

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on Thursday 17 January 2019 at the Town Hall

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chairman)
Cllr Vincent Costello
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Helen Harrison
Cllr Shirley Holloway
Cllr Pam Shipp

Louise Powell (Town Clerk)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator)

(Cllr Lesley Tuck – absent)

(Items were discussed in a different order to that stated on the agenda.)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jayne Stansfield (work commitments)
Cllr Angela Symonds (out of Thornbury)
Cllr Martin Trueman (work commitments)
(Mr Jack Hainsworth)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Clive Parkinson, Cllr Helen Harrison and Cllr Shirley Holloway declared an interest in matters relating to Thornbury Town Trust as Chair/Trustees - item 9. It was noted that during this item, the Committee would not be quorate and therefore could not make any decisions but could only make recommendations to be ratified by full Council. It was also agreed that Cllr Bob Griffin would chair the meeting during the item.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A representative from Bristol Orienteering Klub (BOK) was welcomed to the meeting and it was agreed to bring forward item 5 of the agenda.

5. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM A REPRESENTATIVE FROM BRISTOL ORIENTEERING KLUB (BOK) ABOUT A PROPOSED EVENT IN AND AROUND THORNBURY ON SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2019

A representative from BOK addressed the Committee regarding a proposed orienteering event in Thornbury on Sunday 16 June 2019. An event plan had been circulated and was noted. It was estimated that around 250 people would participate with staggered starting times between 10.30am and 12.30pm. With the event taking around one hour to complete, the final competitors should be completed by 1.30pm. There would be a Junior and Adult course. Risk assessments had been completed, and no dogs/pushchairs/wheelchairs would be allowed. BOK would set out the courses with flags and markers in the morning and clear up should be completed by 4.00pm. Turnberries would be the base for the event and there was some discussion about the best starting and finishes places as it was felt that the footpath by the old railway embankment may not be suitable as a starting place. Maps with example routes were tabled and discussed. The open spaces that would be included in the course were made up of

public open spaces owned by either Thornbury Town Council or South Gloucestershire Council, as well as the Castle School playing fields for which permission had been granted. The representative confirmed that the event would be open to the public and that it would be widely advertised. BOK would also contact local cafes to warn them to expect extra custom on the day.

The Committee confirmed that it was supportive of the event and the representative agreed to continuing liaising with the Clerk as more details of the course were confirmed. The Chairman thanked the representative from BOK for attending and wished her well with the event.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The report of the meeting held on 15 November 2018 had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk confirmed that a replacement boiler had been fitted in the Pavilion. The Clerk agreed to follow up on the Condition in the Thornbury Football Club Application relating to hedgerows.

The Chairman confirmed that it was necessary to nominate a Vice-Chairman for the Committee and nominated Cllr Helen Harrison. Cllr Bob Griffin seconded the nomination and Cllr Helen Harrison confirmed that she was happy to be nominated. There being no further nominations, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Helen Harrison be confirmed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

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

In Jack Hainsworth's absence, the Clerk reported that outstanding tree works were now completed. Mr Hainsworth was progressing the issue of volunteers who needed training, although one of the volunteer strimmers would no longer be able to help and would need replacing. The Clerk agreed to check whether the deterioration of the monument had been reported to the stone mason.

7. TO CONSIDER PLANTING OF FURTHER TREES

The Clerk reported that the Tree Warden had sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a report which was tabled. The report contained recommendations from the Tree Warden regarding tree planting in the Mundy Playing Fields and Oakleaze Green. The recommendations were discussed and it was agreed that the Committee were happy with them with the following provisos. The Tree Warden should consult with local residents with regard to the planting on Oakleaze Green to ensure they were happy with the plans and with regard to the Mundy Playing Fields, she should consult with the police about the best time to plant the new trees to avoid damage due to anti-social behaviour.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE SPLASH PAD

The Clerk reported that she had looked further into the costs and issues relating to option 3 and 4 from the options discussed at the last meeting. (Option 3 – Connecting to a pipe from the roundabout at the top of the High Street and running down the track to Poulterbrook and across the playing fields, and Option 4 – Laying a wider pipe on Town Council land only, meaning Council staff could carry out the bulk of the work.) The Committee agree that the Clerk could just pursue option 3 and rule out option 4 which was felt to be a false economy as it would not guarantee an improved supply. Although it was difficult to quantify the improvement with option 3, some improvement was more certain. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain more facts and figures regarding this option so that it could be considered further at a future meeting.

9. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO REVIEW SECURITY MEASURES AROUND THE PERIMETERS OF THE ALLOTMENT AREA**

Cllr Clive Parkinson provided an update on this issue as Chair of the Town Trust. The Trust had written to the Police requesting a meeting to discuss the recent allotment fires and what progress had been made and to ask their advice on measures that could be taken to help prevent further incidents. This issue had been discussed at Council and referred to the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee to consider any security measures that Council could implement around the perimeter of the allotments by Poulterbrook.

Cllr Clive Parkinson and Cllr Helen Harrison left the meeting at this point and Cllr Shirley Holloway took no further part in the discussions. Cllr Bob Griffin chaired this item in Cllr Clive Parkinson's absence. The Clerk reported that security measures that could be considered included CCTV and the planting of "prickly bushes". It was agreed that both of these measures could be beneficial and that the Clerk should investigate them further. It was also agreed that we should await the outcome of the meeting between the Trust and the Police to see if further security measures were recommended.

10. **TO NOTE THE AWARD OF SECTION 106 FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS**

A letter had been circulated from the South Gloucestershire Council s106 Project Implementation Officer which confirmed Thornbury Town Council's application for s106 funds had been approved to the value of £4337.82. This would be towards the upgrade of fencing around the tennis courts.

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

(a) **Progress on matters raised from the latest RoSPA Play Safety Inspections**

The Clerk tabled the updated schedule of actions from the latest RoSPA play safety inspections. The Clerk reported that grass matting would be ordered for the swing area in the Streamleaze play area using s106 funds. The Clerk confirmed that resurfacing works were needed in both the Chantry Road play area and the Swallow Park/Osprey Park play area. A decision would need to be made at some point in the future as to whether the Chantry Road play area resurfacing would be carried out by our own staff or whether this would be added on to the improvements to the Osprey Park play area. It was noted how much progress had been made on the actions from the inspections, and the Committee thanks the Clerk and the outdoor staff for their efforts.

(b) **To discuss the consultation for the improvements to the Osprey Park play area**

The Committee discussed what was needed for the consultation for the Osprey Park play area improvements and it was agreed that the Clerk should put together a small selection of appropriate pieces of play equipment that could be voted on. It was agreed that the consultation should take place during February and include letters being sent to residents around the play area, a stand at the St Mary Centre on a Saturday, coverage in the press and details on our website.

12. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC FOR SIGNAGE TO THE OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT**

An email from a member of the public had been circulated requesting improvements to the signage around the outdoor gym equipment to prevent children from using the equipment and getting it muddy. It was noted that there was already signage in place in that area. It was agreed that we would ask the outdoor staff to keep the situation under review and consider the matter again at a future meeting.

13. **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.

14. **TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR SIGNAGE**

The Clerk reported that we had received complaints about the lack of sufficient signage, particularly in the Chantry Playing Fields, clarifying that dogs were not allowed on the field. A quotation had been obtained for large and clear signage to be displayed in the Chantry Playing Fields (dogs not allowed) and also the Mundy Playing Fields (dogs on leads) for £849.60. It was proposed by Cllr Helen Harrison that the Clerk proceed with ordering the signage. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Matthew Stringer and unanimously agreed.

15. **TO RECEIVE ANY URGENT CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) The Clerk informed the Committee that the older Ford Transit van may need replacing following its MOT and that this should be included in the budget. The Clerk confirmed that she would obtain more accurate figures in due course, but this would be approximately £5000 per year.