

Report of the meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee  
held on 13 October 2020 at 7.00pm via video conference

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Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chair)  
Cllr Martin Trueman (Vice Chair following item 3)  
Cllr Chris Davies  
Cllr Bob Griffin  
Cllr Helen Harrison  
Cllr Jayne Stansfield  
Cllr Angela Symonds

Mr Mike Elcock – St Mary’s Churchyard  
Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)

(Cllr Pam Shipp – absent)

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

None.

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

Cllr Martin Trueman declared an interest in matters relating to Thornbury Town Football Club, as a member of the Club.

**3. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

Due to Cllr Helen Harrison stepping down as Chair of the Committee, and Cllr Clive Parkinson being elected as the new Chair at a recent full Council meeting, the position of Vice Chair of the Committee was now vacant. The Chair asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Cllr Helen Harrison nominated Cllr Martin Trueman as Vice Chair. Cllr Martin Trueman stated that he was happy to be nominated for this. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Jayne Stansfield. There being no other nominations, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Martin Trueman be elected as Vice Chair of the Committee.

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

There were no members of the public present.

**5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 01.09.20 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

It was noted that there were two large tree limbs that had fallen at the Clare Walk end of the Chantry Field. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she would ask the outdoor staff to remove these. It was also noted that the overgrowth at the corner of the Chantry Field, on the footpath between Church Road and Gloucester Road was actually our

responsibility, rather than South Gloucestershire Council's. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she would ask the outdoor staff to cut this back as soon as possible.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that we had not heard from the Chairman of Thornbury Town Football Club in relation to their bid for CIL funding.

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

The Chair welcomed Mr Mike Elcock to the meeting. Mr Elcock updated the Committee on issues relating to St Mary's closed churchyard. The path works were now complete. A memorial bench was awaiting installation by Town Council staff. There were some volunteers who needed training in mowing and strimming. There was work to do on some tombs in the churchyard which were becoming overgrown with Ivy. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she would ask our outdoor staff to fit the bench as soon as possible. She also confirmed that she had spoken to Cllr Guy Rawlinson and agreed that the training of volunteers would take place in the Spring when the number of volunteers was clearer. She confirmed that Cllr Rawlinson had met with the Outdoor Spaces Supervisor recently to discuss works that were needed in the churchyard and that these would be progressed during the winter months. With regard to the Ivy on the tombs, she confirmed that this would be a more complex task as permission may be required as most of the tombs were listed, but that Cllr Rawlinson was putting her in touch with someone who had carried out similar works in a nearby church.

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

**7.1 Restarting of matches during COVID-19 restrictions**

The Deputy Clerk reported that there had been some concerns during the first few matches that had taken place during COVID-19 restrictions, mainly around social distancing. These concerns had been reported to the Football Club who made appropriate arrangements to ensure social distancing was enforced. Subsequent matches appeared to have been carried out in a much more COVID-19 secure manner. The situation would continue to be monitored by outdoor staff.

**7.2 Delivery of new stand and moving of existing stand**

The Deputy Clerk reported that the delivery of the new stand and the moving of the existing stand was due to take place on 23.10.20. The Football Club had provided all necessary documentation relating to these works and were continuing to keep Town Council staff informed of the plans.

**8. TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO COUNCIL'S PLAY AREAS**

**8.1 To note progress on actions from the latest RoSPA Play Safety Inspection Report**

The schedule of actions had been circulated prior to the meeting. The outdoor staff had made progress on one of the medium risk actions which related to the cableway in the Mundy Playing Fields – the parts required for this had been identified and ordered.

Progress would continue to be made, prioritising the medium risk actions (there were no high risk actions).

## 8.2 To consider issues relating to the skatepark

A site visit had taken place at the Skatepark on 29.09.20 at which the RoSPA findings/actions were discussed and plans for the longer term future of the Skatepark considered. An outline of the proposed actions to address the RoSPA findings had been circulated and was noted. It was agreed that these actions should be progressed. It was noted that some of the users of the Skatepark who were present at the site visit had raised the possibility of adding their own artwork to the equipment. It had been noted that the visit that this would not be possible on parts of the equipment that were skated/stood on, but that it may be possible to erect boards, or something similar, on the equipment that could be used for this purpose. It was also noted that any such additions to the equipment would need to be checked by RoSPA.

## 9. TO CONSIDER THE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION ON THE COMMITTEE'S BUDGET

There were no issues to consider under this standing item.

## 10. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

It was noted that Councillor Surgeries were not currently taking place due to COVID-19 restrictions and therefore there were no issues to consider under this standing item.

## 11. TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

There were no urgent matters to consider.

## 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 ISSUES RELATING TO THE SPLASH PAD

A copy of emails relating to the splash pad had been circulated and were noted. It was noted that repeated attempts had been made to clarify the water costs if additional pipes were laid to the splash pad, but that these attempts had been unsuccessful.

Cllr Martin Trueman confirmed that he had obtained paperwork relating to a legal issue connected to the splash pad and that he would forward this to the Deputy Clerk. The proposed way forward relating to this legal issue was noted and would be progressed.

## 14. TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO THE CEMETERY

It was noted that further space would be needed in the Cemetery at some point. The meadow adjacent to the Cemetery was a potential option for providing this space. A

proposal and quote from a company who specialised in assessing locations for their suitability for use as a burial ground had been circulated and was discussed. The first step would be for them to carry out a groundwater risk assessment. It was agreed that this should be carried out and that a recommendation would be made to full Council to agree to fund this assessment, potentially using CIL funds. The company had also provided details of other potential costs involved in this process, depending on the results of the groundwater risk assessment. It was agreed that, in principle, this process needed to be started and that additional costs may need to be covered. Another possible option for creating space within the existing Cemetery boundaries was discussed and noted.