

**REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 28th March 2017**

Present: Cllrs: Matthew Stringer(Chairman)

Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
Clare Fardell
Helen Harrison
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Gail Whitehead

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

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Bob Griffin (Out of Thornbury)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Absent Cllr Martin Trueman

The chairman welcomed Jeff Pead, a representative from Thornbury Ramblers to the committee as an added member for that society

2. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interests.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 14.2.17

(a) Fairtrade Status

Cllr Clare Fardell tabled a report on the events that had taken place throughout Fairtrade fortnight and the information was noted. Cllr Gail Whitehead expressed concern that the Fairtrade status would be required to be renewed in October and council no longer served refreshments at Council and so the previous pledge to do so would not be carried through to the renewal. It was mentioned that Fairtrade goods were served at the Armstrong Hall and any meeting etc requiring refreshments always had Fairtrade. It was agreed that Finance & Policy discuss the matter of a coffee break at council being reintroduced.

(b) Seating In The Town

Members were informed that works to install the seating for Grovesend Road and the seat from Silver Street that was to be relocated to outside Hot Nails would soon be carried out.

It was hoped that the seats on Rock Street could be replaced in the near future and that the two that would be removed would be combined to make one good seat on Streamside Walk.

(c) Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site

There was nothing to report on this item and it was agreed to remove it from the agenda

(d) Wildlife in Thornbury Evening

The evening had been a great success and it was agreed that a database be constructed of contact details for those groups that had been represented on the night. This then would be circulated so that if one group had a project where another could help then contact could be made easily.

The deputy clerk informed members that following council's decision to do a Neighbourhood Plan there would be environmental work to be carried out and that some of this would link in with the wildlife evening.

(e) Walks Booklet Information

Jeff Pead informed members that Thornbury Ramblers were investigating the walks for any problems that might be encountered on the routes as described in the Walks booklet.

(f) Heritage Open Doors

The chairman informed members that new information for the tours of the Town Hall was being compiled.

Notification on Heritage Open doors for 2017 had been received Members agreed to open the Town Hall as usual on Saturday 9th September 2017 and registration for this would be made to South Gloucestershire Council

(g) Litter Bin By Bus Stop at Grovesend Roundabout, Morton Way.

The works to site a bin at the bus stop would be carried out in the near future.

(h) Spring Clean 2017

Under the National Spring Clean initiative members would be supporting Litterbusters on their spring clean event on 1st April, meeting in Rock Street Car Park at 9.30am

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

The schedule had been circulated and the information noted.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

Members were informed that over 160 floral hanging baskets had been order by shops and residents of the town centre.

A new accommodation guide would be published on the website in the near future.

The deputy clerk informed members that she had been given the chance to purchase 1,000 primroses from a local garden centre at a reduced cost of £200. It was agreed to purchase the plants.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison informed members that the reporting of the last meeting on the composting site should have read that a member of South Gloucestershire Council had helped the composters to take part in a fund raising scheme run at Tesco.

(c) Allotments Report

There was nothing to report on this item

(d) Filnore Woods

There was nothing to report at this time.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Historic England had informed the clerk that the developers had broken the 106 agreement and that Historic England were in discussion with South Gloucestershire Council planning and also enforcement team to investigate the matter. A representative from Historic England would be visiting the site the following day and the site could be put on the at risk register.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

Judith Hurford tabled a report and the information was noted. Members expressed their thanks to Judith for all the hard work she had put into tree planting in the town

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Felicity Harrison informed members that on 1st April there would be a display of sustainable vehicles in St Mary's Centre where an electric car would be on display and the public would be able to talk to owners to discuss the advantages of sustainable transport.

(h) Footpath Warden

There was nothing to report on this item

Helen Harrison entered the meeting

(i) Thornbury Ramblers

Jeff Pead thanked members for the opportunity to sit on the committee and hoped that in the future he would be of help to them. He reported that the farmers had done a good job in the autumn keeping footpaths etc. clear.

Jeff informed that the group had over 100 members and carried out an average of two walks per week and in the summer on a Thursday evening there would be a plodders walk for those who wished to just amble.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

No publications had been received.