

**REPORT** of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy  
Committee held 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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*Present:* Cllr: Helen Harrison (Chairman)

Cllrs: Benj Emmerson  
Bob Griffin  
Shirley Holloway  
Clive Parkinson  
Guy Rawlinson  
Matthew Stringer  
Angela Symonds  
Maggie Tyrrell  
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)  
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr: Gail Whitehead (Out of Thornbury)

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Cllr Guy Rawlinson be elected as vice chair for the ensuing year.

**3. POLICE MATTERS**

PC Sean White was welcomed to the meeting and invited to address Committee. He advised that he was unaware of the timescale for moving to the town hall. The crime levels for Thornbury were still relatively low and there had been a reduction in thefts from both Tesco and Boots. There had been a problem with travellers at Alveston and in Rock Street car park and PC White had discussed preventative measures with South Gloucestershire Council. These included the installation of a height barrier in Rock Street car park once the recycling bins had been removed. Some members of the public had complained that the travellers were not receiving fines for parking in Rock Street and Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell advised that this matter was being dealt with by South Gloucestershire Council's Legal Department.

The following crimes have been committed since the last meeting.

- Windows broken in the High Street
- Theft of 5 charity boxes, the last one being from the Knot of Rope Pub. Two empty boxes had been dumped in the Mundy Playing Fields and the suspect was known to police and it was hoped that an arrest would be made in the near future
- There had been incidences of arson to bins near the Streamleaze underpass and Natwest Bank. The police have been working with Castle School and since then no other arson incidents had been reported.
- Theft of a polytunnel from Daggs Allotment and the police were now patrolling the golf club and the allotments regularly.
- There had been a few shed break-ins and the police were aware of the perpetrator

There had been a problem with Castle School pupils leaving the school premises at lunch time and coming into the town centre. The police have been tackling this problem by sending or taking the youngsters back to school so the situation had now improved significantly. Shopwatch and Pubwatch have been working well and one individual had been given a 5 year ban from all Thornbury public houses this year. There had also been a big reduction in drug related problems with Streamside Walk being targeted by the police.

PC White said that several young people had expressed a wish for floodlighting to be installed at the skatepark. Cllr. Parkinson advised that this issue had been considered in the past but had not been pursued because the equipment could become dangerous after rain had fallen or when the dew came down.

Cllr. Rawlinson asked whether there was a significant change in crime figures when part night lighting was introduced four years ago. PC White advised that there had been no changes in crime figures as a result of part night lighting.

PC White advised that every crime and misdemeanour now had to be recorded and it was anticipated that crime figure number would increase as a result.

PC Sean White was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

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

##### **(a) Project Steering Group for Thornbury Hospital**

Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell reported that there had been no formal meeting of the group but there had been an informal discussion with the NHS lead officer. The project was no further forward after the Clinical Commissioning Group meeting but the plan for Thornbury had been signed off. A lot of work had been going on in the background and the next stage will be made public in September.

Ben Bennett from the Clinical Commissioning Group had expressed a willingness to come and talk to members and it was agreed to invite him to the October Full Council meeting.

GPs had been contacted in an effort to encourage them to be less resistant to change as an improved health centre was an integral part of the overall plan for the site. There was a danger that other developments planned for the site could go ahead without the provision of a new health centre.

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

Cllr. Matthew Stringer reported on his attendance at the Safer and Stronger Community Group meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The two main issues raised were as follows:-

- Dangerous parking on Whitfield/Park Road which was now being monitored by the police and notices put up in the area. One suggestion for tackling the problem was for all schools to produce travel plans. Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell advised that several of the schools had already produced them.
- Crossways School had been unable to recruit a lollipop person so there was no traffic control at Crossway/Sibland Road. One option to ensure that the children would be safe crossing the road was to install a zebra crossing which South Gloucestershire Council had advised would cost £50,000. It was agreed that the Clerk write to South Gloucestershire Council supporting the request for a zebra crossing with a copy for Crossways School and the parents. Brian Gaches said that he would go and look at the situation,

Other issues raised were as follows:-

- There had been a request from a 15 year old that consideration be given to providing facilities for youngsters when the Youth Club was closed. One suggestion was that a bus be provided to transport youngster to a popular venue 'Armadillo' in Yate on a regular basis. Cllr. Clive Parkinson agreed to raise the matter with Penny Baker of Krunch.
- Concern had been expressed about the safety of residents and schoolchildren from the new development in Morton Way crossing Morton Way and Gloucester Road. This was an issue that was mentioned in Council's response to the original planning application and the Clerk agreed to look out Council's comments

Cllr, Stringer advised that, as a result of South Gloucestershire Council budget cuts, from October the future of the Group was uncertain.

(c) Youth Provision in Thornbury

There had been no further meetings of the Stakeholders' Group so there was nothing to report at the present time.

(d) Creating a Dementia Friendly Community

The Group had met under the Age UK umbrella on 14<sup>th</sup> May to discuss a plan for the future and how to improve the community's awareness of people suffering from dementia. The main issues were a mixture of raising peoples' awareness of dementia and also dealing with the ongoing problem of people suffering from severe dementia. The Group had decided to raise its profile, initially, by having a stall at the Volunteer Centre Pop-Up shop in St. Mary Centre. Cllr. Clive Parkinson and representatives from Age UK, South Gloucestershire Council and the Dementia Alliance would be attending.

