

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 8th September 2015

Present:

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson

Guy Rawlinson
Angela Symonds
Martin Trueman
Gail Whitehead

Brett Harrison (Thornbury Composting and Filnore Allotments)
Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr: Helen Harrison (Other Meeting)
Allan Burberry (Filnore Woods)

Absent

Cllr Pam Shipp

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Fairtrade Status

Cllr Gail Whitehead reported that the application to renew the towns Fairtrade status was almost complete. She requested a letter from the mayor showing council's commitment to Fairtrade which would accompany the application. It was also agreed that the brochure listing premises in the town where Fairtrade goods were available be updated.

Members thanked Cllr Gail Whitehead for her work on the project.

(b) Town Centre Directional Signage

It was reported that the Town Centre Partnership were moving the project forward.

(c) Seating in the Town

The deputy clerk reported that South Gloucestershire Council did not have the metal seat that had vanished after a road traffic accident on Gloucester Road and as yet there had not been any communication from the police or courts on the matter.

Following the summer walkabout members felt that there was not any seating provision on the section from Manorbrook School to St David's Road and it was agreed to investigate this further. The deputy clerk would contact South Gloucestershire Council to obtain permission to site a seat in the area.

Cllr Clive Parkinson informed members that the Towns Trust had purchased seats from the Sheiling School at a reasonable price and it was also suggested that Leyhill may still manufacture seating. The deputy clerk was asked to investigate and obtain prices where possible.

(d) Annual Summer Walkabout

A report of the annual summer walkabout had been emailed with the agenda and the information was noted.

(e) Heritage Open Doors Rota

It was reported that all would be laid out for the Heritage Open Doors as usual and it was agreed to circulate the tour information to those concerned before 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.

(b) Environmental Area at Poulterbrook

Cllr Clive Parkinson informed members that work had started on Pouterbrook and that it was hoped it would be completed by mid October. He continued to report that the environmental area had been cleared and that meadow grass would be planted with the contractor carrying out any maintenance work for the first year. He advised members that it would be best to leave the grass to become established and consider the planting of the area at a later date. Members agreed to this and requested that previous plans detailed for the area be circulated for the next meeting.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The deputy clerk reported that the hanging basket scheme was coming to an end and that the baskets would soon be removed. Members expressed their thanks to all staff involved in the scheme for their hard work.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison reported that a census carried out on the recent bank holiday had shown that a large proportion of users of the site had come from out of Thornbury and it was felt that the facility should be restricted for the use of local residents. The group was trying to resolve the issue.

He also expressed concern that South Gloucestershire Council had been carrying out various surveys on the piece of land adjacent to the compost site which was used by the site to store wood and as a tree nursery for Filnore Wood.

(c) Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that the allotments had recently had a very successful plant swap. He also confirmed that they had a short waiting list.

(d) Filnore Woods

There was nothing to report on this item

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Members were informed that English Heritage would be consulting with the developer as to whether Town Council could be present at any further meetings between the developer, English Heritage and South Gloucestershire Council.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

The Tree Warden reported that South Gloucestershire Council was helping with tree planting along Grovesend road but that funds were limited. Members were asked if they would allocate funding as in previous years.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Sustainable Thornbury had nothing to report at this time.

(h) Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden had nothing to report at this time

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Better Bus Area improvements – The Plain

The information to investigate the possibility of a bus shelter at the Plain and the inclusion of realtime at the shelter in Rock Street had been emailed to members. Comment was made that council welcomed the Rock Street proposal and supported the idea in principle for a shelter on the Plain. They would though like to see designs for this when they were available. Concern was expressed as to whether there would be enough space for a shelter at the Plain.

6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

A list of publications had been circulated with the agenda.