

**REPORT** of the meeting of the Environment  
Committee held 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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*Present:*

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer(Chairman)

Bob Griffin  
Vincent Costello  
BenjEmmerson  
Clare Fardell  
Guy Rawlinson  
Pam Shipp  
Gail Whitehead

Allan Burberry (Filnore Woods)  
Brett Harrison (Thornbury Composting and Filnore Allotments)  
Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)  
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr: Helen Harrison(Out of Thornbury)

Absent Cllr Martin Trueman

**2. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declaration of interests.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 11.10.16**

**(e) Wildlife in Thornbury and Butterfly Bank on Morton Way**

*Julie Doherty of Avon Wildlife was in attendance and it was agreed to take this item as first business*

Julie began by explaining that part of her role at Avon Wildlife included My Wild Street project in Bristol which involved inspiring communities to come together and look at their green spaces and the ways in which they could be used to enhance the wildlife of the area. This also included working with businesses in the area for help and sponsorship and that in Bristol Avon Wildlife had secured European Green funding for four years to help with the project. She felt it was important to look at all ecological areas across the country and to help communities to improve conditions and habitat along with looking at the economy and future development of their land.

Cllr Clare Fardell informed Julie of the butterfly bank on Morton way and the residents fight to prevent it from being destroyed by the adjoining development. She also gave a brief outline of the community orchard on Streamside Walk asking Julie if Avon Wildlife would be able to give advice and help with the co-ordination of the local community to take care of these areas and their wildlife along with many other projects.

Brett Harrison representative of Thornbury Composting site felt that the land opposite the composting site that had been under the possible threat of development earlier in the year now appeared to have a reprieve for the time being and suggested that this area is a good wildlife area in need of care and attention and to hopefully prevent any further threats of development.

Julie suggested that the first step was to get together all local groups who would be interested in the projects and that she would be willing to be involved in the initial setting up of the schemes and their networking.

Members agreed that this would be the topic for their annual Environmental Volunteers Thank You evening and it was decided to extend the invitation to as many local groups as possible who may be interested in such projects. Julie Doherty agreed to attend the evening which would be Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 commencing at 7.30pm The deputy clerk agreed to draw up a list and organise invites for the event.

Julie Doherty was thanked attending the meeting

*Julie Doherty left the meeting*

**(a) Fairtrade Status**

Cllr Gail Whitehead reported that Fairtrade in Thornbury was expanding and that she had been in contact with several large businesses in the town to encourage them to become involved with the project. Fairtrade fortnight for 2017 would be from 22<sup>nd</sup> February until 12<sup>th</sup> March and already Europa were considering holding a Fairtrade Breakfast. Cllr Gail Whitehead informed members that she was again hoping to involve students in the production of a website for the Fairtrade group.

It was also reported that the town's Fairtrade status would come up for renewal in September 2017.

**(b) Town Centre Signage**

There had been no further progress on this matter but Cllr Guy Rawlinson had been in contact with an officer at South Gloucestershire Council over another matter of signage and would progress this matter at the same time.

**(c) Seating In The Town**

**(i) Seating Along Streamside Walk**

A licence for the seat on Streamside had been received and it was agreed to site a seat as soon as possible.

**(ii) Seat in Memory of Derek Anthony**

This seat had now been installed and it was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

**(iii) Seat on Grovesend Road**

Licences for both seats had been received and it was agreed to purchase metal bench style seating for both locations.

**(iv) Seat in Silver Street**

A licence from South Gloucestershire Council to re-site the seat from Silver Street to outside the Hot Nails shop had been received and it was hoped that works would commence in the near future.

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

There was nothing to report on this item at the present time.

**(d) Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site**

This item had been discussed under item e, Wildlife in Thornbury.

**(f) Planting on the Grovesend Roundabout**

Members were informed that the deputy clerk had met with two members of Thornbury in Bloom and Jim Mathison, the South Gloucestershire officer responsible for the designing of the roundabout, when summer planting was discussed. It was agreed that Thornbury in Bloom would suggest what they felt would be appropriate planting that would be easy to care for and hopefully provide a spectacular display on the entrance to the town.

The deputy clerk reported that Jim Mathison had informed her, under the agreement between this council and South Gloucestershire Council for the planting and maintenance of the area that there would be no extra cost to this council for the planting.

