

REPORT of the Meeting of the Environment
Committee held 16th January 2018

Present: Cllrs: Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Gail Whitehead

Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Bret Harrison (Composting Site and Filnore Allotments)
Jeff Pead (Thornbury Ramblers)

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: Clare Fardell (Indisposed)
Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 10.10.17**

(a) **Fairtrade Status – Update**

Cllr Benj Emmerson had co-ordinated the last meeting of the Fairtrade Group and reported that the fairtrade fortnight would commence on 26th February. Councillor Helen Harrison had arranged for a Palestinian farming group to attend schools and other venues within the town. Cllr Benj Emmerson would be producing a newsletter reporting on the events of the fortnight and this would help with the reregistering of the town's fairtrade status.

(b) **Seating in the Town**

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

The seats were now in place and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(ii) Seats along Streamside Walk

A seat for this area had been produced from the two old seats that had been on Rock Street Garden and it would be sited near the pond on the section from Gloucester Road to Parks Road in the near future.

(iii) Seat opposite Anchor Pub

U3A had requested that a seat from the Hatch be purchased on their behalf and an order had been placed.

(iv) Seat opposite Church

It was hoped to site the new replacement seat in the near future.

(v) Seat at Malvern Drive

The deputy clerk informed members that she would be applying for a licence from South Gloucestershire Council to site a seat opposite Malvern Drive

(vi) Seats at Gillingstool

Cllr Benj Emmerson requested that another two licences be sought from South Gloucestershire Council in the hopes that the two seats sited recently at Gillingstool could be moved.

(c) Wildlife in Thornbury

Members requested that the deputy clerk investigate the progress of the information board on the butterfly bank.

(d) Walks Booklet Information

Jeff Pead informed committee that Thornbury Ramblers were assessing the walks in the walk booklet that is sold in the Tourist Information Centre and would report back in the near future.

(e) New Lighting Columns in Rock Street Car Park

Works to replace the lighting columns in Rock Street car park had started on 15th January.

(f) Greener Issues and Energy Audit of Council's Property

There was nothing to report at this time.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that Paul LeRiche, the Groundsman at the Mundy Playing Fields had been in conversation with him and informed him of the plants etc. that could be used in the Environmental area of Poulterbrook. It was agreed to invite Paul to the next meeting to talk to members..

(g) Added Member to Report on Filnore Woods

No added member from the group had come forward as yet but Brett Harrison informed members that coppicing of the hazel hedge near the entrance had taken place.

(h) Siting of Litterbin in Vilner Lane

The deputy clerk reported that following a site inspection the litterbin would be well placed on a triangle of grass where the cycle path from the industrial estate met the lane to the skate park. She would be seeking a licence from South Gloucestershire Council for this.

(i) Volunteer Evening 2018

It was agreed to contact Sally Pattison to check her availability for either February 19th or 26th and ask if she would be willing to talk on the recent biodiversity report adopted by South Gloucestershire Council.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson also informed members that he had received information that Olveston parish had formed a group to tackle biodiversity in their area and it was agreed to enquire if the clerk for Olveston would also be able to attend the evening as a speaker.

(j) Grounds Maintained by South Gloucestershire Council under the Localism Bill

The deputy clerk was checking the new agreement as supplied by South Gloucestershire Council and felt that there were a couple of points that needed to be noted to bring the agreement in line with previous years.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson asked that investigations be made as to who was paying and maintaining the bed outside Gulwells as he thought it came under this scheme. It was agreed to request new mapping so that new members to the committee could view the areas that were maintained by South Gloucestershire Council and paid for by this council

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

The schedule had been circulated and the information noted.

(b) Thornbury Castle Neighbourhood Watch

A grant application for 36 signs for the Thornbury Castle Neighbourhood Watch had been referred from council and members felt that they required more information before making a decision. It was agreed to invite the watch co-ordinator to attend the next meeting.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

There were no operational matters.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Members were informed that it was quiet at the composting centre and that the site had been cleared.

(c) **Filnore Allotments Report**

Winter was a quiet time at the allotments.

(d) **Filnore Woods Report**

The report had been given under item 3(g)

(e) **Medieval Fishponds**

The deputy clerk had contacted the developer's agent Mr Duff and was able to report that the 106 agreement required the management plan for the site to cover all open spaces allotments etc as well as the fishponds. A number of surveys had been carried out for the fishponds and it was found that some of the information from different reports had contradictory findings with each other. It was hoped that all information had now been gathered and the matter could be progressed. Mr Duff was looking to have a walkway installed that would take visitors round the area with information boards along the route. Looking to the future it was hoped that the management company would also include several community groups who might be interested and that the deputy clerk had notified Mr Duff that council would like to be represented on the committee. It was agreed that Cllr Vincent Costello represent council when the time came.

(f) **Tree Wardens Report**

A report was tabled and the information noted.

(g) **Sustainable Thornbury Report**

Felicity Harrison reported that the group were focusing on the JSP and keeping up with all the information etc. that that gave. Members were also informed that the group would be planning some events in the near future.

(h) **Footpath Warden's Report**

There was nothing to report on this item

(i) **Thornbury Ramblers Report**

Jeff Pead informed members that at the 50th anniversary celebrations had now finished and that walks for the next 6 months had been planned.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **South Gloucestershire – Heritage Open Doors.**

There had been a choice of two weekends for Heritage Open Doors this year and members agreed to open the Town Hall on Saturday 8th September

(b) **South Gloucestershire Council – Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26**

The action plan had been circulated and the information was noted.

(c) **South Gloucestershire Council – Annual Spring Clean 2018**

It was agreed that members would join with Litterbusters again this year and the deputy clerk would contact them to find out more information

(d) Severn Way Agency Ltd – Warm and Well

The Severn Way Agency were advertising their Warm and Well Campaign offering free energy efficiency advice in order to save energy in the home and reduce fuel bills. It was agreed to distribute the information.

(e) South Gloucestershire Council – Climate Change Strategy.

Members agreed that they required more time to study this document and that they would have comments ready for the next meeting.