

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 13th October 2015

Present:

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
Clare Fardell
Helen Harrison
Angela Symonds
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: Guy Rawlinson (Other Meeting)
Martin Trueman (indisposed)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Absent

Cllr Pam Shipp

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Fairtrade Status

Members were informed that the application to renew the towns Fairtrade status was now complete and included a letter from the Mayor of Thornbury giving Town Council's commitment to the scheme. Cllr Gail Whitehead reported that she was now working with two students from Castle School to promote Fairtrade in the town and they had been investigating a Fairtrade dog walking route for dog walkers that would start and finish with fair-trade premises such as cafes. It was hoped that eventually a fair-trade dog walking booklet could be produced. The two students would also be baking cakes using Fairtrade ingredients to be sold at a Halloween stall in their school.

(b) Town Centre Directional Signage

There had been no further progress on this matter.

(c) Seating Along Streamside Walk

The deputy clerk reported that compensation for a new seat on Gloucester Road to replace the one that was recently removed after a road traffic accident had been received and it was agreed to order a replacement immediately.

Members were informed that South Gloucestershire Council had been contacted to seek their approval on the siting of further seats on streamside walk and an answer was awaited.

Investigations had shown that the Hatch part of the Sheiling School did manufacture hardwood seating for sale and that a three seater seat would be £180. Members felt that this was a very reasonable price and agreed to await a reply from South Gloucestershire Council before placing an order.

(d) Heritage Open Doors

It was reported that the Heritage Open Doors had been a great success and the chairman thanked all who had helped. Cllr Clare Fardell suggested that perhaps in the future a booklet could be produced detailing the history of the building that could be distributed on the day.

(e) Environmental Area at Poulterbrook

Information showing the layout of the area and a list of shrubs for planting as detailed by Allan Burberry was tabled. Allan expressed concern about an area that he felt could be a problem with brambles. The Deputy Clerk agreed to investigate the problem.

(f) Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site

Members were informed that in 2013/14 South Gloucestershire Council informed that they were looking to either retain or dispose of this piece of land possibly for a nursing home or extra care housing. This council had replied that it supported the composting site in its request to prepare and store logs on part of the site and requested that the remainder be retained as a buffer zone accommodating some form of ecological or environmental purpose.

At the previous meeting Brett Harrison of the composting site reported that South Gloucestershire Council had been carrying out surveys of the site and expressed concern that the land was an asset to the composting site. He informed members that the composters were willing to manage the whole area and it was agreed that he draw up a plan showing what they wished to do with the area. This would then be presented to the next environment committee meeting where members would consider the proposals and if agreed give their backing to the composters and forward the proposals to South Gloucestershire Council.

(g) Better Bus Area Improvements

At a previous meeting it had been reported that South Gloucestershire Council was looking to install realtime in the shelter on Rock Street and to investigate the possibility of a shelter on the stop at the Plain. Members had welcomed this and requested that they be consulted on design etc as the matter progressed. South Gloucestershire Council agreed to this and further information was awaited.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

There were no minor matters to be reported

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

There was nothing to report at this time.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison reported that the group had raised money which had been passed to South Gloucestershire Council to pay the contracted farmer to collect further waste to make compost. The site hoped that this arrangement would continue for the following year.

Members enquired if there were still a number of users of the site who were not residents of the area and were informed that this was probably the case but it was difficult to control.

(c) Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that the group had recently held its AGM where all officers had been re-elected.

(d) Filnore Woods

Allan Burberry reported that there had been yet another successful working party the previous Sunday morning clearing scrub etc. at the lower edge of the site ready for hedge laying of the area.

South Gloucestershire Council had been unable to cut the grass on the steep slope of the woods as it was too dangerous for their machinery but they had agreed to cut the flatter areas. Members of the group would be cutting the slope in the usual old fashioned way, with a scythe.

Members were also informed that Filnore Woods and its supporters had been awarded a certificate from Britain in Bloom and the Grand Challenge cup at a recent presentation of Thornbury in Bloom.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

A reply was still awaited from English Heritage as to whether the developer was agreeable to Town Council being present at any further meetings between themselves, English Heritage and South Gloucestershire Council.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

There was nothing to report at this time

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Felicity Harrison reported that Sustainable Thornbury were planning their next project

(h) Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden had nothing to report at this time

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Draft Waste Strategy Consultation

Members were informed that the draft waste strategy consultation would be going to communities on 4th November to be followed by a public consultation in mid November for 14 weeks. A member of the consultation team offered to attend a meeting of committee to give a presentation on the strategy. It was agreed to look at the consultation document when it was published and then decided at the next committee meeting if a presentation would be necessary.

6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

A list of publications had been circulated with the agenda.