**(g) Walks Booklet Information**

Members had not been able to provide any further information on the walks identified in the current booklet and after some discussion it was agreed to ask Thornbury Ramblers if they would be willing to have some input on this and any other walks they felt would make a contribution to the booklet. It was also agreed to invite a member of the group to attend future meetings of this committee.

**4.MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

**(a) Schedule of Minor Matters**

There were no matters reported since the last meeting.

**(b) Localism Charges for 2017/18**

The information had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

**(c) Heritage open Doors**

The chairman reported that Thornbury Museum had provided further information on the history of the Town Hall which he felt could be included in the next year's tours. It was agreed to form a working party of Cllrs Matthew Stringer, Guy Rawlinson, Bob Griffin and Pam Shipp to investigate the matter further and report back to this committee.

**(d) Request for Litterbin by Bus Stop at Grovesend Roundabout**

A request from a member of the public had been received for a litterbin at the bus stop at the Grovesend roundabout. The deputy clerk reported that there was a possible bin in stock and that she would investigate the possibility and request a street licence from South Gloucestershire Council.

**(e) To consider Options for Tree Stump at Park Road**

A request for the carving of a tree stump that had been left on Park Road outside of the Sheiling School had been received from a resident of the area. This was not a matter for this council and the deputy clerk informed members that she would talk to Ian Turner the arboriculturist for South Gloucestershire Council as it was a matter for his council.

**(f) Community Toilet Scheme Potential Improvements and new participants.**

Council had agreed to this item being discussed by this committee instead of Finance & Policy as in the past. It was agreed to include the Malt House formerly the Knot of Rope in the scheme. Mention at Council had also been made that signage was poor and the deputy clerk agreed to take this up with all participants and also to produce new maps showing participants in the scheme.

**(g) Purchase of Vehicle Options**

The lease of the second truck, the cost of which was divided between this committee and Playing Fields and Cemetery as the two committees were users of the vehicle was due to expire in the new year. At a recent meeting of Playing Fields and Cemetery several options for the vehicle had been discussed and it was agreed to purchase the vehicle from the leasing company. The purchase of the vehicle would be £8,500 in total and the environment committee percentage would be £2,500. Members agreed to this committee contributing to the cost.

**5. OPERATIONAL REPORT**

**(a) Operational Matters**

The deputy clerk informed members that she had placed an order for 160 hanging baskets for Council's hanging basket scheme in 2017.

**(b) Composting Site**

Brett Harrison informed members that the site had received several donations from members of the public who used the facility and that they were working with South Gloucestershire Council to keep the operation open. He was not sure that now was the correct time to apply for a Town Council grant and after some discussion members agreed that he should at least apply now and not leave an application until a later date. Although the closing date had just passed committee agreed to a late submission being made by the group.

**(c) Allotments Report**

There was nothing to report on this item

**(d) Filnore Woods**

Allan Burberry reported that routine maintenance was continuing to be carried out on the site and that steps had been introduced on a steep muddy path in the area.

**(e) Medieval Fishponds**

There was nothing to report on this item at this time.

**(f) Tree Wardens Report**

Judith Hurford reported that the previous day she had planted several Cherry trees outside of the Bloor Homes development and that the planting of the 100<sup>th</sup> tree which would be sited in the middle of the Grovesend roundabout would take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

At a recent meeting of the Tree Strategy Group they had considered the future of the group and were working on an action plan for forthcoming planting and maintenance. As part of this the group were investigating the possibility of planting trees on Rock Street Car park but it was not known how successful this project might be.

**(g) Sustainable Thornbury**

Felicity Harrison informed members that at their recent meeting the group had had an interesting speaker from Bristol Energy Co-op giving advice on ideas for the future and how to encourage communities to become involved in projects such as buying a windfarm.

**(h) Footpath Warden**

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that there had been and would continue to be discussions on the fact that through social media the public had been informed that they did not have to pay an entrance fee to Mundy Playing Fields for such events as Carnival or Bonfire night as there was a public footpath running through the area and payment was not necessary to access this. This had caused problems for several groups who hold events in the playing fields and who rely on entrance fees to keep the event going. The matter at present was being discussed with the Clerk, Lindsay Saunders, South Gloucestershire Council's Public Rights of Way officer and himself as foot path warden.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence had been received

**7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

No publications had been received.