

**REPORT of the Meeting of the Environment
Committee held 20th June 2017**

Present: Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)
Angela Symonds (Vice Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
Guy Rawlinson
Gail Whitehead

Allan Burberry (Filnore Woods)
Brett Harrison (Thornbury Composting and Filnore Allotments)
Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)

Clare Nelmes (Town Clerk)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Clare Fardell (Indisposed)
Cllr Helen Harrison
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden) (Out of Thornbury)

Absent: Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Martin Trueman
Jeff Pead (Thornbury Ramblers)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 09.05.17

(a) Fairtrade Status – Update

Cllr Gail Whitehead reported that this was due for renewal in October and any contributions that could be put towards this would be welcomed. In particular, it was hoped that connections could be made with larger businesses in Thornbury to encourage them to use Fairtrade products. The Clerk would be able to pass on contact details for appropriate businesses to Cllr Gail Whitehead.

(b) Seating In The Town

(i) Seating Along Streamside Walk – Progress Report

There had been no progress with this matter at the current time.

(ii) Seats on Grovesend Road – Progress Report

The seat has now been installed, but there had been complaints received that it was set too far back on the grass which was difficult for elderly people to access and may also become muddy. The Clerk agreed to check with the Deputy Clerk as to whether there were any restrictions about where the seat could be set.

(iii) Seats on Rock Street – Progress Report

The Clerk reported that the South Gloucestershire Council owned seats opposite Turnberries had been removed following a request from the police due to reports of antisocial behaviour but that there had since been complaints that the seats had been missed by some elderly residents. South Gloucestershire Council had been in touch to ask what we would like to do with the seats that had been removed. It was agreed that one seat should be returned to its previous location and that the Town Council would explore where the other two could be re-sited.

With regard to the seats for Rock Street Garden, it was agreed that the style of seat should be similar to the ones outside Tesco.

(c) Wildlife in Thornbury Evening – Update

The Clerk reported that the Deputy Clerk had contacted all interested groups and was waiting for their responses as to whether they were happy for their contact details to be published on the database. It was agreed to keep the item on the agenda to allow for a further update from the Deputy Clerk at the next meeting.

(d) Walks Booklet Information – Response of Thornbury

In Jeff Pead's absence, this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

(e) Heritage Open Doors – Update

The Clerk reported that more volunteers were needed for the rota and asked members to email the Deputy Clerk.

(f) Summer Walkabout

The Clerk reminded the Committee that this would be taking place on Wednesday 28 June at 6.00pm, meeting at the Pavilion. This would be a good opportunity to meet with outdoor staff and look around Poulterbrook. Members of the Playing Field and Cemetery Committee would also be attending.

5. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

The schedule had been circulated and the information noted. Cllr Guy Rawlinson requested an update on the snapped tree in front of St Marys Church Hall and also asked for a minor matter to be reported to South Gloucestershire Council (loose metal cover on ground near Quaker Lane roundabout).

6. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The Clerk reported that Thornbury in Bloom judging would take place on 14 July 2017.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison informed members that they were continuing to communicate with the Leisure Centre to try to prevent contractors being given access to the site, and to monitor what was coming in. The situation with regard the depositing of waste was worse this year now that South Gloucestershire Council have introduced restrictions at the Sort It Centre.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

There was nothing to report on this item.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

Alan Burberry reported that apart from routine works, there was nothing to report.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

The Clerk reported that she was not able to confirm the outcome of Historic England's assessment at this time, but would let the Committee know as soon as possible. It was highlighted that the site is still not secure and that we should find out who owns the site and draw their attention to this. There are also areas where the footpaths are blocked and Cllr Guy Rawlinson agreed to visit the area and would report back. It was agreed that it would be useful to have large scale ordnance survey maps of Thornbury available at meetings when discussing issues such as footpaths.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

In Judith Hurford's absence, the Clerk reported on her behalf. The main issue to report was that some new trees had not coped well with the recent warm, dry weather and one dead tree needed to be removed.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Felicity Harrison informed members that the group would now be unlikely to have a stall at Thornbury Carnival due to the costs. The Sustainable Thornbury AGM had taken place on 15 June 2017.

(h) Footpath Warden's Report

There was nothing to report on this item.

(i) Thornbury Ramblers Report

In Jeff Pead's absence, there was nothing to report on this item.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Street Care Consultation – Consideration

It was agreed that Cllr Matt Stringer would respond to the Council on behalf of the Committee and any comments should be passed to him for inclusion. It was felt that it would be useful to have feedback on issues that are reported to Street Care.

8. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

No publications had been received.