

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on 12 November 2019 in the Council Chamber

Present: Cllr Helen Harrison (Chairman)
Cllr Clive Parkinson
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Bob Griffin

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

(Cllr Martin Trueman – absent)
(Cllr Ashley Bijster – absent)
(Cllr Pam Shipp – absent)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jayne Stansfield (another commitment)
(Mr Jack Hainsworth)
(Mrs Felicity Harrison)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 08.10.19 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The Deputy Clerk updated the Committee on restoration works to the war memorial. The grant pre-application was almost ready to be submitted but there were still details to be clarified regarding what works would be carried out. This was discussed and it was agreed that the pre-application should be put in just for works to the steps. The grant process would take approximately 6-9 months and the church had confirmed that a Faculty would be needed in order to commence works. There was a query over who was responsible for payment for any new gates needed to the churchyard and it was agreed the Council were not responsible for this.

7. TO CONSIDER REVISED PLANS FROM THORNBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE PAVILLION (taken out of order)

The Chairman explained that new plans had been submitted for the extension to the Pavilion with the pitched roof that Committee had requested. The shape of the roof around the window was discussed. It was felt that the design was much closer to what Committee originally requested and they should support it in principle. They did however want more clarification on the window opening and what it will look like when complete. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the Town Development Committee when the revised application was before them for comment.

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

Mr Jack Hainsworth had sent his apologies but had reported that previously discussed work was ongoing and there were no new issues.

6. TO NOTE PROGRESS ON ACTIONS FROM THE LATEST ROSPA PLAY SAFETY INSPECTIONS 2019

The Deputy Clerk reported that due to staff shortages, there had been no progress made with actions in the Report, but that there were no significant concerns. It was anticipated that new staff members would be recruited by the New Year and this would allow outstanding actions to be addressed.

8. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO MAINTAIN AND INSPECT A NEW PIECE OF EQUIPMENT ON STREAMLEAZE GREEN

The Police had requested that if they were to obtain funding, Council support their idea to put football goalposts into the middle of Streamleaze Green. This was in an attempt to stop antisocial behaviour around the outside areas of the Green in close proximity to housing. The Police have requested that the goalposts be added to the outside staff's inspection schedule and strimming around them carried out as required. The Deputy Clerk reported that our staff were happy to do this. The proposal was discussed and it was agreed that a consultation be carried out with the houses in the surrounding area by means of a letter drop. It was agreed that this would be carried once the Police had confirmed they had obtained funding.

9. TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE USES FOR GREEN SPACE BEHIND CASTLE COURT

The Committee discussed an area of green space at the back of Castle Court and in particular whether something could be planned there to appeal to older children who are less catered for in the existing play areas in Thornbury, for example an adventure playground. The space identified belongs to South Gloucestershire Council and had not been labelled by them as "green space" as it was part of the green belt and this had been felt to provide sufficient protection from development. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should approach South Gloucestershire Council to investigate whether a licence could be obtained for something like an adventure playground, and perhaps some tree planting as well.

10. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM A TRADER TO TRADE IN THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

The Deputy Clerk explained that she had received a request from a hot beverage trader to trade on the playing fields during Park Run on a Saturday. This request was discussed and it was agreed that in principle Council would not object to this, but with the following conditions – the van would need to be parked on a tarmacked area, all litter would need to be removed by the trader, Fair Trade products should be available, they would need the agreement of Park Run and, lastly, there would be an initial trial period of six months. It was further agreed that any future requests from traders would be considered on an individual basis to assess their suitability.

11. TO CONSIDER FUNDING WORKS TO A MEMORIAL HEADSTONE IN THORNBURY CEMETERY

The Deputy Clerk reported that outdoor staff had noted that a memorial stone for two former Councillors had sunken slightly on one side and was in poor condition. A quote had been obtained for remedial works and the option of covering the cost of the works from a general bequest account was discussed. It was felt however that this was not appropriate and that instead further attempts should be made to contact family to make them aware of the necessity for remedial works.

12. TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

The Deputy Clerk reported that a member of the outdoor staff had resigned and we were in the process of recruiting their replacement. This would cause staffing shortages over the Christmas period, in particular with weekend cover. The Deputy Clerk reported that there was no football scheduled over the two Christmas weekends and requested the Committee's agreement to carry out playground checks only once during the weekend rather than twice. She confirmed that this was sufficient for our legal and insurance requirements. She also requested agreement to give a key to Park Run for Poulterbrook to allow them to be self-sufficient during those two weekends. The Committee agreed that it was happy with these temporary changes if it would alleviate the situation.

13. TO RESOLVE UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMINSSION 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 PUBIC INTEREST BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED.

Resolved.

14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE OSPREY PARK PLAY AREA AND TO CONSIDER A DRAFT LICENSE FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT ON THE GRASS VERGE

The Deputy Clerk reported that work on the Osprey Park was due to start tomorrow. The Deputy Clerk had circulated details of a draft licence from South Gloucestershire

Council for the additional area on the grass verge. It was agreed that the licence could be signed.

15. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR A NEW PIECE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AT STREAMLEAZE PLAY AREA

The Deputy Clerk presented three quotes for a new basket swing in the Streamleaze Play Area and it was agreed to proceed with the lowest quote.

16. TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE SPLASH PAD

The Deputy Clerk had circulated a summary of the issues relating to the improvement of the water supply to the splash pad. These were discussed and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should investigate the costs involved in laying the new pipes.