPA play safety inspections, including quotes being sought for skatepark repairs. It was agreed that the schedule was a useful summary and would be updated for future meetings.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LEASE FOR VILNER LANE AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE SKATEPARK

The Clerk tabled a draft Tenancy at Will received from South Gloucestershire Council. She had requested a number of changes to the draft and should receive an amended draft shortly. She reported that she was discussing with South Gloucestershire Council options that would allow works to the Hub to go ahead in the absence of formal lease. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed further at the next Finance and Policy meeting.

13. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) An email from Cllr Helen Harrison was tabled which the need to replace damaged basketball equipment at the Streamleaze play area. The Clerk confirmed that a new basketball hoop was on order and that Cllr Helen Harrison could feed back this news.
- (b) The site summer inspection was discussed and it was agreed that this would take place on Tuesday 24 July 2018 at 6.00pm and would include the Skatepark, the Cemetery and Swallow Park.