

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
held on 21 March 2023 at 7:30pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Councillors present: Cllr Guy Rawlinson (chair)
Cllr Chris Davies
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr James Murray (arrived for item 7 onwards)

Officers present: Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)

Non-Councillors present: Mike Elcock (St Marys Churchyard)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Absent: Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Clive Parkinson

OS2223.86 TO CONSIDER ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bob Griffin and Cllr Clive Parkinson.

OS2223.87 TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no members declarations of interest.

OS2223.88 TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Members of the public were in attendance, but no representations were made to the Committee.

OS2223.89 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 17.1.23 AND 20.02.23 AND TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ANY OPERATIONAL ISSUES OR MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meetings on 17.1.23 and 20.02.23.

OS2223.90 TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON ST MARYS CLOSED CHURCHYARD

Mike Elcock provided an update to the Committee on issues relating to St Marys Churchyard.

OS2223.91 TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT FROM THE TREE WARDEN AND CONSIDER AN INTERIM PROPOSAL FOR TREE PLANTING

Judith Hurford provided an update to the Committee on issues relating to tree planting on Town Council land. It was **RESOLVED** to agree suggested planting locations for trees recently purchased by Judith (replacing damaged trees and planting new memorial trees in the Cemetery).

OS2223.92 TO CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL THE OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS

The Committee **RESOLVED** the following:

- To adopt the officer recommendations for implementation of the proposals from the ecology surveys for managing Town Council's green spaces, including Alternative Management Plans where proposed.
- To delegate authority to the Officer to negotiate with the Football Club regarding a suitable space for a wildflower lawn in the Chantry Playing Fields, taking into account their current use of the space.
- That officers should continue to work on costing the proposals more fully, but the estimates were noted and appropriate authorisations would be sought at the relevant time.
- The officer recommendations would remain subject to ongoing review and future amendment e.g. recommendations could be made by the Climate and Nature Committee for consideration by the Open Spaces Committee.

OS2223.93 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THORNBURY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB (YOUTH) TO USE CHANTRY PLAYING FIELD FOR CAR PARKING DURING THEIR ANNUAL TOURNAMENT ON 20/21 MAY 2023 AND TO CONSIDER DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CLERK TO GRANT PERMISSION IN FUTURE YEARS.

It was **RESOLVED** that Thornbury Town Football Club could use the Chantry Playing Fields for parking in their tournament in May and that the Clerk be delegated authority to grant permission to similar requests in future years.

OS2223.94 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE TO USE THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS TO HOLD THE THORNBURY CARNIVAL ON 30 JUNE/1 JULY 2023 AND TO CONSIDER DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CLERK TO GRANT PERMISSION IN FUTURE YEARS

It was **RESOLVED** that Thornbury Carnival could use the Mundy Playing Fields to hold the Carnival event in June/July and that the Clerk be delegated authority to grant permission to similar requests in future years.

OS2223.95 TO CONSIDER REPLACING TWO BENCHES OUTSIDE THE OLD NAT WEST BUILDING ON THE PLAIN

It was **RESOLVED** to replace the two benches outside the old Nat West building and it was noted that it should be possible to use two of the benches that were being replaced by South Gloucestershire Council as part of the High Street pedestrianisation works.

OS2223.96 TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR LOCATIONS OF ACCESSIBLE SEATING/BENCHES ON THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

It was **RESOLVED** to pursue Option 2 (a) suggested by officers for new accessible benches on Mundy Playing Fields which included the removal of a piece of play equipment which had reached end of life.

OS2223.97 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM CLLR GUY RAWLINSON REGARDING CONTACTING SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL IN RELATION TO FOOTPATHS AND PEDESTRIAN "GAPS" BETWEEN THE PARK FARM ESTATE AND VICTORIA CLOSE

It was **RESOLVED** that officers should write to South Gloucestershire Council to express their concerns regarding footpaths and access points between the Park Farm estate and Victoria Close.

OS2223.98 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM CLLR JAYNE STANSFIELD TO REQUEST A REDUCTION FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOR CHARGES FOR CUTTING GRASS VERGES

It was **RESOLVED** that officers should write to South Gloucestershire Council to request a proposal from them regarding a reduction in grass cutting charges in light of the tarmacking of significant areas currently included in the contract.

OS2223.99 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE MOST RECENT RoSPA REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL'S PLAY AREAS

Progress against actions from the most recent RoSPA inspections was noted.

OS2223.100 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTLAND AVENUE PLAY AREA INCLUDING NOTING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on progress on the project and the award of the contract to Proludic for provision of the new play equipment was noted.

OS2223.101 TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR TREE WORKS IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT TREE SURVEY

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Oldown Tree Surgeons for tree works on Town Council land.

OS2223.102 TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023

The date of the next meeting was noted.