

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 in the council chamber

Present: Cllr Helen Harrison (Chairman)
Cllr Clive Parkinson
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Angela Symonds

Jack Hainsworth

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Martin Trueman (another commitment)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Helen Harrison and Cllr Clive Parkinson declared an interest in matters relating to the town trust.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

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

Cllr Helen Harrison proposed Cllr Clive Parkinson for Vice Chairman. Cllr Jayne Stansfield seconded this and in the absence of any other nominations, it was unanimously agreed.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14.05.19 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA.

Jack Hainsworth reported that the paths at the churchyard are overgrown. The deputy clerk reported that Paul Le Rich on the ground staff team had visited and determined that spraying the weeds was not possible; spraying had potential for damage if it went over the boundary or was taken by the wind. The weeds would need digging out with spades and it was suggested this was something the restorative justice team could do.

The Deputy Clerk reported that one quote had been received for repairs to the war memorial and that it was hoped that a grant could be obtained from the war memorial trust. Cllr Helen Harrison questioned whether the church would need approval from the diocese. Jack Hainsworth confirmed that a faculty would need obtaining and highlighted the problem with currently having no vicar and three new wardens.

Jack Hainsworth reported there were plans for the pathway between the gates and entrance to be lifted, repositioned and made safe. The steps would be taken out to make the church more accessible.

Cllr Clive Parkinson and Cllr Bob Griffin had visited the Mundy Playing Field football pitch with the playing fields supervisor and a planning inspector from South Glos council. Following the site visit, the planning inspector confirmed that there was no longer an issue with the hedgerow and it was expected the planning condition would be removed.

The deputy clerk reported that the matting at Streamleaze had been installed.

The deputy clerk reported that the new vehicle for the grounds staff had been delivered, was within budget and the staff were happy with it.

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

Jack Hainsworth reported there was wear and tear on the mower. The management of the weeds and trees was in hand. The deputy clerk queried a previous report of mistletoe in the trees. Jack Hainsworth confirmed this was still present and the deputy clerk is to discuss action with the clerk.

Jack Hainsworth confirmed all the mowing team are now trained to use the mower. Jack however remains the only person trained to use the strimmer.

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

a) Feedback from the latest RoSPA Play safety inspections 2019

A new summary chart had been drawn up, which contained low and medium risks. There were no high risks this year. The sheet would be brought to each meeting to track progress.

It was suggested a refurbishment of Streamleaze should be completed at the same time as Osprey Park. Some of the equipment not replaced in the refurbishment last year was now reaching end of life.

It was noted that maintenance of the skate park is difficult as it requires specialist contractors who are hard to find and therefore a long term solution is needed. It was agreed that the cost of a concrete replacement should be investigated and possible options for funding this including CIL funds or a loan were discussed.

b) To discuss the consultation for the improvements to Osprey Park Play area

Cllr Helen Harrison emphasised that the new playground was wanted by the community. Early stage consultation could include locations in the town centre and park itself. Cllr Helen Harrison had contacts at Manor Brook, Crossways and Christ the King schools in addition to Jigsaw that she could use during the week. Cllr Clive Parkinson offered a Saturday for this purpose and Cllr Bob Griffin volunteered to assist. Cllr Helen Harrison advised avoiding SATS and half term periods so that we might make progress over the summer holiday.

Cllr Helen Harrison and the deputy clerk would visit the playgrounds. Cllr Harrison would determine a date and invite the committee.

Cllr Clive Parkinson stated that the Streamleaze playground was very well used and treated well, including the basket ball hoop. He reminded the committee that the disabled swing still had no seat and this needed replacing. As the remaining frame was low, the whole unit may

need replacing.

8. TO CONSIDER FINAL PLANS FOR THE BRISTOL ORIENTEERING KLUB (BOK) EVENT IN AND AROUND THORNBURY ON SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 2019

Cllr Helen Harrison expressed a concern regarding the number of controls around the Streamleaze area. She suggested they needed more marshals to prevent their removal.

Cllr Clive Parkinson noted they had moved the starting point to the Castle School Sixth Form, as requested.

Cllr Bob Griffin queried the date that is planned for Thornbury Hill to be closed to traffic. It was determined that being 18-19th May, it would not interfere with this event.

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 QUOTATIONS FOR WORKS TO THE PLAYING FIELDS

The Deputy Clerk reported they were in the process of getting three quotes for top seeding, moss and weed killing, overseeding and grass seed. She requested approval to go ahead with the lowest quotes. The current lowest quotes and also an approximated cost for additional work to hedges was well within budget.

Cllr Clive Parkinson queried whether this included work for nematodes. The deputy clerk confirmed it did.

Approval to go ahead was proposed by Cllr Bob Griffin, seconded by Cllr Angela Symonds and unanimously agreed.

11. TO RECEIVE QUOTATIONS FOR TREE WORKS

The deputy clerk confirmed that following a tree survey, we need to carry out works, in line with our insurance policy. We have received one quote and are waiting for a second one from another company we have approached. The current quote is overbudget. Once the second one has been received, if both quotes are overbudget, it will be taken to the finance and policy committee.

12. TO DISCUSS WORKS TO THE PLUMBING AT THE CEMETERY AND PAVILION

The deputy clerk confirmed that quotes for both works were being sought. There were two lots of plumbing works identified as necessary in the recent health and safety inspection. The changing room taps at the Mundy Playing Fields need altering. Presently, we are keeping the temperature of the hot water low to prevent scalding, but this doesn't meet regulation for legionella control. All 9 sinks need mixers adding.

The water heater for staff use at the cemetery also needs improvement. The water pressure is very low.

The Deputy Clerk will check whether the budget for health and safety works was under the finance and policy committee.

Cllr Bob Griffin commented that the water tank for public use at the cemetery is badly rusted and unsightly. It was agreed that Cllr Helen Harrison and the deputy clerk would add the cemetery to their upcoming tour and investigate then.

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would contact South Glos Council to confirm ownership of a strip of land near Poulterbrook.

13. TO DISCUSS THE CCTV ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PLAYING FIELDS AND CEMETERY

The deputy clerk outlined the plans to improve the current CCTV at the Mundy Playing Fields with a higher spec version to increase coverage. Some quotes had been received for the work, but further quotes were being sought.

14. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

The deputy clerk confirmed that the clerk had received a response on the Public Works loan from the local government finance department. It was not yet a full response and they may need more information, particularly regarding the demonstration of public consultation.

The deputy clerk reported that one of the grounds staff had resigned and was working until the end of the next week. This would put pressures on the remaining ground staff, particularly given the upcoming watering necessary and that a new person would be recruited as soon as possible.

The deputy clerk read out correspondence from Jigsaw who had completed a litter pick at the Mundy playing fields. They reported there was very little litter to collect and were grateful for the ground team's efforts.