

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee  
held on 14 January 2020 in the Council Chamber

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Present: Cllr Helen Harrison (Chairman)  
Cllr Clive Parkinson (arrived late)  
Cllr Angela Symonds  
Cllr Bob Griffin  
Cllr Pam Shipp  
Cllr Jayne Stansfield  
Mike Dennett (representative from St Marys Church)

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)  
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

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

**Before the taking of the first agenda item, Cllr Harrison updated the committee that Mr Jack Hainsworth, who was a committee member representing St. Mary's Closed Churchyard and the Holy Mowers, had passed away after a short illness. Cllr Harrison started the meeting with a minute silence for reflection.**

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

Cllr Clive Parkinson had another commitment first and would be late.

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

None.

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

Two representatives from Thornbury Town Football Club were in attendance to discuss item 6 on the agenda.

**4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12.11.19 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

The Deputy Clerk reported that work to obtain a grant for repairs to the war memorial was ongoing. The church warden was helping with the completion of the faculty forms.

The basket swing ordered for Streamleaze play area was going to be installed in the next week.

There was no further update from the police with regard to their request to install a set of goalposts on Streamleaze Green. Council are waiting on the police to return with

further information and then Council will proceed with a consultation of immediate residents.

**5. TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON ST MARYS CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

Following the passing away of Mr Jack Hainsworth, Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that he was helping with the Holy Mowers rota, but there was a conflict of interest in acting as the representative on the Committee for the churchyard. Mr Mike Dennett had very kindly agreed to act as the representative until other arrangements were put in place. Mr Dennett provided an update on matters relating to the churchyard. The beehives were doing well and the team were pleased with them. Groundwork completed last year to clear overgrown areas had resulted in the appearance of a greater number of snowdrops and daffodils. A secure box had been installed in the shed for storage of fuel for the Holy Mowers. The Church had a plan this year for the front path to be re-laid, leading towards a replacement set of glass front doors. This was a welcome improvement, as it allowed for greater wheelchair access and also for visitors to see inside the church when the front doors were locked. The Chairman thanked Mr Dennett for attending.

(Mr Mike Dennett left the meeting.)

**6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO THORNBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

**6.1 TO CONSIDER TTFC PROPOSAL TO BUILD ANOTHER STAND**

Cllrs Griffin, Symonds and Parkinson had attended a recent site inspection with representatives from the Club. Representatives of the Club addressed the Committee and explained that they were hoping to be promoted into a higher league at the end of the season and this required them to have greater spectator seating capacity. The Club proposed to move their existing stand to the other side of the pitch, where visibility of the match would be better and install an additional stand next to it, increasing their capacity from 50 seats to 100. The stands would be painted green, to blend in with the surroundings. The placement of the stands would involve moving the fence line back. The Club confirmed that this would leave 11-13 metres of space behind the fence for other users. The aim would be for the work to be carried out following the end of the current season and before the commencement of the next in August. After discussion, Cllr Harrison proposed that the Committee had no objection to the Club starting the process of obtaining planning permission and Council could therefore make comments on the actual plans submitted in due course as part of that process. This was seconded by Cllr Griffin and unanimously agreed.

**6.2 TO CONSIDER TTFC REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHANGING ROOMS**

Cllr Harrison explained that £21,000 had been transferred to Thornbury Town Council by Club Thornbury, following its dissolution. These funds were ringfenced for improvements to changing facilities. The Football Club had requested access to this sum

to fund works to the changing rooms. The plans for the improvements had been explained by the Club at the recent site inspection.

*(Cllr Parkinson arrived)*

The request was discussed and the Committee acknowledged that the improvements were necessary. Cllr Helen Harrison proposed that the club incorporate baby changing facilities into the improvements which would provide benefits to the whole community rather than just the Club. The Club agreed to do this. On this basis it was agreed that the Club could have use of the £21000 for the proposed improvements. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she would clarify the situation with regards to the process being carried out in line with Council's financial regulations.

6.3 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM TTFC TO HOLD A JUNIORS SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT IN MAY 2020

The Club confirmed that they wished to withdraw this item from the agenda, as due to parking problems, this would not be going ahead on the Mundy Playing Fields.

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNCIL'S PLAY AREAS

7.1 TO NOTE PROGRESS ON ACTIONS FROM THE 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 areas of concern.

7.2 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE ROSPA REPORT RELATING TO THE SKATEPARK

The Deputy Clerk reported that a company had been out to inspect the skatepark. They had said that due to the park's condition, a replacement would be preferable, rather than repair work. They could make some repairs but could not guarantee them. The Deputy Clerk will bring the quote back to the Committee in due course.

