

**REPORT** of the meeting of the Environment  
Committee held 24 November 2015

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*Present:*

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)  
Vincent Costello  
Benj Emmerson  
Clare Fardell  
Martin Trueman  
Guy Rawlinson

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)  
Pam Shipp (Out Of Thornbury)

*Absent*

Cllr Angela Symonds  
Gail Whitehead

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT**

**(a) Fairtrade Status**

It was reported that Thornbury had now renewed its Fairtrade Town Status.

**(b) Town Centre Directional Signage**

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that the group progressing the matter would be meeting next week. Permission was being sought from South Gloucestershire Council to erect the signs and posts.

**(c) Seating Along Streamside Walk**

A reply was still awaited from South Gloucestershire Council giving their comments on the proposal for Thornbury Town Council to provide extra seating along Streamside Walk, on the stretch from Park Road to Gloucester Road.

The Deputy Clerk informed members that a seat to replace the one that was removed on Gloucester Road following a road traffic accident would be delivered in the next 10 days.

**(d) Environmental Area at Poulterbrook**

There was nothing further to report on this item.

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

Brett Harrison, the composters representative, had prepared a report on the groups views regarding the area and its wish to retain the site as woodland. The report also outlined Thornbury Community Composting groups proposals to manage the site should South Gloucestershire Council permit them continuing use of the area.

Members supported the report and proposals as set out in the paper. It was agreed to inform South Gloucestershire Council of this view. Brett Harrison felt that there was further information to add to the report and would be doing so in the near future.

**(f) Draft Waste Strategy Consultation**

A copy of the Draft Waste strategy had been e-mailed with the agenda. After some discussion members agreed that the proposal for households to collect their recycling in one bin and that it be sorted at a later date as opposed to residents sorting their recycling into the correct bin before the kerb side collection was a much better and less confusing idea. Members also welcomed the proposal to collect recycled rubbish on a weekly basis.

Concern was expressed that car oil, car batteries and batteries would be dropped from the recycling collection. Members were also concerned that the idea to decrease the size of the black bin to encourage recycling would perhaps cause more problems.

It was agreed to forward a response to South Gloucestershire Council giving the above points.

Members were informed that South Gloucestershire Council would have a stand at the next Thornbury Food Fair to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December where they would inform the public of the proposals as outlined in the consultation.

**3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

**(a) Schedule of Minor Matters**

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

**(b) Thornbury in Bloom Plaque**

*Cllr Guy Rawlinson declared an interest as Chair of Thornbury in Bloom*

The Deputy Clerk asked members if they would wish, as in previous years, to provide and display on the outside of the Town Hall, a plaque to commemorate Thornbury in Bloom's gold award in the South West in Bloom Competition. It was agreed unanimously to order the plaque as usual.

**4. OPERATIONAL REPORT**

**(a) Operational Matters**

The Deputy Clerk reported that she was in discussions with Almondsbury Garden Centre, providers of the flower baskets for Council's Hanging Basket Scheme in 2016. It would then be possible to obtain the correct numbers for ordering in the New Year as in

2015 there had not been enough baskets ordered for the number of people wishing to participate in the scheme.

**(b) Composting Site**

Brett Harrison informed members that the site had been cleared after 3 weeks of rain and that 37.5 tons of waste had been removed. He asked the question, how would South Gloucestershire Council cope with this extra waste if the composting site was not available to the residents of the town.

**(c) Allotments Report**

There was nothing to report at this time.

**(d) Filnore Woods**

Allan Burberry reported that there would be a working party the following day weather permitting.

**(e) Medieval Fishponds**

Cllr Vincent Costello reported that a small track running alongside the site from the Forde to the farm house had been cleared of brambles making the area accessible.

Members were informed that there had been no further communication from National Heritage.

**(f) Tree Wardens Report**

Judith Hurford reported that all was progressing well and that she had been working with the South Gloucestershire Council tree officer. It was hoped to plant at least 10 more trees before Christmas

**(g) Sustainable Thornbury**

Felicity Harrison reported that Sustainable Thornbury would be attending a Climate Change march in Bristol walking from Castle Green to College Green.

**(h) Footpath Warden**

The Footpath Warden had nothing to report at this time

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) Welsh Society – request for a seat in the Town**

The chairman had received a request from the Welsh Society to site a seat on land by the Ring of Thorns on the Tesco bank in memory of their Secretary Derek Anthony. They would be willing to make a donation to the cost of this.

Members agreed it would be a good idea to site a seat and felt that perhaps higher up the bank by the footpath would be a better area. It was agreed that the Chairman discuss the funding issue with the Welsh Society and the Deputy Clerk make enquiries with Tesco for the siting of a seat.

**6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

A list of publications had been circulated with the agenda.