

**REPORT** of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy  
Committee held 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

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*Present:* Cllr: Guy Rawlinson (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs: Bob Griffin  
Benj Emmerson  
Shirley Holloway  
Clive Parkinson  
Matthew Stringer  
Angela Symonds  
Maggie Tyrrell

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)  
Mary Sealey (Administrator)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)  
Gail Whitehead (Out of Thornbury)

*Penny Baker of Krunch was in attendance so it was agreed to take item 4(a) as first business*

**4 (a) Youth Services Funding in Thornbury**

Penny thanked members for the generous grant that they had given to Krunch so far which would contribute to the core of the work carried out by the youth service in Thornbury but explained that due to South Gloucestershire Council making further cuts to the Positive Activities budget the group was now left with a deficit of £10,000. Without this funding the group would lose valuable core staff which could lead to the loss of mentoring for those who were in need and the development of the service already provided.

Cllr Maggie Tyrrell asked was mentoring not covered by core funding. Penny Baker replied that unfortunately it was not and continued to explain that the majority of those identified came from recommendations from both Castle and Marlwood schools but that they had insufficient funds to support such a service which had until now been supported by outside funding. Cllr Maggie Tyrrell expressed her concern that the service was offered to schools without their giving any financial support. Penny felt that preventative work such as mentoring was invaluable to many of the youth as it would be almost a year before they might be statemented leading to their receiving help and this service was bridging that gap.

Cllr Benj Emmerson asked what would happen if the service was withdrawn and Penny replied that more and more youth would be dropping through the net which would lead to a greater number of long term exclusions. She informed members that Krunch was more competitive than other organisations in the Bristol area and that they had seen real behavioural changes proving the ideas used by Krunch work.

Cllr Shirley Holloway inquired why working at the Club for two nights a week was so expensive. Penny Baker replied that the money was not required for just the Club night but also work with the youth on a one to one basis.

Cllr Benj Emmerson proposed that Council give £10,000, the extra monies required by Krunch to support their work.

The Deputy Clerk informed committee that with this sum and other sums that would be considered later in the evening then committee would be spending half of their yearly contingencies in the first month of the new financial year.

Cllr Clive Parkinson informed members that he had proposed the increase in contingencies to cover such an additional cost that might arise and because of this he supported Cllr Benj Emmerson's proposal but felt that perhaps it would benefit committee if Penny Baker put an application in writing such as she would have submitted to South Gloucestershire Council. He continued that she was asking for less than had been set aside in contingencies and that £10,000 should be ring fenced for such expenditure until the application had been received along with audited accounts. Cllr Alan Carman seconded the proposal and it was agreed to finalise this at the next Finance & Policy meeting.

*Penny Baker left the meeting*

*Martin Burton from South Gloucestershire Council was in attendance and it was agreed to take 4(b) as next item.*

#### 4. (b) Proposed Changes to Library Services

Martin Burton informed members that Thornbury library was one of the busiest in South Gloucestershire with 4,000 members, 100,000 books issued per year, and 3,500 attending the many events held in the library. It was one library where the majority of the users do not use any other library in South Gloucestershire. He continued that provision of reading was vital along with the IT service and the information services that can be found in the library. Thornbury is classed as a hub library as it also staffs the South Gloucestershire one stop shop although this may become a digital link to the main council office in time.

At present the consultation offered three options:-

- Close high cost services and those close to existing main libraries
- As above with provision of minimum staffing in satellite libraries
- Close all libraries except identified main libraries

Unfortunately South Gloucestershire Council was in a difficult position and no service could escape from cuts. At present it is proposed to reduce opening hours by 19% across South Gloucestershire but as yet it is unsure as to how this would be split. It was also thought to find funding from other sources, maybe parish councils would be approached, it costs £3,000 per hour to open Thornbury Library or perhaps the provision of volunteers could be explored.

Martin concluded that South Gloucestershire Council wished as many people as possible to respond to the consultation so that a true picture could be gained and asked committee to help in this. In October 2017 implementations will be carried out and 2018/19 will show the full years savings.

Cllr Clare Fardell advised that the library provided a lifeline to many in Thornbury and advised that information on the consultation could be displayed in the Over 60's Tea Room in the Town Hall.

