

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 17th January 2017

Present: Cllrs: Matthew Stringer(Chairman)

Vincent Costello
BenjEmmerson
Clare Fardell
Bob Griffin
Helen Harrison
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Martin Trueman

Allan Burberry (Filnore Woods)
Brett Harrison (Thornbury Composting and Filnore Allotments)
Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Absent Cllr Gail Whitehead

2. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interests.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 29.11.16

5(h) Footpath Wardens Report

It was agreed to take this item as first business as two residents from Stokefield Close were in attendance

It was reported that the new development at Castle Court had installed a gate with key pad on the entrance to the footpath that led to Stokefield Close. This had now prevented the residents from walking though from Stokefield Close to the High Street. As this was not a recognised footpath across the development members were uncertain that any course of action could be taken and it was agreed to await the findings of the South Gloucestershire Council Planning Officer who was to inspect the site later in the week.

The two residents left the meeting

3(a) Fairtrade Status

Cllr Helen Harrison reported that the group had begun setting up a website having secured a domain name. Castle School 6th formers were involved in this along with compiling a newsletter.

On 4th March there would be a Nicaraguan Fairtrade coffee and cocoa producer visiting various venues in the town and outlying areas as part of Fairtrade fortnight. The library would be holding a Fairtrade gold exhibition.

(b) Town Centre Signage

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that this matter had been resolved and it was agreed to remove it from the agenda

(c) Seating In The Town

(i) Seating Along Streamside Walk

There was nothing to report on this item

(ii) Seat on Grovesend Road

There had been no further progress on this item

(iii) Seat in Silver Street

There had been no further progress on this item.

(iv) Seats on Rock Street Garden

There was nothing to report on this item at the present time.

(d) Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site

It was hoped that this would be discussed as a sustainable environmental area at the forthcoming discussion evening with Julie Doherty on 27th February.

(e) Wildlife in Thornbury Evening

A list of areas for discussion and invitees was tabled for members information and to add to as they saw fit.

One area to be discussed was Kington Grove an area above the Golf Course and on the edge of the parish boundary. Cllr Maggie Tyrell had previously expressed concern that land registry had no details of an ownership and that someone had been clearing some woodland and could claim rights to the land. It was agreed that this was a valuable piece of land and that this item be referred to Finance and Policy committee to investigate this council's possible ownership etc.

(f) Planting on the Grovesend Roundabout

There was nothing to report at this time and it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda and monitor the situation.

(g) Walks Booklet Information

The deputy clerk had been unable to contact Thornbury Ramblers concerning the booklet and their sending a representative to committee meeting but hoped to talk to them in the near future.

(h) Heritage Open Doors

The working party would be meeting on 30th January.

(i) Litter Bin By Bus Stop at Grovesend Roundabout, Morton Way.

A licence was awaited from South Gloucestershire Council, there was a bin in stock and Town Council staff would be emptying the bin to save payment to South Gloucestershire Council for its emptying.

4.MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

The schedule had been circulated and the information noted.

5.OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a)Operational Matters

There were no operational matters

(b)Composting Site

Brett Harrison thanked members on behalf of the site for the grant of £1000 that had been allocated to the composting site.

He informed members Tesco were running a scheme where three charities in the area had collection points in Tesco for tokens that were distributed to customers in the store. They then deposited them in the collection point of the charity of their choice and the charity with the most tokens at the finish received £5,000. The composting site was one of the chosen charities.

(c) Allotments Report

There was nothing to report on this item

(d) Filnore Woods

There was nothing to report on this item

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Cllr Vincent Costello reported that the fencing around the area had been replaced. It was agreed that the deputy clerk contact Historic England to enquire what was now happening with the area.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

Judith Hurford reported that the planting of the 100th tree had been a successful event and Bloor homes had given £500 for the planting of Cherry trees on the bank outside of their development on Morton Way

She then requested permission to plant trees on Oakleaze Green, members felt that this request should be taken to Playing Fields and Cemetery committee as they were investigating the laying of a tarmac path across the green and the trees may interfere with this.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Felicity Harrison informed members that the group were meeting in the next week to discuss sustainable transport which would be this years' project for the group.

(h) Footpath Warden

This item had been reported at the beginning of the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Information had been received from South Gloucestershire Council on the Annual Spring Clean event for 2017. Members agreed to work with Litterbusters as in the past.

7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

No publications had been received.