

Report of the meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee  
held on 6 April 2021 at 7.00pm via video conference

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Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chair)  
Cllr Martin Trueman (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Chris Davies  
Cllr Bob Griffin  
Cllr Pam Shipp  
Cllr Jayne Stansfield  
Cllr Angela Symonds

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

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

Cllr Helen Harrison – work commitments

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

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

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

A representative from Thornbury Town Football Club was in attendance in relation to item 9 of the agenda. It was agreed to bring this item forward.

The Tree Warden was in attendance in relation to item 6 of the agenda.

**9. TO CONSIDER REVISED PLANS FROM THORNBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE PAVILION**

Outline plans had been circulated for two new options for the roofline of the proposed extension to the Pavilion. A new roofline was needed as the existing plans included a roofline that Council had not approved. The options were discussed. Cllr Bob Griffin proposed that this matter be referred to the Town Development Committee for their consideration as that Committee would be sent the full plans from SGC Planning Department in due course. It was also proposed that they be informed that the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee marginally favoured the two gable option. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Chris Davies and unanimously agreed. The Chair confirmed that he would be happy to support any application made by the Football Club to SGC for CIL funds. The representative left the meeting.

**4. TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 02.03.21 AND TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Bob Griffin proposed that the report of the last meeting be approved. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Martin Trueman and unanimously agreed.

The Chair announced that Council's Committee structure would be changing soon and the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee would be combined with some of the issues dealt with by the Environment Committee, and would be covered by a new Outdoor Spaces Committee. This meant that this would be the last Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee meeting. The Chair noted that he had been involved with this Committee for 23 years. He confirmed that Mike Elcock would be invited to attend Outdoor Spaces Committee meetings as the representative of the St Mary's closed churchyard. The new meetings schedule was currently being finalised and details would be circulated to all members as soon as possible.

**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. The wildflower area had been sown and the brambles would be kept under control. The beekeeper would be retiring soon and the beehives would be moved from the Churchyard. The Chair thanked Mr Elcock and he left the meeting.

**6. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TREE WARDEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING THE WOODLAND TRUST FREE TREES FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SCHEME**

Details of the scheme had been circulated. The Tree Warden outlined the scheme and asked the Committee whether it could identify any suitable areas on Council land for tree planting. It was noted that the Tree Warden would work with Thornbury In Bloom to carry out the actual planting and maintenance, under their risk assessments and insurance. Cllr Jayne Stansfield proposed that the new Open Spaces Committee be asked to consider setting up a working group to identify suitable areas for planting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Clive Parkinson and unanimously agreed. The Chair thanked the Tree Warden and she left the meeting.

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

**7.1 To receive a report on recent antisocial behaviour in the skatepark**

The Deputy Clerk reported that there had been a number of incidents of fires being set at night next to the skatepark. The Police and Krunch were dealing with the issue, but it was creating a significant amount of additional work for the outdoor staff in clearing up debris from the fires and broken glass.

**7.2 To receive a report on the annual inspection of football and rugby posts**

The Deputy Clerk reported the one set of football posts and one set of ruby posts had failed the annual inspection. They had not been condemned, but needed to be replaced as soon as possible. The company carrying out the inspection had confirmed that they could continue to be used in the meantime. The Deputy Clerk was obtaining quotes for replacement posts.

**7.3 To receive an update on issues relating to the Mundy Playing Fields car park**

The Deputy Clerk reported that there continued to be incidents of cars being left in the car park after the advertised closing time which were therefore being locked in the car park. This had caused some issues for staff. Additional signage was being ordered and the situation would continue to be monitored. It may become necessary to consider other measures if the problem persists.

**8. TO NOTE THE FINAL FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2021/2022 FOR THORNBURY CEMETERY**

An increase in fees and charges for the Cemetery for 2021/2022 had been agreed in principle at the previous meeting, but with the stipulation that they should be increased sufficiently to allow reserves to be built up to allow the replacement in 5-7 years' time of the additional equipment that had been/was being purchased for the Cemetery (bucket, shoring and flat bed truck). It had been calculated that fees and charges would need to increase by 6% in order to do this. The final fees and charges had been agreed outside of meeting by the Deputy Clerk and the Chair (so that they could be in place for the start of the financial year). These had been circulated to Committee members and were noted.

**10. TO FURTHER CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF MORE BOLLARDS ON OUR GREEN SPACES**

Cllr Chris Davies proposed that tree planting could be used as alternative natural barrier to protect areas potentially susceptible to incursions. It was proposed therefore that the new Outdoor Spaces Committee be asked to consider this as part of the remit of the new working group that they were being asked to set up to look at potential areas for tree planting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

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

There were no issues to consider under this standing item.

**12. 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.

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

There were no urgent issues raised.

The Chair asked for the Committee's thanks to be passed on to members of the office staff who had recently painted the skatepark due to unavoidable understaffing in the outdoor team.

**14. 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.

15. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON REFERENCES RECEIVED REGARDING A CONTRACTOR**

The Deputy Clerk reported that two good references had been obtained in relation to a contractor who had provided a quote for some works to the skatepark. It was agreed that we should proceed with using the contractor, who had provided the lowest quote.