Cllr Shirley Holloway stated that in relation to the population of Thornbury the library was a small space and due to the proposed developments within the town surely funding should be secured to increase the service. Martin agreed with this and informed members that 106 funding could only be secured to increase the building not for running costs.

Cllr Clive Parkinson enquired if consideration had been given to seeking funding from the private sector. Martin Burton informed him that he was not aware of any funding from such a source and felt that the private sector would probably only contribute to a high profile project not to core funding.

Members thanked Martin Burton for his time.

*Martin left the meeting.*

## **2. POLICE MATTERS**

The police were not in attendance but a report from PC Sean White was tabled.

The following matters were brought to members' attention:-

- The date for moving the police offices into the Town Hall would be 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- There had been a slight increase in the number of burglaries in the Thornbury area
- The White Lion pub has new managers who are keen to return it to a family pub closing at midnight.
- There had been some damage at Dags Allotments over the Easter period.
- Precautions had been put in place to deal with a few issues that had been caused by a recent vagrant in the town.
- There had been a couple of till snatch offences in the shopping area over the past few weeks. A lone male would send staff out the back of the store before opening the till to steal the money
- Shop thefts had been on the increase mainly in the High Street chemists and suspects had now been identified and will be spoken to.

Members were informed that police will in the future have access to CCTV to view live feeds in their new offices at the Town Hall. Shops are now expected to self-report incidents via the phone on 101 unless an offender is detained and information packs are being distributed explaining how this will work. On reporting an incident the shop will receive a crime number and will be expected to complete a log of events, obtain witness statements, complete exhibit labels and produce CCTV footage for police to collect. Security guards are also expected to prevent crime, detaining suspects and banning them from the store. If shops are ignoring security advice given by the police then the police may refuse to attend and deal with offences in the future. In line with this a software package should be available to shops later in the year which will help with this and enable shops to circulate CCTV to other shops to view incidents. It was hoped that this will leave the police to be out pro-actively preventing thefts rather than attending reported thefts that are a few days old.

It was agreed to invite Sean White along to the next meeting to discuss the matter further

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT**

### **(a) Thornbury Hospital/Health Centre Development**

Members were informed that a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee would take place in the next week and the following week would be a meeting of the Clinical Commissioning Group. Cllr Shirley Holloway reported that she felt encouraged that negotiations on Thornbury Hospital and its facilities were now taking place and that the Health Centre and its roll was also moving forward.

The information was noted.

### **(b) Safer and Stronger Community Group**

It was reported that the next meeting was convened for 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### **(c) Youth Provision in Thornbury – Potential Changes to Youth Services Funding**

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that he had had several meetings with stakeholder groups because of the cuts of £187,000 made by South Gloucestershire Council from the Positive Activities Budget. This was used by youth groups across South Gloucestershire to provide transition funding for core services. The cuts will continue year on year affecting most of the youth groups right across the board and Cllr Clive Parkinson felt that this may lead to Town Council being approached more and more for grants by such groups.

Cllr Maggie Tyrrell felt it would be necessary for Council to consider the situation carefully otherwise it will be granting more and more money and leading cuts to be made in other areas that Council may not wish to make.

(d) Creating a Dementia Friendly Community

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that The Dementia Friendly Group had met the previous week and another training event had been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00pm but at the present time there was only one person signed up to attend so it may be cancelled. The group would hold a session in the council chamber one evening if members so required. He continued that Dementia Friendly Week would be the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> May and that the Alzheimer's group would be holding an event in The Swan.

(e) Police Premises in the Town Hall

The Deputy Clerk reported that the police would move into their offices in the Town Hall on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April and that a photo shoot had been arranged for the following day if any member wished to attend.

(f) Retirement of Town Clerk and Appointment of Successor

Interviews for the vacancy of Town Clerk were scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April and after some discussion the interview panel agreed to meet an hour before the first interview to finalise information etc necessary for the day.

(g) Policy for Street Naming

Research had shown that there were no guidelines for producing a policy for street naming and the Working Group agreed to convene a meeting in the near future to take the matter forward.

