

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 21 February 2019 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Vincent Costello
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Helen Harrison (arrived late)
Cllr Shirley Holloway
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Angela Symonds

Jack Hainsworth

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator/Minutes)
Chris Davey (Open Spaces Supervisor)
Paul Le Riche (Mundy Playing Fields Supervisor)

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

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed two representatives from Krunch to the meeting who were in attendance to present to the Committee under item 6.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2019 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 had been circulated and was noted.

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. Mowing is planned to start at the beginning of March and those volunteers who had not yet received the health and safety training in the use of the mowers and the strimmers, would do so at this point. Members of the outdoor staff confirmed that significant pruning of trees should be stopped from the end of February to the end of September, but that general tidying up of trees could take place during that period. Mr Hainsworth reported that mistletoe was badly affecting one of the trees. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the tree survey was due to start shortly which would give a better understanding of what work needed to be done on all the trees that Council was responsible for. Mr Hainsworth reported that some of paths

were becoming overgrown with grass and weeds. It was agreed that members of the outdoor staff would review the paths and advise on how best to clear them.

The Deputy Clerk reported that Bristol Memorial Masons had looked at the soft sandstone slabs which were deteriorating and advised that we had two options - (i) make good the existing slabs but this work would need to be repeated on a regular basis, or (ii) replace the slabs with a similar but harder wearing stone. The second option would be more expensive but would be a more long-lasting solution and it may be possible to obtain a grant from the War Memorial Trust. Approval for the replacement slabs would need to be obtained by the Church and by the War Memorial Trust. The Deputy Clerk hoped to have more detailed information on the options and the costs involved for the next meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr Hainsworth for his report.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM PENNY BAKER ON THE PROPOSED "HUB" AT THE SKATE PARK

Two representatives from Krunch provided the Committee with an update on the proposed Hub at the Skatepark. Copies of plans for the overall area had been circulated and plans for the Hub itself were tabled.

There had been some changes the relationship between Krunch and Recre8. Krunch were taking the lead in the project, including financing, construction and management. They were also taking lead on the lease from South Gloucestershire Council. The Town Council were still responsible for the Skatepark itself and Recre8 would be responsible for delivery of much of the youth work. The application for planning permission had been submitted and it was hoped that we would get an indication of the outcome from South Gloucestershire Council in around eight weeks, with the aim of having the Hub in place by mid/late summer.

Support from local builders/suppliers had been very positive. £39,000 of the required £53,000 had been obtained, which included Lottery funding and £10,000 from Town Council, and the remaining funding needed to be in place by May/June. Some larger companies were being approached for donations and some offers of "help in kind" had also been received.

The Hub itself would be made up of two containers, back to back, measuring approximately 12m by 4.3m in total. The police had been involved in deciding on the best location for the Hub.

The aim would be to open for the "after school" hours from 4.00pm to 6.30pm which would plug a gap in current youth activities and capture the 11+ age group. There would be a drop-in and signposting services available, and mentoring and personal development work would also be carried out. There was some discussion about other youth services in the town and Cllr Clive Parkinson confirmed with Krunch that it would provide two nights of youth club in the town centre per week in addition to the services provided through the Skatepark Hub.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for attending and stated on behalf of the Committee that it was wonderful to see the project coming together and wished them well with raising the remaining financing.

7. TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING CONDITION IN RELATION TO THE FOOTBALL IMPROVEMENTS AT MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman reminded the Committee that as part of the planning application for the Football Club, South Gloucestershire Council has placed a condition on the hedgerow management plan involving the cutting of the hedgerow between the back of pitch 1 and Poulterbrook. The condition was discussed along with subsequent emails received from the Planning Department at South Gloucestershire Council. It was agreed that it was unclear exactly what the Planning Department was asking for and that therefore Deputy Clerk should

arrange an on-site meeting with them, also inviting the Football Club, in order to understand exactly what the condition involved. It was agreed that Cllr Clive Parkinson and Cllr Bob Griffin should represent the Committee at this meeting.

8. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE SECTION 106 IMPROVEMENTS TO STREAMLEAZE PLAY AREA

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Clerk had agreed with South Gloucestershire Council that the remaining s106 funds for Streamleaze play area could be used towards the cost of new matting under the swings and that the matting had been ordered.

9. TO RESOLVE UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960, THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

Resolved.

10. TO CONSIDER A MATTER RELATING TO A WORK VEHICLE

The Deputy Clerk reported that the older of the two work vehicles had failed its MOT, which had been expected, and the cost to repair it was in excess of £1600. In anticipation of this, funding had been put in the 2019/2020 budget for a new vehicle. It was agreed that repairing the vehicle would not be sensible as it was very old and likely to cost even more to get it through its MOT next year, and that we should look to lease a new vehicle. It had been identified that a similar spec vehicle would be too tall to fit into the garage, but a smaller vehicle would fit and would be adequate for use. In order to reduce the delay in leasing a suitable vehicle, Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that the Deputy Clerk and the outdoor staff identify a suitable vehicle that fits into the garage, meets work requirements and is within budget, and that the Chairman and the Deputy Clerk be given the authority to proceed with leasing it (with a payment due date that would allow it to come out of next year's budget). The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

11. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

None.