7.3 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO INSTALL A DOG BIN IN THE SKATEPARK

A request had been made by outdoor staff who were finding that dog walkers are putting a large amount of dog waste into normal bins at the Skatepark. The Deputy Clerk reported that there were funds available in the budget for bins in the play areas. It was agreed that the lowest of three quotes outlined by the Deputy Clerk could be proceeded with. The bin should be installed at a reasonable distance away from the skate park.

7.4 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE REFURBISHMENT OF OSPREY PARK PLAY AREA

The Deputy Clerk reported that the works had been completed on time and all feedback was very positive. A warm and constructive social media comment with identifying data

removed was tabled to show Councillors the impact the redevelopment had made. The turfed area around the slide was still fenced off to allow more time for the turf to take. It would be monitored and the fencing removed as soon as possible.

**7.5 TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO THE PARKS REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME, INCLUDING CHANTRY ROAD PLAY AREA AND EASTLAND PLAY AREA**

Cllr Harrison explained that having completed the upgrades to the Mundy Playing Fields and Osprey Park play areas, Eastland and Chantry Road were the next two scheduled for redevelopment as part of Council's rolling programme. The best way to improve the Eastland play area would need some consideration and consultation with local residents. Chantry Road was flat and enclosed, which made it a good candidate for development for children with additional needs, but this would be a more expensive plan. Parking was noted as an issue that would need to be carefully considered. It was hoped that both playgrounds would be upgraded by the end of the current Council's term, which meant realistically that one would need to be completed in 2021/22 and the other in 2022/23. It was agreed that this should be kept on the Committee's agenda for further discussion and in the meantime the Deputy Clerk should contact Merlin Housing Association to see if there were any plans in place for the garages next to the Eastland play area.

**7.6 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE SPLASH PAD**

The Deputy Clerk had met with a groundworks company to discuss digging the trench and laying the new pipes. She was waiting for a quote to be sent back to her. This company had also offered another idea to help alleviate the tank refilling issue. They suggested modifying the pipes from dispensing jets of water, to mist instead, or intermittent jets which would stop the tank emptying so quickly. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should investigate this further.

**8. TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR PREVENTING VEHICLES DRIVING ACROSS GREEN SPACES**

A complaint had been received from a member of the public that vehicles were being driven across Oakleaze Green. The Deputy Clerk had consulted with the Outdoor Spaces Supervisor, who was aware of the problem already. He was monitoring the situation but did not feel the problem was currently severe enough to justify taking action. It was noted that South Glos Council drive their vans across the green when doing works in the area and this may be contributing to the issue. It was agreed the situation should continue to be monitored.

**9. TO CONSIDER FURTHER A REQUEST FROM A TRADER TO TRADE IN THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS**

The committee had previously agreed they had no objections in principle, but the van would have to park on tarmac rather than grass. The staff had looked at this and determined that there were two options, neither of which was suitable. One was the car park, but this presented safety issues. The other was next to the Pavilion, but this would require the staff to attend to lift the access barrier, which disrupted their shift patterns.

The Deputy Clerk had also spoken with the director of Park Run who was unaware of the request. He was concerned that allowing this trader conflicted with some of Park Run's principles of bringing trade to the local coffee shops. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would respond to the request from the trader outlining the reasons why the request could not be approved.

10. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO USE FUNDS FROM A CEMETERY BEQUEST ACCOUNT (EARMARKED RESERVES)**

The Deputy Clerk had previously brought this item before the committee but clarified that the money held in this ear marked reserve had in fact been paid in by the individuals proposed to use it for. She was requesting permission to access the funds for works to their headstone. This was granted.

11. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUTDOOR STAFFING**

The outdoor team were now fully staffed. One new member had started last week and another one had started yesterday.

12. **TO AGREE A NEW DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING**

The previously agreed date of 17.11.2020 clashed with the Christmas Light Switch On event and so needed to move. It was agreed that 19.11.2020 was the best option. A new schedule of meetings would be circulated.

13. **TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

There were none relevant to this committee.

14. **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY**

The Deputy Clerk reported that the cemetery gates would need replacing in the near future. She was obtaining quotes for a replacement gate in iron and wood and also one made completely of iron.

Cllr Parkinson reported that Council staff had cleared land at Poulterbrook that was beyond our boundary and we should not be doing work to. He had also noticed that repairs were needed to the footbridge between Poulterbrook and the Mundy Playing fields. In addition, an area now being cleared near the stream, he noticed there was a drop into the water and queried whether there should be any signage warning of this. The Deputy Clerk would investigate each of these issues.

15. **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.

**16. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SECURITY ISSUES**

New security equipment had been successfully installed, including some in new locations.