

Report of the Meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on 18 February 2020 in the Council Chamber

Present: Cllr Helen Harrison (Chairman)
Cllr Clive Parkinson
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Mike Elcock (St. Mary's Churchyard)

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

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

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

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 14.01.20 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the outdoor staff would not cut the vegetation between Poulterbrook and the allotments. A member of staff had looked at the footbridge, but it was too wet to do any work. He would return when it was drier and attempt any repairs he could. If more extensive work was needed, it would be referred to an appropriate contractor. Advice had been sought on whether a sign was needed in front of the stream. It may not be needed as the stream is a natural feature, but the next health and safety inspection is due in April and it would be covered then.

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

Mike Elcock was welcomed to the Committee. He would be attending future meetings where possible and would assign a deputy for those he is unable to attend. He had

spoken with Cllr Guy Rawlinson who was drawing up a rota for the Holy Mowers and was liaising with the Outside Spaces Supervisor to find out what work needed doing. Work would start on the pathway next month so access to the church would be through the north door. It was highlighted that the war memorial should be protected from water collecting around the base during this process, as it was made of sandstone and so excess water could damage it or affect its stability. A glass door was being installed in the entrance in September. Mike explained an issue the choir were having when leaving the building at night; a floodlight pointing towards the church was so bright that it was blinding and he hoped something could be done to change this. He wasn't sure whether there had been a change to the light to make it brighter. It was agreed the Deputy Clerk would investigate. The Chairman thanked Mr Elcock for attending the meeting.

(Mike Elcock left the meeting.)

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THORNBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

6.1 TTFC PROPOSAL TO BUILD ANOTHER STAND (on agenda for Full Council on 11.02.20)

A plan was tabled which showed Council's request to amend the fence line. The Football Club had explained that moving it to this location would limit visibility from the back of the stand, so they put forward another suggestion which would be a compromise. Councillors agreed by majority that this was acceptable, with one councillor abstaining from voting.

6.2 TTFC PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHANGING ROOMS

The Deputy Clerk explained that two quotes had been received and a third was being sought. Baby changing facilities in both the men's and women's toilets would be included. The Football Club had confirmed that if the costs exceeded the amount given to Thornbury Town Council following the dissolution of Thornbury Community Sports Association (£21,000), then the Football Club would pay the difference.

6.3 TTFC PLANS TO BUILD AN EXTENSION TO THE PAVILION

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the Football Club would not be withdrawing the plans that were currently submitted for planning permission, but instead would be submitting revised plans in due course. It was noted that the Committee had not approved the current plans and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would write to the Football Club to reiterate this.

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

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

The report on RoSPA actions was tabled. It was noted that progress had been difficult due to staffing issues, but that there were no significant concerns regarding outstanding actions. The next RoSPA inspection would be carried out in April.

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

The Deputy Clerk had obtained one quote for one of the repairs needed to the skatepark. There was some discussion regarding options for the skatepark and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should arrange an on-site meeting with Krunch and available Committee members to discuss this further.

7.3 TO CONSIDER THE PARKS REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME, INCLUDING CHANTRY ROAD AND EASTLAND PLAY AREA

A response had been received from the National Lottery Community Fund regarding match funding for improvements to the Chantry play area, requesting more information. This would be progressed. The Deputy Clerk had contacted Merlin housing association and had been told that they had no plans to work on garages near Eastland Avenue play area in the next financial year.

It was agreed that a consultation process would take place during the summer to obtain residents views on making improvements to play areas in Chantry Road and Eastland Avenue over the next few years. It was agreed that Cllr Helen Harrison would work with the Deputy Clerk to progress this and should include face to face consultation events as well as letters sent to neighbouring residents of the play areas.

7.4 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE SPLASH PAD

The Deputy Clerk was awaiting a quote for groundworks. A site meeting was arranged shortly with a company who may be able to suggest improvements to how the splash pad uses the current water supply. Cllr Clive Parkinson and Cllr Bob Griffin asked to be included in this meeting.

8. TO CONSIDER PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES 2020/2021 FOR THE CEMETERY AND THE HIRING OF SPORT FACILITIES

The Deputy Clerk had circulated proposed fees and charges for 2020/2021 for the hire of sports facilities. These were discussed and proposed for approval by Cllr Jayne Stansfield. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Clive Parkinson and unanimously agreed.

The Deputy Clerk had circulated two sets of proposed fees and charges for 2020/2021 for the Cemetery one of which involved a higher than normal increase (10%). The Deputy Clerk also circulated details of fees and charges of other Cemeteries in the local area. It was noted that even if the higher increase was accepted, Thornbury Cemetery would still be comparable with other Cemeteries. This was discussed in detail. Cllr Jayne Stansfield proposed that the 10% increase be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Clive Parkinson and agreed, with one abstention.

9. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM “BRISTOL ORIENTEERING KLUB” (BOK) TO HOLD AN ORIENTEERING EVENT IN THE EVENING IN

THORNBURY ON WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 2020

It was noted that the event organisers had been receptive to suggestions and requests from Council last year and that the event had caused no problems. Councillors agreed this could go ahead.

10. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Cllr Stansfield wished to clarify an issue related to South Glos Council's Member Awarded Funding. She'd had an application from an organisation wishing to run an event on Town Council property. It was agreed there were no specific problems with the request, although if it were going to happen in an evening, local residents should be consulted with.

11. TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

The door to the pump house where the splash pad controls are located had broken and so the Deputy Clerk requested to be able to order a replacement. It would cost less than £100. Councillors agreed.

12. TO RESOLVE UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

Resolved.

13. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR RESURFACING OF THE SPLASH PAD

The Deputy Clerk had contacted several companies and received two quotes back. It had proved difficult to obtain a third quote, as the job was quite specialist and not many companies did this kind of work. Both quotes were within budget. The cheaper one also came with a longer guarantee. It was agreed unanimously that we would use this company.