

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 11 October 2018 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Vincent Costello
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Shirley Holloway
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Angela Symonds

Mr Jack Hainsworth

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 Pam Shipp (another commitment)
Cllr Gail Whitehead (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 Chairman welcomed representatives from Thornbury Lawn Tennis Club to the meeting and it was agreed to bring forward items 9 and 6 of the agenda.

9. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE TENNIS CLUB ABOUT THORNBURY IN BLOOM RESULTS

Correspondence had been circulated from Thornbury Lawn Tennis Club regarding them being judged as "Outstanding" in the It's Your Neighbourhood awards 2018. The Tennis Club wished to pass on their thanks to Paul Le Riche and Myles Couzens for their significant contribution to the achievement of this award.

6. TO DISCUSS THE USE OF S106 FUNDS FROM THE GRACE LODGE DEVELOPMENT

The Chairman invited representatives from Thornbury Lawn Tennis Club to address the Committee with regard to the use of S106 funds from the Grace Lodge Development. They reported that the main priority for the improvement of the Club's facilities was the re-surfacing of their courts. They confirmed that LTA programmes to help with improving tennis facilities nationally would not cover this work, and that although the Club had saved a large sum towards this work, there was still a significant shortfall. They confirmed that they would be applying to South Gloucestershire Council to request 100% of the S106 funds be

given to them to help towards funding the resurfacing works. They requested that Thornbury Town Council support them in this by not making any applications for the S106 funds.

The Clerk confirmed that the S106 funds amounted to £6680 for capital spend and £1195 for maintenance. The Clerk further confirmed that the deadline for Expressions of Interest was 19 October 2018 and that South Gloucestershire County Council would make the final decision.

The Chairman advised that there were a number of issues regarding the public courts that needed to be addressed and that in particular work needed to be done to the fencing around the courts which was in a bad state of repair.

The Club's request and the whole issue of S106 funds was discussed by the Committee at length. It was acknowledged that the Committee would like to help the Club raise the funds needed for the resurfacing works, but also that it would not seem right for all of the funds to go to a private Club and not, at least in part, towards something that would benefit all residents of Thornbury. Cllr Bob Griffin proposed that Council submits an Expression of Interest for a 50/50 split of the funds between the Tennis Club and Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Jayne Stansfield. A vote was taken on the proposal. Three Councillors voted in favour, three Councillors abstained and there were no votes against. The proposal was therefore agreed.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2018 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting held on 6 September 2018 had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk provided an update on two issues.

There had been a recent incident at the Cemetery which had highlighted the risks of lone working. The Clerk had sought health and safety advice which had recommended the use of "walkie talkies" with built in panic alarms. Quotes had been sought for this and initially we would be trialling a system to ensure the coverage was adequate.

The Clerk had spoken to outdoor staff with regard to taking away grass cuttings from the Cemetery to allow the rare grassland fungi to thrive. She confirmed that the normal procedure was to remove cuttings, and this had only been stopped at times of staff shortages. Therefore, in principle, there should not be a problem with continuing to remove cuttings, but the situation would be kept under review.

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

Mr Jack Hainsworth updated the Committee on issues relating to St Mary's Closed Churchyard. Two sessions had been held with all but three of the Holy Mowers volunteers to go through safe use of the mowers and trimmers and laminated copies of safe procedures for use were kept in the shed. Mr Hainsworth confirmed that he would go through the procedures with the three volunteers who had been unable to attend the sessions. The mowers and trimmers were currently in a good state of repair. Planning permission was being sought for cutting back the Yew trees at either side of the main gate. Planning permission had been giving for levelling out of the pathway and three quotes would be sought for the work, and Council would be invoiced for this work when complete. The Holy Mowers had recently won an "It's Your Neighbourhood" award. Grass seed would be needed to repair the turf once the scaffolding was done.

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

The clerk tabled the updated schedule of actions from the latest RoSPA play safety inspections. It was noted that a large number of actions were now complete and the Clerk reported that quotes were being obtained for the remaining works at the Skatepark. This had proved difficult because of the specialist nature of the work. The Clerk confirmed that the consultation for the Osprey Park play area would start in January with the aim of ordering the new equipment in the new financial year.

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

The Clerk reported that the leader of StreetSpace leaving may have some impact on the Hub. The paperwork has been submitted for the formation of the CIC. A decision was imminent on the Tenancy at Will, but the target date for complete of the Hub project was still April 2019.

10. ***It was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.***

- (a) To update on and approve any actions for Playing Fields and Cemetery areas from the Fire Risk and Safety Assessments

The Clerk reported that the pathworks were now complete. Quotes were being sought for fireboarding work at the Pavilion, Workshop and Armstrong Hall.

- (b) To consider quotes for water supply to the Splash Pad

The Clerk reported that she had had discussions with Bristol Water regarding options for improving the water supply to the Splash Pad, including comparing laying new pipes to either the High Street supply or to the Kington Lane supply. It was likely that the costs would be significantly greater than previously thought, including the ongoing water costs. It was agreed that more details costs would need to be obtained to inform Council's decision making as well as allowing any decisions to be explained fully to Thornbury residents. It was also agreed that we should contact other Councils with splash pads to gather more information about their costs and supply issues.

- (c) To consider quotes for annual goal post safety inspections

The Clerk reported that quotes had been sought for the inspection of goal posts at the Mundy Playing Fields and the Chantry Field, and requested authorisation to proceed with the lowest quote of £190 + VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Clive Parkinson that the Clerk proceeds with this quote and also that the inspections are included in the budget as an annual cost to avoid the Clerk needing to seek approval each year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

- (d) To consider the business case for replacement equipment

The Clerk tabled a business case for proposed changes to outdoor machinery which explained in detail the problems being experienced in completing necessary outdoor tasks especially during the summer months. The changes would involve taking out a PWLB loan and selling some existing machinery in order to fund the purchase of new equipment. The issues raised in the business case were discussed and it was agreed that it would be useful for some

members of the Committee to meet with Paul Le Riche to understand more about what equipment was needed and what the current problems were. It was proposed by Cllr Clive Parkinson that at this point provision should be made in the draft budget a PWLB repayment in case the Committee does decide to proceed with the purchase of new equipment. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

11. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Committee agreed that the Thornbury Football Club could put up a sign for the Club in the Mundy Playing Fields at the entrance to the car park.
- (b) The Clerk tabled a note from Paul Le Riche regarding problems that had been experienced with large vehicles entering the Mundy Playing Field for events and deliveries. It was proposed that the junction between Wellfield and Kington Lane be widened and signs put on sleeves so they could be temporarily removed. An offer had been made by the organiser of the fun fair to cover the costs of the works. It was proposed by Cllr Clive Parkinson that the proposed changes be made. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.
- (c) The Clerk tabled a complaint that had been received from a local resident regarding parking during a recent Thornbury Football Club evening match. It was agreed that the letter should be passed to the Club so they could address the problems raised and that they are asked to encourage the use of alternative car parks.