

**REPORT** of the meeting of the Environment  
Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015

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*Present:*

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)

Bob Griffin  
Vincent Costello  
Benj Emmerson  
Chris Clifford  
Gareth Davies  
Helen Harrison  
Graham Lanfear  
Guy Rawlinson

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

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: Pam Shipp (Other Commitment)  
Phyllida Parsloe (Indisposed)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT**

**(a) Sponsorship for Dog Bins by Local Company**

As South Gloucestershire Council had not agreed to sponsorship of the bins in their ownership it was discussed that perhaps they would sell the bins to Town Council for a nominal fee and that Town Council continue to pay South Gloucestershire Council to empty them. Cllr Graham Lanfear expressed concern that once the bins were in Town Council's ownership it would mean that they would be responsible for repair and replacing of the bins which could be expensive. It was agreed that the working party set up to consider the localism service discuss this issue with the South Gloucestershire Council contact, Michael Dixon.

**(b) Fairtrade Status**

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that there would be a meeting of the community group involved in the town's Fairtrade project when it was hoped to move the project forward and renew the town's Fairtrade status.

It was reported that Fairtrade fortnight for 2015 would be held in February and Cllr Clive Parkinson requested that committee give, as it has in the past, a maximum of £100 towards the event. It was seconded by Cllr Guy Rawlinson and unanimously agreed.

**(c) Footpath OTH46**

Lindsay Saunders of South Gloucestershire Council Public Rights of Way, informed members that she had put a post in at the stile of OTH46 but had not agreed to a handrail. The bridge work would be carried out when the field was occupied by livestock.

It was agreed that the footpath warden would monitor the situation.

**(d) Loss of Coping Stones on Car Park Wall**

There was nothing further to report on this item at the present time. The deputy clerk agreed to contact Natwest bank to check on the progress of the works.

**(e) Replacement Seat at Church**

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that he had not heard anything further from the Guiding association and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

*Cllrs Gareth Davies and Helen Harrison entered the meeting.*

**(f) Localism Service 2015/16**

A report of the working party had been emailed and the information noted. It was reported that investigations into outside contractors carrying out the grass cutting had shown that South Gloucestershire Council had provided the cheapest quote and it was proposed that Town Council renew the contract with South Gloucestershire Council. Cllr Guy Rawlinson seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Benj Emmerson informed that the working party would be meeting to consider the terms and conditions as supplied by South Gloucestershire Council.

*Cllr Clive Parkinson left the meeting.*

**3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

**(a) Schedule of Minor Matters**

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

**(b) Town Centre Directional Signage**

Recommendations from the Town Centre Partnership for the siting of the directional signs in the town had been circulated with the agenda. The information was noted and it was agreed to obtain costings before the project was considered further.

#### **4. OPERATIONAL REPORT**

##### **(a) Operational Matters**

The Deputy Clerk reported that following a comment from a member of the public at a recent Town Council meeting she had contacted DEFRA to request any information on the siting of wild boar and wild boar farms in the area. A reply was awaited.

##### **(b) Composting Site**

Brett Harrison reported that the site was now being cleared and that it was hoped that the material would soon be going to a farm in Morton to be converted to compost.

##### **(c) Allotments Report**

Brett Harrison reported that all was working well at the allotments and that members were waiting for the new growing season to begin.

##### **(d) Filnore Woods**

Allan Burberry reported that coppicing work had started at the woods and that there would be a number of stakes and beanpoles for collection.

##### **(e) Medieval Fishponds**

There had been no further progress on this matter

##### **(f) Tree Wardens Report**

The Tree Wardens report was tabled and the information noted. Cllr Graham Lanfear asked if there were TPO's on the walnut trees at Turnberries as he felt it might be advantageous in years to come if they were protected. The Deputy Clerk agreed to talk to the Tree Warden regarding this matter.

##### **(g) Sustainable Thornbury**

Felicity Harrison reported that Sustainable Thornbury had supported the recent planning application for a windfarm at Almondsbury although the end result had been for the project to be rejected.

##### **(h) Footpath Warden**

Cllr Guy Ralwinson, the new Footpath Warden for Thornbury, reported that he was awaiting footpath maps of Thornbury from South Gloucestershire Council.

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Sort It Consultation**

The consultation had been circulated via email but several members had not received the information. The last date for comments was before the next meeting and so it was agreed that the email be resent and all comments be sent to the deputy clerk who would work with the chairman to formulate committees response.

(b) South Gloucestershire Council – Revised Landscape Character Assessment

The information had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

**6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

A schedule of publications was circulated with the agenda and the information noted.