

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Tuesday 2 July 2019 in the Council Chamber

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

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)
Louise Powell (Minutes)

(Cllr Pam Shipp – absent)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Jack Hainsworth

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Martin Trueman declared an interest in relation to the Football Club upon his arrival.

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 14.05.19 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The Deputy Clerk reported that the recent orienteering event in Thornbury had been very successful with over 240 participants. They had taken our advice and had extra marshals in the Streamleaze area of the event, and they hope to repeat it again in a few years' time.

The Deputy Clerk stated that the Tree Works had been approved at F&P and were slightly over the available budget but the F&P Committee had agreed that we should go ahead and that the extra should come from reserves so our trees would be managed.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the electricity works to the Pavilion and Cemetery had also been agreed at F&P and works were taking place this week.

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

Jack Hainsworth had sent a report to say there was a great deal of strimming to be done but hopefully this would be tackled by some of the restorative justice team this week.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON REPAIRS TO THE WAR MEMORIAL IN ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD

The Deputy Clerk reported that she has investigated this issue with the War Memorial Trust who we can apply to for a grant, but that the process is not quick, but we have started it. It can take at least 6-9 months and they do state they require at least 3 quotes. This was discussed and it was stated that in the past the previous Clerk had struggled to get 3 quotes. The Deputy Clerk stated that she has obtained one but will pursue all avenues for at least one other which would also include asking the War Memorial Trust if they are aware of any contacts.

Cllr Parkinson queried what works the first quote involved, it is assumed that as it is replacing all the steps the actual memorial may need to come down and be put back up which is why it is very costly.

The Deputy Clerk will pursue the matter and keep the Committee updated.

7. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM THORNBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB FOR WORKS TO THE PAVILION AND OUTSIDE AREAS

The Deputy Clerk tabled a list of proposed improvements to the Pavilion and outside areas that the Football Club wish to make over the next two years. They have said that they will be organising the works, paying for the works and will request permission for when they will be carried out and we will need to agree and approve the materials and fitters.

The Committee considered the works to be carried out this year. There were some comments on the signage about whether it was appropriate. The Deputy Clerk reported that ALCA had advised that because our name is not on it, it can be displayed.

(Cllr Martin Trueman arrived - he declared an interest in this item.)

The Committee agreed they would need more information on the proposals for next year. Cllr Bob Griffin proposed that we give permission with the agreed conditions for works this year, this was seconded by Cllr Jayne Stansfield and all were in agreement.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE VACANCY

The Deputy Clerk reported that our new grounds operative had started yesterday and that she seemed to be fitting in well.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD LOAN AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT

The Deputy Clerk reported that the loan has now reached our account and the orders for the new machinery had been placed, hopefully they will arrive within a few weeks and all grounds staff will be trained on the new equipment.

10. 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 and consider in particular actions relating to gates in the Eastland Play Area**

The Deputy Clerk referred to the monitoring table that had been circulated and asked Councillors to review page 4 and the highlighted area. The Committee agreed that the proposed course of action was the most sensible and the risk of entrapment is the greater risk

to address in this situation. Cllr Helen Harrison stated that when we look to replace this park, we can again review the risks and the design.

b) To discuss improvements to the Osprey Park Play area

Cllr Helen Harrison reported that she had been carrying out consultation with children at Crossways Infant and Junior Schools and Christ the King School and voting had been taking place. This will be taken into consideration when we put the brief together for the works. The Children have been very excited that they have had the opportunity to vote on the new equipment to go into the park.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the timetable was that the tender would be put out early next week with a closing date for the end of July and then interviews in early August. We would then expect the preferred contractor to consult with us on the final design in early September. This consultation will take place at the park and in the St Mary's Centre as well as an online survey. It is expected that the park will then be replaced in the early Autumn.

c) To discuss improvements to the Streamleaze Play area

The Deputy Clerk updated that the Committee had considered whether anything was outstanding in terms of works to this park as it had been improved using Section 106 funds. It had been decided on the Committee 'walk about' that the remaining equipment was fine to stay. However, we needed to replace the old accessible swing with a new 'pod swing', these are also accessible but do not present the issues with the strap that past swings have had. This will be taken from our usual replacement play equipment budget and will be ordered as soon as possible.

11. 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.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE SPLASH PAD

The Deputy Clerk reported that we have struggled to get legal advice on this matter locally but have now found a specialist in this area who has offered two options on the way forward. The recommended option is option 1 which the Committee agreed to. The Deputy Clerk will get a quote and the Committee agreed to go ahead with the specialist advice.

13. TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.