

Report of the meeting of the Open Spaces Committee  
held on 14 September 2021 at 7.30pm  
in the Severnside Suite, Thornbury Leisure Centre

---

Present: Cllr Clive Parkinson (Chair)  
Cllr Bob Griffin  
Cllr Chris Davies  
Cllr Angela Symonds  
Cllr James Murray  
Cllr Jayne Stansfield

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

(Cllr Pam Shipp – absent)  
(Cllr Martin Trueman – absent)

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

Cllr Helen Harrison – out of Thornbury  
Cllr Guy Rawlinson – out of Thornbury

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

There were no members’ declarations of interest.

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

There were no members of the public present.

**4. TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29.06.21 AND TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Chris Davies proposed that the report of the meeting be approved. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Jayne Stansfield.

The Chair proposed that the Committee formally agree that the Green Project budget cover the costs involved in creating the hedge/fence on Oakleaze Green. Cllr Jayne Stansfield seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that he had spoken to Cllr Maggie Tyrrell regarding the implications of the “Grant a Green Campaign”, who was going to discuss this with Property Services at South Gloucestershire Council.

5. **TO NOTE ANY DECISIONS MADE OUT OF MEETING**

Thornbury Rugby Club Price Reduction – a decision had been made out of meeting by the Chair of the Committee to allow the Rugby Club a £100 reduction on the fee for the hire of one of the pitches at the Chantry Field as they will be marking out the lines of the pitch themselves. The Committee noted the decision.

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

Mr Mike Elcock updated the Committee on issues concerning the churchyard. The Church has participated in the Heritage Open Doors event had taken place last week. There was a problem with the large mower which Town Council staff were looking at. The wildflower meadow was being cut back and it would reseed itself in the spring. The Chair thanked Mr Elcock for the update.

*(Mr Elcock left the meeting.)*

7. **TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON TREE PLANTING FROM THE TREE WARDEN**

The Deputy Clerk reported that Judith Hurford had sent her apologies and did not have any updates on items not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

8. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CHANTRY ROAD PLAY AREA**

8.1 **To receive a general update on progress on the redevelopment including the results of the consultation and the changes made to the design**

The Deputy Clerk reported that the project was progressing and she would be having a pre-start site meeting on 1 October 2021 with the play equipment and path works contractors. There had been a good response to the consultation process, much of which was positive and adjustments had been made to the final design to address some concerns raised. Details of this were on our website. The installation was expected to take approximately one month, the start date was to be confirmed.

8.2 **To consider making the area “dog free”**

The Deputy Clerk reported that some comments had been received as part of the consultation process about making the area “dog free”. This was discussed and it was noted that we had not received complaints regarding dogs on the area prior to this. It was agreed that we would ensure that dog bins and signage regarding dogs in the area was adequate and continue to monitor the situation, but otherwise dogs could continue to be allowed in to the area.

8.3 **To note the plans for the path works to the area**

The Deputy Clerk reported that path works were being carried out to allow the new accessible play equipment to be accessed via a tarmacked path, including tarmacking of the vehicle access from Tilting Road. The costs of these works had been agreed by the Finance and Policy Committee out of meeting.

**9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN**

It was noted that the Local Nature Action Plan would no longer be the responsibility of the Open Spaces Committee and would instead come under the new Climate Change Advisory Group.

**10. TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL TO HOLD A FIREWORKS EVENT ON 6 NOVEMBER 2021**

Information regarding the proposed fireworks event had been circulated and was noted. Cllr Bob Griffin proposed that the event be allowed to take place. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Jayne Stansfield and unanimously agreed.

**11. TO FURTHER CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM THORNBURY LAWN TENNIS CLUB**

The proposals from the Thornbury Lawn Tennis Club were discussed and it was agreed that an internal working group would be set up to explore the various options. The Deputy Clerk agreed to invite members of the Committee to join, along with Cllr Maggie Tyrrell who had some expertise in the area. It was also agreed that a representative from the Lawn Tennis Association would be invited to provide advice to the working group. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should inform the Tennis Club of this proposed way forward and particularly to highlight that it was unlikely that the timescales the Tennis Club had included in their proposal could be met.

