

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 17th February 2015

Present:

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)

Bob Griffin
Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
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)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Chris Clifford (Family Commitment)
Gareth Davies (Out of Thornbury)
Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbuiry)
Phyllida Parsloe (Indisposed)

Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Absent : Cllr Pam Shipp

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Sponsorship for Dog Bins by Local Company

Michael Dixon of South Gloucestershire Council had agreed that the dog bins currently owned by South Gloucestershire Council could be transferred into Town Council ownership enabling sponsorship of the bins by a Thornbury business. Cllr Graham Lanfear asked if planning permission would be required to site sponsorship signs on the bins. It was agreed to investigate this.

(b) Fairtrade Status

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that the group were progressing with the renewal document for Fairtrade status. He proposed that council continue its support for the principles of Fairtrade and continue to work with the Fairtrade steering group to promote a wider understanding and use of Fairtrade products. Council will continue to carry out the following:-

- Offer Fairtrade drinks and food at full council meetings
- Nominate a council representative to be on the steering group
- Have a Fairtrade page on the council website to include suppliers of Fairtrade products in the town
- Support events in the town during Fairtrade fortnight
- Maintain Fairtrade signage at the entrances to the parish.

Cllr Benj Emmerson seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed that council continue to support Fairtrade in the town.

(c) Footpath OTH46

Members were unhappy that South Gloucestershire Council would not replace the gate on this footpath until it was necessary to do so and that there was also a reluctance to replace the decking on the bridge. The footpath warden Cllr Guy Rawlinson agreed to continue monitoring the situation.

(d) Loss of Coping Stones on Car Park Wall

The deputy clerk had spoken with the branch manager of NatWest, as landowner of the wall and it was agreed that he would put pressure on the NatWest property services department to move the works along.

Cllr Bob Griffin informed members that the cleaners at the bank were throwing water through the door onto the pavement and that in the cold weather the area was freezing over and could be dangerous to pedestrians at night. The deputy clerk agreed to speak with the bank.

(e) Localism Service 2015/16

Members of the working party had discussed some amendments to the South Gloucestershire Council's specification in connection with the length of grass and frequency of cuts. It was requested that these be passed to Michael Dixon for comment. And if accepted then the three year contract be accepted.

Cllr Clive Parkinson left the meeting.

(f) Town Centre Directional Signage

Cllr Guy Rawlinson will report back to the Town Centre Partnership on costs for the provision of directional signs as suggested by the group.

(g) Wild Boar Farms in the Area

DEFRA had informed the deputy clerk that wild boar farms require a licence to operate which would be granted by the local authority and suggested that South Gloucestershire Council be contacted for information on farms in the area. They also reported that Natural England produced a leaflet on what to do if Wild Boar are encountered by the public and gave the website address to download the information.

It was agreed that the information be sought and that the item be removed from the agenda.

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) Report of the Environmental Forum Meeting of 21.1.15

The report of the Environmental Forum meeting of 21.1.15 had been emailed with the agenda and the information was noted.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The Deputy Clerk reported that she was in the process of compiling a new accommodation guide for 2015 to be displayed on the website which would this year included photographs of the properties if they so wished.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison reported that the site was now being cleared although there was the usual seasonal overflow leading to a slight backlog of material to be composted. He continued to report that the sale of wood was doing well.

(c) Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that there had been some trouble with youths who had built a den in Filnore woods and were then taking garden furniture from the allotments to use in the den. The deputy clerk said she would speak to the police and inform them of the problem.

(d) Filnore Woods

Allan Burberry reported that hedging work was being carried out on the site.

(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. Following a request from the previous meeting Judith informed members that whilst there were no TPO's on the walnut trees at Turnberries but South Gloucestershire Council would seek them if there was any threat to the trees in the future.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Felicity Harrison reported that Sustainable Thornbury were working with Thornbury in Bloom to adopt and plant an area with herbs.

The group also requested that extra trees for shade be planted around the Mundy Playing Fields play area. This request would be passed to the Playing Fields and Cemetery committee.

(h) Footpath Warden

The footpath warden expressed concern that the footpath leading from Alveston down to the back of the leisure centre in Thornbury had been blocked to a certain extent by a landowner at the top of the hill. However having discussed this with public rights of way at South Gloucestershire Council there was very little that could be done at the present time.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Resident of Manor Walk – Request for Seating on Streamside Walk

A letter had been received by the chair of council requesting that consideration be given to supplying further seating along streamside walk as at present seats were few and far between and some older folk of the town would struggle to walk from one seat to the next. After some consideration it was agreed that an item be put on the website requesting members of the public to suggest suitable areas which they thought might benefit from seating.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson as chair of council agreed to reply to the resident who had made the request.

(b) Sort It – Changes to Public Recycling Bins

Information from SITA had been received to inform members that as from 2nd March public recycling banks located in supermarkets and car parks etc. in South Gloucestershire would be removed. Posters would be installed at the relevant sites to advise current users of the recycling bank of other ways to dispose of their items.

6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

There were no publications.