

**REPORT of the Meeting of the Environment
Committee held 10th October 2017**

Present: Cllrs: Angela Symonds (Vice Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Clare Fardell
Benj Emmerson
Helen Harrison
Pam Shipp
Martin Trueman

Brett Harrison (Thornbury Composting and Filnore Allotments)
Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)
Jeff Pead (Thornbury Ramblers)

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer ((Out of Thornbury)
Guy Rawlinson (Other Commitment)
Gail Whitehead (Out of Thornbury)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 5.9.17

(a) Fairtrade Status – Update

It was reported that there would be a meeting in November to discuss the renewal of the town's Fairtrade status.

(b) Seating In The Town

(i) Seating Along Streamside Walk

When the seats had been removed from Rock Street Garden and one was made from the two, then it would be sited on Streamside as agreed previously.

(ii) Seats on Rock Street Gardens

Two replacement seats would be delivered the following day and installed on Rock Street Garden in the near future.

The seats to be replaced were memorial seats and plaques would be required to place the information onto the new seating.

(iii) Seats from South Gloucestershire Council

Members had considered various locations on South Gloucestershire land to site the seats and decided that perhaps one could be sited at Malvern Drive by the bus stop. The deputy clerk would investigate.

It was also reported that a draft licence had been received to place a seat opposite the Anchor on Gloucester Road and U3A who had made the request would be informed.

(iv) Seats at Gillingstool

A reply was awaited from South Gloucestershire Council as to whether the two seats recently sited at Gillingstool could be moved slightly.

(c) Wildlife in Thornbury

The contact emails for volunteer groups within the town would be circulated in the near future.

Cllr Clare Fardell informed members that the butterfly bank had been cut yet again by the developer despite requests for it to be left to give a suitable habitat for the butterflies. It was agreed to contact Bloor Homes and South Gloucestershire Council's Conservation Officer to ensure that in future the land would be preserved for the wildlife there.

Cllr Helen Harrison entered the meeting

(d) Walks Booklet Information

There had been no further information forthcoming on this item and Jeff Pead agreed to take a copy of the booklet and enlist rambles help to check the walks as listed.

(e) Heritage Open Doors – Update

The event had been a success but it was agreed that for Heritage Open Doors 2018 an article would be published in the September edition of the Thornbury Magazine advertising the event.

(f) New Lighting Columns in Rock Street Car Park

The proposal that identified new lighting columns in Rock Street Car Park suitable to hold floral hanging baskets had been submitted to South Gloucestershire Council and a comment was awaited on this.

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

There had been a brief discussion on previous green issues discussed by this committee and it was agreed to progress the matter at a future meeting.

(h) Added Member to Report on Filnore Woods

Following the retirement from the committee by Allan Burberry a replacement from the group had not been appointed as yet.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

The schedule had been circulated and the information noted.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The deputy clerk reported that it had been a successful year for the hanging baskets and that the watering had now come to an end and the baskets taken down.

At the recent South West in Bloom presentation day Thornbury had been awarded the Champion of Champions and a gold Medal and members expressed their congratulations to the Thornbury in Bloom team. It was agreed that committee would once again purchase a plaque to be sited on the wall in Silver Street to commemorate the achievement. It was felt that the annual volunteer evening to be held in the new year should encompass recognition of this.

Members were informed that the Deputy Clerk was investigating the possibility of siting a litter bin between Tesco and Vilner Lane and would report her findings with costings to the next committee meeting.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison informed members that they had had success in restricting the uncompostable material that had in the past been left at the site and that larger vehicles had been deterred from using the site.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

The allotments had recently held their AGM and it was reported that all allotment plots had been let.

One member was in the process of organising water taps along the site to carry water collected from the roof of the store to most allotments.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

There was nothing to report on this item

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Historic England had not been able to progress a meeting with the developer at the present time.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

Judith Hurford reported that she was now planning the tree planting scheme for this year and hoped to plant six memorial trees and would also plant a couple of replacement trees where two had died. She would be assessing sites with Ian Turner from South

Gloucestershire Council in the next week and asked if the consultation for planting on Oakleaze Green had been completed. The deputy clerk agreed to discuss this with the Town Clerk and hopefully it would be taken to the next meeting of the Playing Fields and Cemetery committee.

The Tree Strategy group had been awarded outstanding in the Neighbourhood awards for the second year running.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson had reported via email that following a South Gloucestershire guided Walk behind Thornbury Fields the leader had pointed out that a number of Ash trees were suffering from die back disease. South Gloucestershire Council were aware of this but Cllr Guy Rawlinson felt that we should take this up with them and the Tree Warden agreed to discuss the matter when she met with Ian Turner.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Felicity Harrison informed members that the group were holding a meeting to consider combining all elements of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and ensuring that they all worked together.

(h) Footpath Warden's Report

Cllr Guy Rawinson had emailed confirmation that having walked around Park Farm and Thornbury Fields all footpaths in the area were accessible.

(i) Thornbury Ramblers Report

Jeff Pead informed members that the ramblers were celebrating being in existence for 50years by holding several events and on 22 October they would be following the route of the very first walk of the society which would run from Berkeley to Thornbury Castle with food at the Chantry on completion. He invited all to attend and said to meet in Rock Street car park on the day at 10.00am.

The society would also be holding a celebratory meal at Bristol Golf club which would include all members and friends along with six of the founder members

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

No publications had been received and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda but that if any publications were received in the future then they would be reported under correspondence