

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee  
held on Tuesday 3 September 2019 in the Council Chamber

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Present: Cllr Helen Harrison (Chairman)  
Cllr Clive Parkinson  
Cllr Bob Griffin  
Cllr Jayne Stansfield  
Cllr Angela Symonds  
Cllr Martin Trueman  
Cllr Pam Shipp  
Jack Hainsworth (St. Mary's Closed Churchyard)

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)  
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

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**1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Martin Trueman declared an interest in matters relating to the Football.

**3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

**4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 02.07.19 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had received a second quote for the memorial repairs. She was waiting for a third but it was taking a long time. She will contact the War Memorial Trust to see if we can proceed with two.

We have received two of the three items bought with the public works loan. The last one is on its way.

Cllr Parkinson enquired how the new member of staff was getting on. The Deputy Clerk reported they were doing very well, but we are struggling to recruit the additional grounds operative required.

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

Jack Hainsworth reported that the meadow grass and flowers were successful but requested help with strimming the area between the flowers and bees when staff are able to give the time. There were a number of tree branches that had fallen recently. Cllr Parkinson raised an issue of the Lime tree overhanging the footpath near the small gate in the corner which it was agreed would be problematic in wet weather. The Deputy Clerk would add this to the tree surgery works list.

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

**(a) To note progress on actions from the latest RoSPA Play Safety Inspections 2019**

The list of progress on actions was tabled. The Deputy Clerk stated due to short staffing, there hadn't been a great deal of progress. Hannah Cornford explained the item completed on the splash pad. There would be another update at the next meeting.

**(b) To receive an update on improvements to the Osprey Park Play Area including details of proposed consultation**

Cllr Trueman offered to help with the consultation during the afternoon session. Cllr Parkinson volunteered an hour during the morning one. The other committee members would check the date and confirm.

Nearly 200 responses had been recorded through the online Survey Monkey consultation. This had been promoted through Facebook and the Council's website. Cllr Parkinson requested that a letter be sent to local residents whose properties were in the vicinity of the playground. Hannah Cornford would write the letter and Cllr Parkinson offered to hand deliver it along with Cllrs Griffin and Harrison.

Following the close of the consultation and amendments made to the plans as a result, the order needs to be placed during the week commencing 16.09.19 which the Deputy Clerk requested permission to do. Cllr Stringer proposed she be given permission to place the order in consultation with the chair of the committee, which was seconded by Cllr Stansfield and unanimously agreed. The Deputy Clerk also updated the committee on a licensing issue with South Glos Council that was being progressed.

**(c) To receive an update on recent repairs to the Splash Pad**

Recent repairs had cost £3650 to replace the pump, which was the original one and now out of warranty. The Deputy Clerk had received authorisation from the Chair to order and pay for this out of meeting as it needed urgent repair over the summer holidays. The Deputy Clerk would look into the warranty on this one and the possibility of extending it, as requested by Cllr Griffin.

The plans to improve the water supply were still under way, but a legal issue that needs dealing with before work can commence is still with the solicitor. The degree of possible improvement and the environmental and cost implications of improving the water supply were discussed and it was agreed the committee need more detailed information before they commit to work. Cllr Stansfield reported she had looked at similar splash pads in the area and some of them restricted the opening hours to make them more cost effective.

**7. TO CONSIDER FUNDS RECEIVED FOLLOWING THE DISSOLUTION OF THORNBURY COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

Committee acknowledged the receipt of a cheque for £21,000 which had been given to the Council for use on changing facility improvements. There was some discussion over the scope of what this covered and when it should be spent. The Deputy Clerk would write to the association and formally acknowledge receipt, stating the money would be held in a specific reserve account.

8. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO HOLD A “HAPPY CIRCUS” EVENT ON THE CHANTRY PLAYING FIELD**

The event proposed was a fundraiser for St. Mary’s School. Declaring an interest as a local resident, Cllr Parkinson raised issues concerning parking, toilets and alcohol. Cllr Griffin queried whether it would interfere with the rugby schedule, to which the Deputy Clerk responded that it was possible, depending on weather conditions. Cllr Griffin also highlighted the issue with Sunday parking considering there would be church services.

It was considered that the Chantry Field was not suitable for this event and would not have the suitable licenses and insurance. The Mundy Playing Fields was considered as an alternative location, although it was thought that the school should be charged for its use. This would be to cover the ground maintenance and work carried out by Council staff to make the event viable. It was also felt that as the school are raising money for themselves, there should be a cost as the event wouldn’t be to benefit the whole community. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would offer the Mundy Playing Fields instead, for a charge of £125, stipulating that toilets and marshals must be provided and that the terms of our license and insurance must be adhered to.

9. **TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF THE SERVICE CONTRACT FOR THE NEW MOWER**

The payment schedule had been received and the figure was already budgeted for. The Mundy Playing Fields Supervisor, Paul Le Riche had impressed upon the Deputy Clerk the importance of thorough, yearly servicing as the committee wanted to keep the mower for 10 years.

10. **TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.