(h) Lease of the Offices at 67 High Street

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Orders and under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business on the grounds that it involves likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Para.3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

On return to open session members resolved that the lease of the offices at 67 High Street be for a term of five years.

#### **4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

(c) Armstrong Hall management Committee Request for Financial Assistance

Following a recent meeting of the Armstrong Hall Management Committee it was agreed to request financial assistance from Town Council for the redevelopment of the Armstrong Hall. Cllr Shirley Holloway presented figures to show costings of both the fundraising consultant and the architect. She informed the committee that the current fundraising group for the phase one development, the building of extra dressing rooms had raised £60,000 to date and the Armstrong Hall Committee agreed to pay the £2,992 architect fees for this phase. The consultant had advised that in order to obtain funding it would be advisable to show long term plans for the site. This involved further architect fees of £5,670 and an additional cost from the consultant of £912 making a total of £6,582. Cllr Shirley Holloway requested that committee consider payment of this sum

After some discussion and consideration of the New Year's budget and contingencies held, Cllr Clive Parkinson proposed that committee pay the architect's fees of £5670 but that the Hall Management Committee considers payment of the £912 for the consultant. It was seconded by Cllr Matthew Stringer and unanimously agreed.

## 5. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(a) Resolved that the following accounts paid out of meeting be approved:-

Big Interactive	I T Maintenance Contract 2016/17	1930.00
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – Chapel	19.10
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – Town Hall	389.32
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – Playing Fields	174.66

(b) It was proposed by Cllr Clive Parkinson, seconded by Cllr Maggie Tyrrell and unanimously agreed that the following accounts now due for payment be approved:-

### Central Services

Petty Cash		75.00
British Telecommunications plc	Telephone bill – Town Hall	349.62
Consortium	Cleaning utensils	42.48
Danwood	Paper	51.12
ICCM	Membership for 2016/17	90.00
Michael Eldridge	Window Cleaning	55.00
OTIS Ltd	Lift maintenance 2016/17	689.59
Sage UK Ltd	Cover for 2016/17	1670.40
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	Lease Rental	369.44
Corona energy	Gas Bill – TH	501.98

### Playing Fields & Cemetery

AED Locator	Defibrillator	3630.00
Abbey Loos Ltd	Toilet Block Hire	110.40
Boundary Fencing South West Ltd	Fencing work	2749.20
Bristol Water	Water Bill	132.07
Brass Founders plc	Brass Plaque	122.98
Brass Founders plc	Brass Plaque	237.55
Brass Founders plc	Brass Plaque	114.58
British Telecommunications plc	Telephone bill – PFC	34.99
Countrywide Farmers plc	Grass Seed	49.99
Consortium	Cleaning utensils	44.94
Glasdon UK Ltd	Litter Bin & Dog Bins	607.89
Hawkins of Thornbury	Wood Stain & Rawl bolts	25.53
South West Glass Ltd	Glass repair	533.58
Sullivans Machinery	Oil and spark plug	37.00
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	67.04
Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection	255.77
Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection	139.42
T H White Ltd	Indicator unit & oil	178.46
T H White Ltd	Gasket set	127.04
Rio Pool Construction Ltd	Splash Pool Repairs	94.45
Corona energy	Gas Bill – PFC	171.43

### **Environment**

Horders (Thornbury Press)	Fairtrade printing	8.40
Landcare Nursery Ltd	Tree planting	200.40
Thornbury Garden Shop	Planting for T in B	330.83
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	67.03

### **Grants & Contingencies**

Bristol Water	Water & Sewerage – Museum	487.50
Opportunities Group Ltd	Advertisement for Town Clerk	360.00
Opportunities Group Ltd	Advertisement for Town Clerk	360.00
Armstrong Hall	Mayor’s Tea Party Room Hire	148.62
Thornbury Deli	Buffet Lunch - 1 <sup>st</sup> April	202.50
Corona energy	Gas Bill – Museum	91.98

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) South Gloucestershire Council - Tobacco Control Draft Strategy Consultation

Copies of the consultation had been e-mailed to members prior to the meeting and the information was received and noted

(b) South Gloucestershire Council – Substance Misuse Services Re-Commissioning

The information had been e-mailed prior to the meeting and the information noted.

### **7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

No publications had been received.