The Group had agreed to establish a series of dementia awareness meeting run by Jane Gilliard and Angela Sandell. Cllr. Clive Parkinson asked if Council would be prepared to host the initial meeting which would last 2 - 2½ hours. He also asked members to consider making the Council Chamber available on a regular basis for these proposed meetings. It was unanimously agreed to the two requests. Cllr. Parkinson agreed to advise Jane Gilliard accordingly and asked that as many members as possible attend one of the meetings.

(e) Castle School Students – Ideas for a Teen Council

Castle School students had asked for permission to paint a mural on the pump house at the Mundy Playing Fields. The Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee had agreed to the request and the Clerk had provided a sketch of the building indicating the areas that could be painted. The information was noted.

(f) Police Premises in the Town Centre

There had been several representatives from the police looking at the premises and discussing the work that needed to be undertaken. It appeared that progress was being made. The information was noted.

(g) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation

The Clerk had written again to Wessex Water and South Gloucestershire Council attaching the previously submitted comments but other than an initial acknowledgement from Wessex Water no further responses had been received.

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for four months.

## 5. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

### (a) Remembrance Day Road Closures and Street Marshalling

A letter had been received from the Rotary Club requesting certain changes to the road closures and marshalling. Cllr. Bob Griffin advised that he would not be in the country on Remembrance Sunday so Council would need to appoint representatives to help with the arrangements. Cllr. Alan Carman had expressed a willingness to be a representative and Cllrs. Matt Stringer and Shirley Holloway also agreed to be involved.

It was agreed that Council had always helped with the organisation at the Church and would continue to do so but that the British Legion should take responsibility for the parade.

It was agreed to write to the Vicar and advise her of the names of Council's representatives and also its position regarding the responsibilities for the parade. It was anticipated that the Vicar would arrange the necessary meetings to discuss the arrangements.

### (b) Draft Single Equality Plan

Copies of the plan had been e-mailed to members prior to the meeting and the information received and noted. The Clerk advised that Council had its own Equal Opportunities Policy that covered recent legislation.

### (c) Town Hall Charges for 2015-16

It was agreed that charges for the hire of the Town Hall should be raised by 2.5%.

## 6. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

South Gloucestershire Council	Rates (May) Town Hall	1295.25
South Gloucestershire Council	Rates (May) Cemetery	282.00

(b) It was agreed that the following accounts now due for payment be approved:-

### Central Services

AMS Drain Services Ltd	To attend and clear drains at Town Hall	90.00
SITA UK Ltd	Waste collection	249.74
Ian Selkirk	Internal Audit	325.00
British Telecom	Phone Bill	299.05
Zurich	Insurance	14,457.88

### Playing Fields & Cemetery

Brass Founders	Brass plaque	119.64
British Telecom	Phone Bill	28.46
Countrywide Farmers plc	Roundup	82.16
Countrywide Farmers plc	Grass seed and fertiliser	799.80
GAP Supplies Ltd	Repairs to cemetery wall	305.08
Hags Play	Seat for roundabout	132.00
Sullivans Machinery	Bushes	77.86
Thornbury Tyre Services Ltd	Wheel and tyre repair	92.82
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	103.31
Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection	136.34
Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste collection	249.82

## Environment

South Gloucestershire Council	Localism for April/May/June	4209.12
Thornbury Heritage Trust	Notelets	22.00
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	103.31

## Grants & Contingencies

Energise Ltd	Invoice validation billing dispute	777.00
Surroundings	Frame for mayoral photograph	68.00

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

### (a) Thornbury Community Composting Site – Grant Request

A letter had been received from Thornbury Community Composting Site advising that from 1<sup>st</sup> April its funding from South Gloucestershire Council had been reduced. Financial aid was being sought from Thornbury Town Council as its outside staff allegedly tipped waste on a regular basis at the site. The Group requested that consideration be given to budgeting a suitable amount of money for this service over the coming years beginning with the financial year 2015-16.

Before making a decision on the Composting Group's request it was agreed to talk to outside staff to ascertain how often they used the site.

## **8. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR 2014-15 AND RE-ALLOCATION OF FORWARD BALANCES**

### (a) Land and Property

Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts for 201-15 were received and noted. A comparison of actual balances with 2014 revised projection showed a total of £4,426.56 available for re-allocation. Agreed that the re-allocation be made as follows:-

Deposit Flat 67 High Street	£937.00
Uncommitted	£3,489.56

### (b) Central Services

Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2014-15 were received and noted. A comparison of actual balances with 2014 revised projection showed a total of £19,637.40 available for re-allocation

Agreed that the re-allocation be made as follows:-

Lift Repairs	£2,000.00	
Heating & Lighting	£11,000.00	
Uncommitted	£6,637.40	£

### (c) Grants and Contingencies

Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2014-15 were received and noted. A comparison of actual balances with 2014 revised projection showed a total of £31,479.74 available for re-allocation.

Agreed that the re-allocation be made as follows:-

Election Expenses	£11,500.00
Election Expenses/Reserves	£3,000.00
Grant CAB	£1,000.00
Small Grants	£2,000.00
Museum Gas Bill Arrears	£3,800.00
Working Balance & Contingency	£10,179.74

**9. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

No publications had been received.