

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 23rd June 2015

Present:

Cllrs: Clare Fardell (Chairman)

Benj Emmerson
Helen Harrison
Pam Shipp
Guy Rawlinson
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman

Allan Burberry (Filnore Woods)
Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Vincent Costello (Out of Thornbury)
Matthew Stringer (Out of Thornbury)
Gail Whitehead (Out of Thornbury)

Brett Harrison (Thornbury Composters and Filnore Allotments)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Sponsorship of Dog Bins by Local Company

The deputy clerk reported that having contacted the local company concerned they were no longer in a position to sponsor dog bins in the town and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(b) Fairtrade Status

There had been no further progress with this matter.

(c) Localism Service 2015

The following schedule of works under the localism service had been received from South Gloucestershire Council.

Watering – Daily (if required), usually at the start of the day around 6:30 a.m. There are lots of variables with watering and is difficult to be exact; amounts will be adjusted to suit weather. In extreme temperatures twice a day may be necessary.

Weeding – will be carried out weekly to ensure that beds are kept weed free at all times.

Feeding – Liquid feed will be carried out monthly (in July, August & September) to complement the base fertilizer that was applied at the time of planting. This will be at the start of the month.

Litter – removed at each visit

Gardening / General – to include; deadheading, edging, general maintenance – weekly or as required.

The information was noted and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(d) Town Centre Directional Signage

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that the Town Centre Partnership sub-committee formed to look at this project would be meeting the following day.

Cllr Helen Harrison entered the meeting

(e) Seating in the Town

Members were informed that a claims form for a replacement seat had been sent to the police. Cllr Guy Rawlinson felt that it might be advisable to make further investigations with South Gloucestershire Council as they may have information on the missing seat from the accident.

(f) Annual Summer Walkabout

The annual summer walkabout was scheduled to take place on Monday 29th June meeting at the scout hut in Park Road at 6.00pm. walking from there to St David's Road along Streamside Walk.

(g) Heritage Open Doors Rota

The deputy clerk reminded members that she would require volunteers for guided tours of the building on Saturday September 12th as part of the national Heritage Open Doors scheme and she would be emailing all councillors with the information.

Cllr Clare Fardell agreed to write an article for the Thornbury Magazine advertising the event.

3. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

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

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The Deputy Clerk had nothing to report.

(b) Composting Site

It was reported that the quality of compost had improved.

(c) Allotments Report

Concern was expressed that the allotments had not been identified in South Gloucestershire Policies Sites and Places Plan Local Green Space Designation but had been encompassed in the whole open space at the back of the Leisure Centre. The deputy clerk agreed to investigate the matter.

(d) Filnore Woods

Allan Burberry reported that Jerry Dicker had carried out lots of intensive mowing of the site. Also the regular working party would be meeting the next day at 10.00am

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Members were informed that the developers of Park Farm were now in ownership of the fishponds and that they, with English Heritage and South Gloucestershire Council had met to discuss how best to move the project forward. English Heritage commissioned the developer to compile an updated management plan. The developer claimed that they did not have insurance for the site but were informed by English Heritage that under the 106 agreement they were obliged to keep the area open and that they would need to provide the capital for such works as replacement bridges etc.

English Heritage had also informed the Deputy Clerk that there was not a proper current survey and that the developer has an obligation under health and safety to carry out various surveys, the first being a topographic survey.

Members welcomed the information but requested that they be involved in future meetings with South Gloucestershire Council and the developer to progress the matter.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

The Tree Warden gave a brief outline of her work to date and the forming of a Tree Strategy group. She informed members that since 2010 over sixty trees had been planted with 20 of these having been planted in 2014/15. This has led to the challenge to be planting the 100th tree in two years time.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Felicity Harrison reported that Sustainable Thornbury would be holding their AGM the following evening at 7.30pm in the Chantry.

(h) Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden reported that the bridge on OTH46 had had a substantial replacement surface

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.

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7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

A list of publications had been circulated with the agenda.