

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 12th January 2016

Present:

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)

Clare Fardell
Pam Shipp
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Gail Whitehead

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

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr: Benj Emmerson
Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)
Guy Rawlinson (Out Of Thornbury)

Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)

Absent

Cllr Vincent Costello

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Fairtrade Status

Cllr Gail Whitehead informed members that the group were preparing for the Fairtrade fortnight which would run from 28th February to 13th March and she would bring further details to the next meeting.

(b) Town Centre Directional Signage

The deputy clerk informed members that the group investigating the project had received a number of quotes for supply and installation of the signage. A meeting was to be arranged to discuss these quotes and progress the matter.

Cllr Clare Fardell informed members that there was a directional sign on the Plain by the Natwest Bank that pointed to the Council offices in Castle Street which she felt was no longer necessary as the council had moved out of Thornbury. It was agreed that

members inspect the signs around the town and report back to the next meeting any that were no longer relevant or any that might be included in the new signage.

(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.

(d) Environmental Area at Poulterbrook

There was nothing further to report on this item. Allan Burberry requested that the exact location and size be identified so that plans could be made for the environmental area.

Cllr Angela Symonds entered the meeting

(e) Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site

Brett Harrison, the composter's representative, reported that the group were hoping to negotiate with South Gloucestershire Council to retain the piece of land in question. The deputy clerk had informed South Gloucestershire Council that the composters would wish to work the land and that this council would support their project.

It was agreed that Brett email the deputy clerk his full and final report to be forward to South Gloucestershire Council.

(f) Draft Waste Strategy Consultation

Members were informed that their response to the consultation had been submitted and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(g) Thornbury in Bloom Plaque

Members were informed that the plaque was on order and would be delivered in the near future.

(h) Seat in Memory of Derek Anthony

A letter had been received from the Welsh Society informing that they would be willing to pay for the seat and a brass plaque in memory of Derek Anthony if council would be able to carry out the installation works. Members agreed to this.

A reply from Tesco as to the siting of the seat was awaited.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

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

(b) Council's Risk Assessment

The risk assessment pertinent to environmental issues within the council was noted. Members agreed that it covered all necessary issues and that there was nothing further to add.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The Deputy Clerk had nothing to report at this time.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison reported that the composters were actively campaigning to keep the site open with reports in the Gazette and a visit to the site by Luke Hall MP.

Following this the composting chairman had prepared a list showing the many benefits that the site provided, a copy of which was tabled and the information noted. It showed the savings made in the disposal of green waste that the site provided along with the social and economic advantages to the area by residents using the site.

(c) Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that all the allotments were taken and that members were preparing for the new season.

(d) Filnore Woods

There was nothing to report at this time.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

There had been no further progress on this item and Cllr Clare Fardell agreed to contact South Gloucestershire Council officers in a bid to progress the necessary meetings, works etc.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

Judith Hurford gave her thanks to the chairman for his agreement to join the Tree Strategy group.

She continued to report that 60 trees in total will have been planted up to this year and that her aim was to reach one hundred by the end of next planting season.

Judith had been working with the tree officer at South Gloucestershire Council to secure TPO's on several of the trees at the old council offices site.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

In the absence of Felicity Harrison, Brett Harrison reported that the group had successfully attended the climate change march in Bristol and were now developing a strategy for the groups future.

(h) Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden had nothing to report at this time

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Big Spring Clean 2016

South Gloucestershire Council had sent information on Big Spring Clean 2016 to be held 1st March until 30th April 2016. After some consideration it was agreed to contact Litterbusters to discover if they had made any plans for the event and if they would be willing to carry out a joint venture as in past years.

6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

There were no publications