

Report of the meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee
held on 19 November 2020 at 7.00pm via video conference

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chair)
Cllr Martin Trueman (Vice Chair) (*joined at item 11*)
Cllr Chris Davies
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Helen Harrison
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Angela Symonds

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

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jayne Stansfield – another commitment

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Helen Harrison declared an interest in matters related to Jigsaw Thornbury, as Chair of the Trustees.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public was welcomed to the meeting. It was established that they were in attendance in relation to item 6.3 of the agenda.

4. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13.10.20 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on several issues from the last report. The overgrowth in the lane between Church Road and Gloucester Road at the corner of the Chantry Field, had been cut back. The memorial bench to be installed in St Marys Churchyard should be fitted within the next couple of weeks. Some modifications had to be made to the fittings which had delayed the installation. The ground water risk assessment in the meadow next to the Cemetery was being carried out today and a report would hopefully be available for discussion at the next meeting.

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

Mr Mike Elcock updated the Committee on issues relating to St Mary’s closed churchyard. Mowing had stopped for the winter and the mowers would be serviced by the outdoor staff while they were not being used. An email had been circulated to the Committee confirming that an application had been submitted for a Silver Eco Church Award. The Chair confirmed Mr Elcock should let Council know if there was anything

it could do in the Churchyard to help achieve this Award. The Chair thanked Mr Elcock for joining the meeting and for providing an update. Mr Elcock left the meeting.

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

6.1 Effect of second COVID-19 lockdown on fixtures

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that fixtures were not being played during the current lockdown, but that the Football Club hoped that matches could restart in December.

6.2 Installation of new stand and moving of existing stand/fencing works

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that both stands were now in place at the far side of the main pitch. Fencing works were due to start on 23 November 2020.

6.3 To consider a request for a storage shed behind the Pavilion

The Deputy Clerk had circulated details of a request from the Football Club to install a storage shed immediately behind the toilet block by the Pavilion, along with a list of issues and concerns that this raised. A representative from the Football Club was in attendance and explained to the Committee the reasons the Football Club would like a shed installed. The request was discussed and it was agreed that Committee members should visit the site so that they could understand more easily the impact of the shed on the surroundings. The idea of arranging a site visit was discussed, but it was felt that during the current restrictions this was an unnecessary gathering and that individual Councillors should visit as and when they could. It was agreed that a decision would then be made at the next Committee meeting in January. The Chair thanked the representative from the Football Club for joining the meeting. The representative then left the meeting. The Deputy Clerk highlighted to the Committee that if the shed was allowed, then requests for “free storage” from other organisations who use the Mundy Playing Fields would have to be considered on an equal basis.

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

7.1 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 Deputy Clerk reported that progress continues to be made, with the focus on the medium risk actions (there are no high risk actions). A number of actions can only be addressed by replacing existing equipment and this will therefore need to wait for those play areas to be replaced. None of these are urgent or high risk.

7.2 To consider issues relating to the skatepark

The Deputy Clerk reported that we are currently obtaining the specialist paint for repainting the skatepark and that the works would hopefully be carried out in the next few weeks. With regard to the remedial works identified in the RoSPA report, quotes were being sought from specialist companies and one had been received so far.

7.3 To consider a future entry into the Green Flag Awards for the Mundy Playing Fields

Information regarding this award scheme had been circulated to Committee members. The Deputy Clerk reported that this scheme had recently been brought to her attention and a member of the outdoor staff was keen to explore it further. The criteria is quite wide ranging and this may need to be a long term project. The Committee confirmed that it was happy for the Deputy Clerk to continue discussions with the outdoor staff regarding working towards the award.

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

There were no issues to consider under this standing item.

9. 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.

10. TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

There were no urgent matters to consider.

(Cllr Martin Trueman joined the meeting at this point.)

11. 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.

12. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE SPLASH PAD

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she had received a call from a party involved in issues relating to the splash pad and hoped to make some progress in this area. She would contact Cllr Clive Parkinson and Cllr Martin Trueman as soon as she has some more information on this. She also reported that Cllr Trueman had given her copies of paperwork related to this issue.

13. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR AN EJECTOR BUCKET

The Deputy Clerk outlined issues that the outdoor staff were experiencing with the standard ejector bucket on the backhoe when digging wet, clay soil in the Cemetery. This would be helped by purchasing a larger, self-cleaning ejector bucket. Three quotes had been sought, but it had only been possible to obtain two. She outlined the two quotes and it was agreed that we should proceed with the cheapest. She confirmed there were sufficient funds in the relevant Committee budget.