

REPORT of the Meeting of the Environment
Committee held 20th February 2018

Present: Cllrs: Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Vincent Costello
BenjEmmerson
Clare Fardell
Helen Harrison
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman

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

Louise Powell (Town Clerk)
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: Guy Rawlinson (Indisposed)
Gail Whitehead (Out of Thornbury)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Absent Jeff Pead (Thornbury Ramblers)

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

There were no declarations of interest.

Two members of the Watch were in attendance so it was agreed to take item 4(a) as first business

4 (a) **Thornbury Castle Neighbourhood Watch Signage**

Representatives from the Neighbourhood Watch were in attendance and answered members questions. A vote was taken to decide if the grant should be awarded or not. There were four votes to grant the request and four abstentions. The Neighbourhood Watch were granted £300 for signage and their installation

The Watch Members left the meeting

A member of U3a was in attendance so it was agreed to take this item 4(b) as next business

4(b) U3A Walking Map

The member explained that the group were celebrating their 20th year and wished to carry out several ideas to mark the occasion. They wished to produce paper copies of various types of walks in the area, such as butterfly walks but predominantly a footpath map detailing the many cut throughs etc that can be found in the town. Stanbrook Guides who produce a yearly Residents Handbook had offered help with the project. Members welcomed the ideas

The gentleman left the meeting

The plastic free campaigner was in attendance and it was agreed to take item 4(c) as next business

4(c) Plastic Free Thornbury

A local resident wished to see Thornbury as one of the first plastic free towns following the great amount of publicity given to the detrimental effect that discarded plastic has on the environment and how it affect sea life in particular. Members welcomed the idea and gave their support. They also suggested that the resident approach Town Centre Partnership with her ideas.

The lady left the meeting

A member of the public was in attendance and it was agreed to take t item 4(d) as next business

4(d) Electric Car Charging Points in the Town

Members were informed of the benefits of running an electric car and how the saving they made on the environment. At the present time there is nowhere to charge the cars publicly and several areas were suggested among them the Leisure Centre or Tesco. The resident continued to explain the arrangements for paying for the service and the costs etc involved in supplying such points.

Councillors agreed to support the idea in principle and asked the resident to report back with any further information at a later date.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 10.10.17

(a) Fairtrade Status – Update

It was reported that various events had been arranged for the forthcoming Fairtrade fortnight

(b) Seating inthe Town

(i) Seat on Streamside Walk

It was hoped to install the seat in the near future when the weather improved.

Seat opposite Anchor Pub

The seat had been ordered

(iv) Seat opposite Church

The seat had been sited and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda

(v) Seat at Malvern Drive

The deputy clerk informed members that she was waiting for a licence from South Gloucestershire Council

(vi) Seats at Gillingstool

Cllr Benj Emmerson would be advising the deputy clerk as to where he thought the seats should be moved

(c) **Wildlife in Thornbury**

There was nothing to report on this item

(d) **Walks Booklet Information**

There was nothing to report on this item

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

The deputy informed members that to date they had received £1910.03 for electricity produced from the 12 panels on the Town Hall roof and this was in line with the expected figures year on year.

She continued to inform members of the energy audit and reported that the majority of the suggested actions had already been taken.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of siting panels on the roof of the pavilion in the Mundy Playing Fields

(f) **Added Member to Report on Filnore Woods**

Brett Harrison reported that he would in future be reporting on this item

(g) **Siting of Litterbin in Vilner Lane**

The deputy clerk reported that she was awaiting a licence from South Gloucestershire Council before she could site the litter bin

(h) **Volunteer Evening 2018**

Members were informed that Sally Pattison of South Gloucestershire Council would be attending the evening to talk on the New Biodiversity Plan as adopted by South Gloucestershire Council along with Fergus Beeley who would introduce the Blue Heart Campaign. Catherine Free, chair of Olveston Biodiversity group would also attend to give a brief introduction on the forming of the Biodiversity group in Olveston

(i) **Heritage Open Doors 2018**

There had been no further progress on this item,

(j) **Annual Spring Clean**

Two dates had been supplied by Litterbusters when they would be carrying out their annual Spring Clean and it was agreed to join the event on 7th April meeting at Rock Street car park at 9.30am

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

The deputy clerk provided maps to show litter and dog bins that were emptied by South Gloucestershire Council along with the grass areas and display areas which were all maintained by South Gloucestershire Council. The deputy clerk agreed to make further investigation on the bed by Gulwells for which it was believed that Thornbury in Bloom had gained sponsorship and this council had paid South Gloucestershire to maintain.

(m) **South Gloucestershire Council Climate Change Strategy**

The information was noted.

4. **MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

(a) **Schedule of Minor Matters**

The schedule had been circulated and the information noted.

(e) **Litter Around the Town**

Cllr Guy Rawlinson had reported that a bin was missing from the railings on Castle School and it was agreed to wait until the next meeting when it was hoped that Cllr Rawlinson would be able to give more information on litter in the town

Members were informed that Thornbury in Bloom had requested that the bin in Castle Court, one outside the Flower Meadow on Gloucester Road and one at the top of the Mundy Playing Fields be replaced as they felt that they would give a bad impression to the judging of the town by Britain in Bloom later in the year. The deputy clerk reported that a bin for Castle Court and also the Mundy Playing Fields had already been organised.

5. **OPERATIONAL REPORT**

(a) **Operational Matters**

The deputy clerk reported that a new accommodation guide was progressing well and that the hanging basket order forms would soon be distributed.

(b) **Community Composting Site Report**

Members were informed that South Gloucestershire Council had shown an active interest in the composting site recently and that it would be transferred from Street Care to Waste Management

(c) **Filnore Allotments Report**

Brett Harrison reported that the current chair of the group had left and they were now without a chairman

(d) **Filnore Woods Report**

There was nothing to report at this time

(e) **Medieval Fishponds**

The deputy clerk reported that some progress had been made and it was hoped that a meeting would be arranged with all interested parties in the near future

(f) **Tree Wardens Report**

A report was tabled informing members that tree planting on Oakleaze Green and Chantry Field would take place on the following Tuesday. The information was noted.

(g) **Sustainable Thornbury Report**

Felicity Harrison reported that the group were focusing on the JSP responses and that they were considering the urban plan and also the climate change strategy. The Grow Your Own Group was flourishing.

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

There was nothing to report on this item

(i) **Thornbury Ramblers Report**

There was nothing to report on this item

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **South Gloucestershire – Blossom Open Day.**

Sustainable Thornbury Orchard Group had organised a Blossom day on Saturday 28th April at Thornbury Community Orchard and Morton Bridge Flower Meadow between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Members of the public were welcome to attend with plenty of information about the area on display and also activities for children to enjoy.

It was agreed to email the information to all councillors