

REPORT of the Meeting of the Environment
Committee held 27th March 2018

Present: Cllrs: Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Clare Fardell
Helen Harrison
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Gail Whitehead

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

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: Benj Emmerson (Family Commitment)
Angela Symonds (Out of Thornbury)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Absent Cllr Martin Trueman
Jeff Pead (Thornbury Ramblers)

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

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Poulterbrook Environmental Area**

Groundsman Paul LeRiche was in attendance so it was agreed to take this item as first business

Paul had made a video tour of the area explaining on the way round how he envisaged each area e.g. picnic area, wild flower area etc. Members were pleased to hear his ideas and thanked him very much for the hard work he had already carried out.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 20.2.17**

(a) **Fairtrade Status – Update**

It was thought that a central collection point for Fairtrade information would be a good idea and it was agreed that the Town Hall would be a ideal point for this.

Cllr Helen Harrison entered the meeting

(b) Seating in the Town

(i) Seat on Streamside Walk

There was nothing to report on this item.

(ii) Seat opposite Anchor Pub

The seat had been ordered

(iii) Seat at Malvern Drive

A licence was still awaited from South Gloucestershire Council to site this seat. The Deputy Clerk agreed to contact South Gloucestershire Council to progress the matter.

(iv) Seats at Gillingstool

A reply was awaited from South Gloucestershire Council as to whether the two seats in question could be moved to another location.

(c) Wildlife in Thornbury – Butterfly Bank

Thornbury in Bloom had requested that the area of the butterfly bank be extended and it was reported that Jerry Dicker would be looking into detailing the area that the bank covered.

(d) Walks Booklet Information

There was nothing to report on this item

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

Members requested that the deputy clerk liaise with planning at South Gloucestershire Council to ensure that there would not be a problem with siting solar panels on the roof of the pavilion at Mundy Playing Fields.

(f) Siting of Litterbin in Vilner Lane

A licence to site the bin was still awaited from South Gloucestershire Council and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk contact them to progress the matter.

(g) Volunteer Evening

Members were pleased that the evening had been a success and had been interested to hear about the Blue Heart Campaign. The campaign is where an area of land is left to grow wild for the fauna and flora and that the area is marked with a wooden blue heart on a stake.

Following the earlier item about the environmental area at Poulterbrook it was thought this would be an ideal place to have a section for the blue heart campaign.

(h) Heritage Open Doors 2018

Members were informed that the Deputy Clerk would soon be emailing all members of council to request their help as usual with the event to be held on Saturday 8th September 2018.

(i) Annual Spring Clean 2018

Members were reminded that if they were able to join Litterbusters for the annual spring clean they would be meeting in Rock Street car park on 7th April at 9.30am.

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

The deputy clerk informed members that Thornbury in Bloom had agreed to be responsible for the flower display at the end of St Johns Street outside of Gulwells and that she would be informing South Gloucestershire so that council would not be charged for the planting of the display in future.

The agreement with south Gloucestershire Council to carry out the ground maintenance works in Thornbury would be returned in the near future.

(k) Walking Map of Thornbury

There was nothing to report on this item

(l) Plastic Free Thornbury

Cllr Helen Harrison informed members that there had been an informal meeting where the group had identified several ways of possibly reducing plastic in the town. She urged council to think of areas where they could look at being plastic free.

(m) Electric Car Chargers

Cllr Clare Fardell suggested that when South Gloucestershire Council expanded the Rock Street car park to encompass the recycling bay this might be a good time to look at supplying an electric charging point. It was agreed to email the information to Danny Bonnett who was leading the campaign.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

There were no minor matters

(e) Sita Site Registration Problems

Cllr Guy Rawlinson had reported that he had problems entering the sita site in Thornbury and on further discussion with the workers there it seemed to be a long ongoing problem with the registration system not working correctly. It was agreed to write to Mark King, Head of Streetcare, South Gloucestershire Council, informing him of the problem and asking that he look into the matter.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The Deputy Clerk reported that a new litterbin had been sited in Castle Court by the seat outside of the Garden shop as requested by Thornbury in Bloom.

It had also been reported that the bins that were on the railings of Castle School had been removed and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk contact the school to find the reason for this. Members reported that the bin outside of the small garden area opposite the scout hut was missing. The deputy clerk informed members that the bin had been brought into carry out repair work and would soon be resited. It was also requested that the small garden area could have the seats repaired and the litterbin replaced. The deputy clerk agreed to contact South Gloucestershire Council, the landowners of the area to have the works carried out in the area.

The Deputy Clerk informed that letters had been delivered inviting traders and residents in the High Street and surrounding area to join council's hanging basket scheme again this year.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison informed members that he was disappointed that the woodland area opposite the composting site had not appeared on South Gloucestershires designated green spaces review.

He continued to give the financial position of the composting site informing that funding had increased last year on the previous year as had donations but that the sales of compost had decreased.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

Members were informed that a working party had been at the allotments clearing bramble and scrub around the area.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

Brett Harrison informed members that there was to be a dawn chorus walk at the wood on the 29th April if members would like to attend.

Volunteers had finished the coppicing and that two residents from the Shieling school had come to help with works in the area.

The site wasa looking to continue with the trail leaflet for the woods and it was hoped to later gain funding for an information board along with a new tool shed and tools.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Members were informed that the company employed to develop and restore the fishponds was now awaiting a purchase order from the developer enabling them to carry out their proposed strategy for the site.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

There was nothing to report on this item..

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Felicity Harrison reported that the group were focusing on their official response to the urban plan.

(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

No correspondence had been received.