

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 15 November 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

Sandra Richardson (Deputy 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 Helen Harrison (out of Thornbury)
Cllr Pam Shipp (indisposed)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no members' declarations of interest.

(Cllr Angela Symonds arrived at the meeting.)

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present, other than those already mentioned on the agenda.

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. There are three volunteers still to be trained on the safe use of mowers and trimmers. The Deputy Clerk agreed to chase up the safety helmet which has not been received yet. As part of the "It's Your Neighbourhood" process, areas for improvement were identified - removing dead wood from the Laburnum near the castle gate entrance and removing bramble growth. Both of these were being addressed. The deterioration to the monument was highlighted and thought to be due to the weather. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should contact the stone masons that had done the most recent work on the monument to ask their advice. A number of compliments had been made about the Churchyard during the Remembrance Day events and the Chairman thanked Mr Hainsworth on behalf of the Committee for his efforts.

(Mr Jack Hainsworth left the meeting.)

7. TO CONSIDER PLANTING OF FURTHER TREES ON OAKLEAZE GREEN

The Chairman welcomed Judith Hurford, Tree Warden, to the meeting. Mrs Hurford tabled a proposal to plant three more trees on Oakleaze Green to the left of the new footpath and also to ask the Committee to consider allowing planting of more trees in Thornbury, especially in light of environmental concerns. The proposals were considered and discussed. It was agreed that the Committee was in theory supportive of more trees being planted, both on Oakleaze Green and in the town generally, as long as they did not inhibit people's use of recreational spaces and were not planted too near garden fences because of security concerns. It was agreed that Mrs Hurford should continue to work with the Tree Strategy Group and come back to a future meeting with definite proposals for areas of planting that the Committee could consider and plans for planting in Oakleaze Green could be included in the consultation process for a children's play area. The Chairman thanked Mrs Hurford on behalf of the Committee for attending and for all of the work being done to increase the number of trees in Thornbury.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2018 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting held on 11 October 2018 had been circulated and was noted. The Deputy Clerk provided an update on two issues. The walkie talkies radio frequency had been set up and the radios should be arriving shortly. The outdoor staff would each have one, there would be two at the Armstrong Hall and the main hub would be at the Town Hall. A further letter had been received from a resident of Wellfield Lane regarding ongoing issues with parking and litter during Thornbury Football Club matches.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE SPLASH PAD

The Deputy Clerk reported on a recent meeting with Bristol Water to discuss options for improving the water supply to the Splash Pad. The options discussed were:-

- (i) Laying a wider pipe along Kington Lane to service a pipe along Wellfield Lane and along the playing fields to the splash pad
- (ii) Connect to the High Street mains and running a wider pipe through the playing fields which would include problems such as road closures for The Close
- (iii) Connecting to a pipe from the roundabout at the top of the High Street and running down the track to Poulterbrook and across the playing fields
- (iv) Laying a wider pipe on Town Council land only, meaning Council staff could carry out the bulk of the work

The options were discussed and it was agreed that there were a number of benefits with the fourth option and that this should be explored further with Bristol Water.

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

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the jump box/ramp would be fitted next week in the Skatepark, and that some matting had been removed from Streamleaze Green play area due to health and safety concerns and it was hoped that replacement matting would be put down within a couple of weeks.

9. TO CONSIDER A REPLACEMENT BOILER FOR THE PAVILION

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.

The Deputy Clerk reported that there was a split in the bottom of the boiler that serviced the showers and kitchen in the Mundy Playing Fields Pavilion. One verbal quote had been obtained for a replacement industrial boiler and the Deputy Clerk was in the process of obtaining further quotes. This weekend's football matches had been cancelled and it was agreed that a replacement boiler should be fitted as soon as possible to avoid further cancellations. It was proposed that in the circumstances, the Deputy Clerk was authorised to proceed at the value of the verbal quote received on the basis that she contact the Chairman before ordering. If the cost of the boiler was significantly more than the verbal quote, the Chairman would email members of the Committee before ordering.

10. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Deputy Clerk tabled details of a Notice of Decision of an Application to Approve Details Required by Condition for Thornbury Football Club at Mundy Playing Fields (DOC18/0364 and DOC18/0365). For one of these conditions, the decision was pending the following question – “can the hedgerow in question be trimmed back in January/February every other year rather than October every year?” The outdoor staff had expressed some concern regarding this proposal and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should arrange an on-site meeting with the South Gloucestershire Council Planning Officer, Cllr Clive Parkinson, the Clerk or the Deputy Clerk and an outdoor staff member, and the Football Club should also be invited

- (b) The Deputy Clerk requested authorisation to spend an additional £296 on a COSHH cabinet for St Mary's Closed Churchyard. The Committee had already agreed to spend £1695 on cabinets for the Pavilion and the Cemetery. Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that the Deputy Clerk be authorised to proceed with the additional £296 spend. This was seconded by Cllr Vincent Costello and unanimously agreed.