

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 16th February 2016

Present:

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)

Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
Clare Fardell
Pam Shipp
Guy Rawlinson
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Gail Whitehead

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

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr: Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Public Participation

Mr Simon Harding wished to address the meeting as he had a keen interest in the environment and wildlife habitat.

Mr Harding expressed his concern at the number of proposed developments on the perimeter of the town and their effect on the wildlife habitat in the area. In this instance he wished to advise members that he felt that the proposed development at Cleve Wood could impact on the Great Crested Newt. He continued to inform members that Tytherington Quarry had the greatest population of the species in South Gloucestershire and that recent research on the newts had shown that the distance they were able to travel could be from the quarry to the Grovesend Road roundabout. In view of this he felt the proposed development would be detrimental to the area especially the streams and their plant life which at present would provide excellent breeding grounds for the newt.

Members were informed that Mr Harding had contacted Cllr Maggie Tyrrell as chair of Council's Town Development and a South Gloucestershire Councillor to inform her of his views and express his concerns.

Members thanked Mr Harding for his time and information.

Mr Harding left the meeting

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Fairtrade Status

Cllr Gail Whitehead informed members that Fairtrade Fortnight would include a breakfast in the Swan with all Fairtrade products, 5 schools in the area would be visited by a Fairtrade producer, there would be an exhibition in the Town Hall advertising the businesses in the town that deal in Fairtrade products.

There would also be a theatre group of teenagers in the town giving short dance/music routines to raise awareness of Fairtrade.

A display board detailing all events for the fortnight would be sited in the town nearer the time.

(b) Town Centre Directional Signage

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that the group investigating new signage in the town were awaiting a report on utilities at the proposed sites to ensure that they would not cause any problems with the installation of the posts for the signage.

Once this was carried out they would then be in a position to place an order for the supply of the signs.

(c) Seating Along Streamside Walk

South Gloucestershire Council had confirmed that a licence would be required to place a seat on Streamside Walk. After some discussion it was agreed to apply for a licence to site a seat on the section of Streamside that runs from Gloucester Road to Park Road with the seat being at the Gloucester Road end of the walk.

(d) Environmental Area at Poulterbrook

There was nothing further to report on this item.

(e) Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site

Chris Cox of South Gloucestershire Council had replied to committee informing that his council were developing the planning application for the area to be submitted at the end of March.

(f) Thornbury in Bloom Plaque

It was hoped that the plaque would be delivered in the near future.

(g) Seat in Memory of Derek Anthony

Tesco had now given permission to site a seat on their land at the entrance to the store and it was agreed to place an order with The Hatch in Thornbury to supply a seat for £180. The cost would be paid by the Welsh society as agreed.

(h) Big Spring Clean 2016

Members has thought to join with Litterbusters to carry out a big spring clean but unfortunately Litterbusters were hoping to carry out their event on 5th March which would coincide with the Fairtrade Fortnight breakfast.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

A schedule of minor matters had been circulated and the information was noted.

(b) Volunteers Evening

It was agreed to hold the annual event to thank all environmental volunteers for their work in the town. It was hoped that Judith Hurford the Tree Warden would be the guest speaker and the deputy clerk agreed to discuss this with Judith.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The Deputy Clerk reported that the uptake for council's hanging basket scheme for 2016 had been good with 140 baskets having been ordered so far.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison reported that the composters had received a grant of £7000 for 2016 but this left a shortfall of £3500 if the group were to continue and further funding was being sought.

(c) Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that there was now a short waiting list for allotments at the site.

(d) Filnore Woods

There was nothing to report at this time.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Cllr Clare Fardell had been in discussion with South Gloucestershire Council Officers in an attempt to progress works to the fishponds.

The deputy clerk informed members that Historic England had commented on the Park Farm development planning reserved matters phase two and three stating that the developers were running short of time, having only one month left to carry out works as detailed by Historic England.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

A report had been tabled in the absence of the tree warden. Members noted that following the uncertainty of woodland next to the composting site as discussed earlier in the meeting, the tree strategy group had agreed to include conservation and preservation of trees and woodland in their remit.

It was also reported that following the proposed development at Cleve Wood, TPO's had been placed on woodland and several trees in the hedgerow of the area.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Felicity Harrison reported that the group were arranging several skill workshops such as soap making to be held in the near future.

(h) Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden had nothing to report at this time

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Better Bus Area 2 Improvements

South Gloucestershire Council informed that further investigations had shown that it was not feasible to install a shelter at the bottom of the High Street outside Lloyds Bank.

They would be removing the old shelter at the Health Centre on Eastland Road and replacing it in the near future. It was reported that the shelter had already been removed and as this was one that Town Council had originally installed it was agreed to request a further shelter be provided in the town as compensation,

6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

There were no publications