

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
held on 25 July 2023 at 7:30pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Councillors present: Cllr Danny Bonnett (Chair)
Cllr Chris Bloor
Cllr Fiona Deas
Cllr Phil O'Rourke
Cllr John Reynolds

Officers present: Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)

Non-Councillors present: None

1 member of the public attended

Absent: Cllr Simon Johnson
Cllr Helen Harrison
Cllr Chris Davies
Cllr James Murray

OS2324.16 TO CONSIDER ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Simon Johnson, Helen Harrison, Chris Davies & James Murray

OS2324.17 TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared by members.

OS2324.18 TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was one member of the public in attendance who wished to address the Committee in relation to item 14 of the agenda. It was agreed to bring this item forward.

OS2324.19 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO INSTALL A BEEHIVE AT ST MARYS CHURCHYARD

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the request to install one beehive in St Marys Churchyard as per the details set out in the meeting paper.

OS2324.20 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23.05.23 AND TO NOTE THE CORRECTION MADE IN THE MINUTES RELATING TO ITEM OS2324.14

The Committee noted the amendment and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 23.05.23, which were then signed by the Chair.

OS2324.21 TO CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO SEATING ON TOWN COUNCIL OPEN GREEN SPACES:

- Agree locations for memorial benches on Mundy Playing Fields, Chantry Playing Field and Thornbury Cemetery

It was **RESOLVED** that the locations for memorial benches in the officer briefing, with the addition of two benches at the edge of the area that will become the hay meadow in the Mundy Playing Fields, would become the agreed locations that memorial bench customers could choose from, on Mundy Playing Fields, Chantry Playing Field and Thornbury Cemetery.

- To consider other seating on Mundy Playing Fields

It was **RESOLVED** to consider potential locations for more seating around Thornbury at the next Committee meeting in September and that Committee members would bring suggestions to the next meeting.

OS2324.22 TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR INSTALLATION (IF AVAILABLE), AND LOCATION, OF A CIRCULAR COMMEMORATIVE BENCH AND TREE IN THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the officer recommendations as outlined in the officer briefing – to agree in principle to the purchase of a commemorative bench and tree and to installation of this in the Mundy Playing Fields; to agree that this would be located in the lower end of the hay meadow (with exact location to be determined by the contractor); to agree to delegate to the Clerk expenditure of £6000 from the Events and Innovations budget for this and the Clerk to select the cheapest appropriate quote from those obtained.

OS2324.23 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CLIMATE AND NATURE COMMITTEE REGARDING SGC LOCALISM

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the recommendation from the Climate and Nature Committee to cease to commission additional localism verge cuts by South Gloucestershire Council and that the savings should be earmarked for Town Council green projects.

OS2324.24 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM SUSTAINABLE THORNBURY TO IDENTIFY A SUITABLE ROUTE FOR THE BIODIVERSITY RING TO PASS THROUGH THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

It was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to support the request from Sustainable Thornbury to identify a suitable route for the Biodiversity Ring to pass through the Mundy Playing Fields and to arrange an onsite meeting of the Vice Chair of the Committee, the Deputy Clerk and the Site Supervisor to discuss options for achieving this as well as operational issues, and that other Committee members be invited to attend this onsite meeting.

OS2324.25 TO CONSIDER RATIONALISING REGULATIONS AROUND ALLOWING DOGS ON TOWN COUNCIL OPEN GREEN SPACES

It was **RESOLVED** to not make any changes to existing regulations around dogs on Town Council green spaces (specifically to continue not to allow dogs on Chantry Playing Field),

and to install/improve signage on Thicket Walk and Oakleaze Green to encourage dog owners to pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly.

OS2324.26 TO CONSIDER THE NEXT STEPS IN ADDRESSING WORKS IDENTIFIED IN THE CONDITION SURVEY OF ST MARYS CHURCHYARD

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the officer recommendations as outlined in the officer briefing – to agree to proceed with all general urgent and necessary works, all boundary wall works and all general desirable works that involve the removal of ivy (totalling £75,240, from budget codes and EMRs outlined in the officer briefing); to agree to allow the Clerk to use the surveyor as the contractor providing that the Diocese give good and clear reasons for their preference for us to do this; to agree that should the reasons provided by the Diocese not be sufficient, that the Clerk proceed with the cheapest acceptable quote for the works (assuming it is possible to obtain more than one quote); to agree to deal with the works to the war memorial separately for the reasons outlined in the officer briefing. The Committee noted that the removal of ivy as part of these works related only to ivy that was affecting structures in the churchyard. All other ivy would be managed in line with the new grounds maintenance regime based on recommendations from the ecology survey, and this did not involve the routine removal of ivy.

OS2324.27 TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL GROUNDS WORKS IN THORNBURY FOR SGC TO CARRY OUT

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to South Gloucestershire Council's offer to carry out additional works around Thornbury and that Committee members should provide exact details of works they were aware of to the Deputy Clerk outside of the meeting, which would be added to those identified by outdoor staff, and this list would be passed to SGC.

OS2324.28 TO CONSIDER STOPPING THE PROVISION OF GRAVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT THORNBURY CEMETERY

It was **RESOLVED** to discontinue the grave maintenance service at Thornbury Cemetery at the end of the 2024-2025 season of maintenance. It was further **RESOLVED** that removal of mound and grass seeding of plots become the standard procedure for all newly used plots and that this will also be carried out on plots of existing customers of the grave maintenance services, unless they indicate that they wish to maintain the plot themselves.

OS2324.29 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THORNBURY LAWN TENNIS CLUB FOR THEM TO INSTALL FLOODLIGHTS ONTO THE TWO PUBLIC COURTS UNDER LICENCE TO THEM

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Mundy Playing Fields Trust that permission be given to Thornbury Lawn Tennis Club for them to install floodlights onto courts 5 and 6 (the public courts under agreement to the Club) on condition that planning permission is granted by South Gloucestershire Council, and that reasonable provision be made as part of the works to allow future floodlighting on courts 7 and 8 (details to be confirmed at the appropriate time before installation).

OS2324.30 TO NOTE PROGRESS WITH TREE WORKS IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT TREE SURVEY AND NOTE ADDITIONAL WORKS CARRIED OUT

The Committee noted progress with the tree works identified in the most recent tree survey and noted additional works carried out.

OS2324.31 TO NOTE PROGRESS WITH REMEDIAL WORKS IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT ROSPA SURVEY

The Committee noted progress with remedial works identified in the most recent RoSPA inspection of play areas. It further noted risks associated with the condition of the skatepark, that this would be added to the Town Council Risk Register and that options for replacement were being considered as part of the capital strategy planning process.

OS2324.32 TO NOTE OFFICER DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

The Committee noted officer decisions made under delegated powers as per the meeting paper provided.

OS2324.33 TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR NEW GOAL POSTS FOR THE TWO POULTERBROOK PITCHES

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote provided by GB Sport and Leisure for the supply and installation of two sets of new goalposts for Poulterbrook. The Committee noted that the cost of the new posts would be covered by the recently awarded s106 grant from South Gloucestershire Council.

OS2324.34 TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023:

The date of the next meeting was noted to be Tuesday 19 September 2023.