

**REPORT** of the meeting of the Environment  
Committee held 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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*Present:*

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)

Vincent Costello  
Benj Emmerson  
Clare Fardell  
Helen Harrison  
Pam Shipp  
Martin Trueman  
Gail Whitehead

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)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr: Bob Griffin (Out of Thornbury)  
Helen Harrison (Other meeting)  
Guy Rawlinson (Out of Thornbury)

**2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declaration of interests.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT**

**(a) Fairtrade Status**

Cllr Gail Whitehead reported that it was One World week 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October and several events had been organised for the week by various organisations.

**(b) Town Centre Directional Signage**

There had been no further progress on the incorrect signage at the Plain or for further signage to the Mundy Playing Fields. The Clerk agreed to progress the matter before the next meeting

(c) **Seating In The Town**

(i) **Seating Along Streamside Walk**

A licence was awaited from South Gloucestershire Council.

(ii) **Seat in Memory of Derek Anthony**

Members were informed that the seat would finally be installed in the next week

(iii) **Seat on Grovesend Road**

Both locations selected were owned by South Gloucestershire Council and a licence was awaited

(iv) **Seat in Silver Street**

The seat had been removed as works to the new Costa had begun and after some discussion it was agreed to re-site it outside the old Bristol and West building facing down the High Street and a licence would be applied for from South Gloucestershire Council

(v) **Seats on Rock Street Garden**

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

(d) **Environmental Area at Poulterbrook**

As it was not possible to progress the matter at the present time it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda and re-introduce it in the spring.

(e) **Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site**

There had been no further developments on the proposals for this area.

(g) **Wildlife in Thornbury and Butterfly Bank at Morton Way**

Julie Doherty of Avon Wildlife was unable to attend the meeting but had agreed to attend the next one on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

A member of the public, John Mills, spoke of his concerns that a proposed footpath route for the Phase II of the Bloor Homes development running along Morton Way and leading to the subway on Streamside Walk would cut into the Butterfly Bank causing the possible loss of a valuable wildlife area. Mr Mills was hoping that the area could be looked at closer with planting to encourage even more species of butterfly in the coming year. Allan Burberry reported that he had been in contact with the Butterfly Conservation Group who was forwarding information on what would be possible in the area and measures that could be carried out. He also suggested that perhaps the townsfolk could be encouraged to look at the planting in their gardens and ensure that they had some plants that would encourage butterflies etc. It was thought a good plan to place an article in the spring edition of Thornbury Magazine to inform the townsfolk what could be done.

Mention was also made that the grass should not be cut regularly and the deputy clerk agreed to contact South Gloucestershire Council to ensure that there would only be a conservation cut in the area as agreed under the contract that this council had with South Gloucestershire Council.

**(h) Planting on the Grovesend Roundabout**

Judith Hurford, the Tree Warden reported that she was in discussions with South Gloucestershire Council to plant her 100<sup>th</sup> tree in the centre of the roundabout. She had considered the matter with Ian Turner, the arboriculturist and the chosen tree would not adversely affect the planting of the roundabout. Judith would be discussing this with Thornbury in Bloom at the next meeting of the Tree Strategy Group.

Information from South Gloucestershire on the winter planting schemes for the roundabout and how it was carried out on a four year cycle was tabled and the information noted.

**4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

**(a) Schedule of Minor Matters**

A schedule of minor matters had been circulated and the information was noted.

**(b) Development of a Council Plan**

This item had been referred from Council for the Environment Committee to consider the proposed environmental actions. After some discussion it was agreed to accept the plan as presented at Council.

**5. OPERATIONAL REPORT**

**(a) Operational Matters**

The deputy clerk reported that Thornbury in Bloom had done exceedingly well in the Britain in Bloom Awards gaining a gold and winning the Sargent Cup in their category along with winning the best overall entry in the whole of the competition.

Members expressed their congratulations to the group and all involved in reaching this accolade and it was agreed to purchase another plaque to display on the Town Hall as in previous years.

**(b) Composting Site**

Brett Harrison informed members that the site was still full and that they now had a sign asking for 50p donation per visit to contribute toward the composting off site of the material.

**(c) Allotments Report**

The allotments had recently held its AGM when a new chair person had been elected.

**(d) Filnore Woods**

There was nothing to report

**(e) Medieval Fishponds**

It was reported that a survey of all fishponds in South Gloucestershire was being carried out.

**(f) Tree Wardens Report**

Judith Hurford reported that she had received the accolade of outstanding in the Neighbourhood awards for Britain in Bloom and also received a cup at the Thornbury in Bloom awards for the tree planting she had carried out.

Members were informed that in cutting an entrance through the bund to Phase II by Bloor Homes a pear tree that she had planted had disappeared and Judith was now in discussions with the developer.

Judith reported that South Gloucestershire Council would be felling the Poplar trees that run along Gillingstool by the school because they had reached the end of their natural life.

She informed members that the Tree Strategy group would be meeting in the next week to draft a 5 year plan for planting etc. in the town.

It was reported that it would be National Tree week 24<sup>th</sup> November until 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**(g) Sustainable Thornbury**

Felicity Harrison reported that the group had met to discuss sustainable transport such as electric cars and cycleways. There would be a public talk on community energy and renewable energy on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at The Chantry.

**(h) Footpath Warden**

There was nothing to report at this time.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence had been received

**7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

A schedule of publications had been circulated and the information noted.