It was noted that the existing agreement between the Tennis Club and the Council was due to expire on 1 June 2022. It was agreed that an offer should be made to the Tennis Club to extend the existing terms for a further year to allow time for all options regarding the Council's courts to be explored.

**12. TO CONSIDER CHANGE TO FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2022/23**

The Deputy Clerk presented information on the fees and charges for sporting facilities in neighbouring areas. Cllr James Murray proposed that we raise the basic senior pitch rate to £75 and increase all other charges in line with this (approximately an 8.5% increase). This would bring our fees and charges level with comparable facilities in neighbouring areas. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and the majority were in favour with one abstention.

**13. TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANT A TREE FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE SCHEME**

Cllr Jayne Stansfield proposed we accept the two English Oak trees offered to us as part of this scheme and that the Tree Strategy Group decide on where they should be planted. This was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

**14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SPLASH PAD**

The Deputy Clerk reported that there had been no complaints this summer regarding performance of the splash pad and it was therefore agreed that the £50,000 that had

been allocated from CIL money for pipe improvements would be returned to the general CIL fund. It was noted that the splash pad had closed a few weeks early this year due to algae growing on the surface. Treatment works were in process, but by the time this was complete, it would be time to close it anyway. It was agreed that signage would be changed to reflect that.

**15. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ACTIONS FROM THE ROSPA INSPECTION OF COUNCIL'S PLAY AREAS**

The schedule of actions from the RoSPA inspection had been circulated and was noted. The Deputy Clerk reported that continuing staff shortages had meant that little progress had been made on the medium and low risk actions, but these were not a cause for concern. The high risk actions had already been completed. Daily inspections and thorough weekly inspections continued to be carried out. It was noted that if staff shortages continued, we may need to consider bringing in contractors to assist with tasks like these RoSPA actions.

**16. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ANY COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ISSUED BY THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee wished to communicate to the public an update on the refurbishment of the Chantry Road play area, the donation of oak trees from the Queen's Jubilee Scheme and the splash pad closure.

**17. 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.

**18. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON RECENT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT THE PAVILION AND SURROUNDING AREA**

The Deputy Clerk updated the Committee on recent incidences of anti-social behaviour around the football facilities at the Mundy Playing Fields. A site meeting had been held with a Crime Prevention Officer who had provided advice. The incidences had now stopped without any action being necessary.

**19. TO CONSIDER OPTIONS AND QUOTES FOR A PROPOSED NEW HEDGE ON OAKLEAZE GREEN AND FUNDING**

The Deputy Clerk reported that a utilities search had shown that a water main and hydrant were close to the proposed location of the hedge/fence. This will mean the hedge will need to be set back 3m from the edge of the Green, and the field gate may need to be in a different location. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk could finalise the position of the gate following discussion of the options with the contractor and the outdoor staff. Quotes had been sought from fencing contractors, but only one had been received so far. Cllr Jayne Stansfield proposed that the Deputy Clerk should be authorised to spend up to the amount of the only quote received so far. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed. The Deputy Clerk

confirmed that the residents overlooking the area of the Green affected would be contacted to inform them of the plans and give them an opportunity to raise any concerns.

**20. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR TREE WORKS**

The Deputy Clerk presented quotes for the tree works identified in the recent tree survey. Cllr Chris Davies proposed that we appoint the contractor who had supplied the lowest quote. As the cost was far in excess of the remaining budget for tree works for this financial year, it was proposed that the works be carried out over two financial years and invoiced accordingly. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bob Griffin and unanimously agreed.

**21. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR A MOTORISED FLATBED TRUCK FOR THE CEMETERY**

The Deputy Clerk presented three quotes for a motorised flatbed truck for the Cemetery which had been included in the budget. It was agreed to purchase from the company offering the lowest quote. This was approximately £200 above budget, which could be covered by the Machines, Tools and Workwear budget. It was noted that the £200 annual servicing costs would need to be budgeted for in future years.

**22. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR REPLACEMENT CEMETERY GATES**

Information on various options for replacement Cemetery gates had been circulated and was discussed. It was agreed that Option One was the preferred option for the style of gate and was well within budget. However, it was also noted that there were complexities in how the gate would be fitted, particularly relating to the existing stone columns. It was agreed to pay for a gate fitter to visit the site to recommend a way forward with this.