

**REPORT** of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy  
Committee held 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

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*Present:* Cllr: Helen Harrison (Chairman)

Cllrs: Benj Emmerson  
Shirley Holloway  
Clive Parkinson  
Guy Rawlinson  
Matthew Stringer  
Maggie Tyrrell  
Gail Whitehead  
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)  
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr: Bob Griffin (Indisposed)  
Angela Symonds (Out of Thornbury)

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

The Chairman welcomed PCSOs Sheryl Drewitt and Matt Horton to the meeting and invited them to address members.

The following matters were brought to members' attention.

- Since 29.10.15 there had been 14 burglaries in the area all of which were the same *modus operandi*. Using leaflet drops police had advised residents, in the targeted areas, to secure any side access to properties and to leave lights on when they go out. Neighbourhood Watches had also been informed and residents were asked to report anything suspicious.
- There had been some criminal damage at the allotments.
- Since the last meeting there had been 4 thefts from vehicles and some keys had been taken. The incidents were around the Castle School area and youths were suspected.
- 12 youths had been seen causing damage in North East Road and drug dealing had been reported in the play area. Police were monitoring the situation and hoped to meet the youths causing the problems

Cllr Clare Fardell informed that a case of anti-social behaviour had been reported to her at the rear of the shop on Primrose Drive on Larkspur Close. In the incident, walls in the area that had loose bricks had been dismantled. A number of the properties were tenanted and owned by absentee landlords so little work had been carried out to maintain the walls or carry out essential remedial work.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson had a request from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the extent of the area covered by the towns CCTV etc. especially that in the vicinity of The Plain and the top of Castle Street. Cllr Clive Parkinson advised that there was a camera on Jean Owen's Shop which rotated through 360°, the cameras on the Town Hall and 67 High Street also rotated 360°. Sheryl agreed to advise PC Sean White accordingly,

PCSOs Sheryl Drewitt and Matt Horton were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting

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

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

Members were advised that the new plans for the Hospital consisted of 2 floors with elderly, frail and dementia patients on the ground floor. Concern was expressed that there were no promises for an improved Health Centre or Outpatients department although there had been suggestions that these would be linked to the hospital. There is no evidence that the plans will be of specific benefit to the residents of Thornbury and no enhancement for diagnostic out-patients was included.

Cllrs. Shirley Holloway and Maggie Tyrrell reported that Ben Bennett of the Clinical Commissioning Group had been evasive on the subject of the provision of an Outpatients' Department and concerns were expressed that the Group would conclude that there was no need for one.

It was agreed to write to the Clinical Commissioning Group expressing disappointment that, with a considerable number of new residents coming to the town, the present inadequate facilities had not been considered. Council should demand that assurance be given that an Outpatients' Department and enhanced Health Centre with a minor injuries unit be included in the Hospital plans.

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

There was nothing to report on the matter at this time.

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

Penny Baker of Krunch was in attendance and reported to members that the group had been running for 3 years with funding from South Gloucestershire Council and the Town Council to help provide youth services for the town. South Gloucestershire Council was now considering not to fund beyond the 3 years. Penny reported that Krunch had greatly exceeded the criteria required by South Gloucestershire Council of 90 youth club members by the end of the three years. The Club could now boast 480 Youth Club members.

During the last three years Krunch had also delivered mentoring and special needs programmes. It was now looking as if South Gloucestershire Council would be withdrawing their funding which would lead to closure of the facility by April leaving young people at risk of exclusion.

Whilst Penny thanked Town Council for its support in granting a sum to cover the rent for the group it was believed that the rent at their present site, Turnberries, could be tripled in the next year which would result in a larger funding requirement. At the present time the Youth Club has a budget of £56,000 per year, of which, £25,000 is from the South Gloucestershire Council Activity Fund, £10,000 from Town Council and the remainder raised by Krunch. If South Gloucestershire Council withdraws funding then there will be a shortfall of £25,000. However, if Turnberries triples its rent, Krunch would need £45,000 to continue operating the Youth Club.

Members were informed that the group had been investigating the possibility of moving location although the ideal outcome for Krunch would be to take over the whole building.

Cllr Maggie Tyrrell reminded members the Youth Club had been accommodated in Turnberries because their previous site had been demolished because of its dilapidated condition. It was agreed that a letter be written to South Gloucestershire Council, and copied to the trustees of Turnberries, asking what the intentions were for the future of the Turnberries building.

It was also agreed that a letter be sent to Amanda Deeks, South Gloucestershire Council's Chief Executive, requesting that the relevant South Gloucestershire Council officers meet with Town and District councillors to attempt to ensure that the Youth Club has the funding and facilities that it requires to continue.

Penny Baker was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting.

(d) Creating a Dementia Friendly Community

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported that the last meeting of the group had been the 12<sup>th</sup> November and since then there had been two successful Dementia Awareness training sessions in the library with attendees numbering 16 and 14. It was anticipated that more training sessions, run by Jane Gilliard, would be held in the Library in the New Year. It was hoped to run a session in the Council Chamber for councillors and staff on the 27<sup>th</sup> January and it was agreed that members of the Chamber of Commerce be invited to attend.

The group were looking to develop Dementia Awareness by producing a logo and stickers for display in dementia friendly premises in the town. The cost of this would be £50 for 200 stickers and it was agreed that Council cover the cost of these.

(e) Police Premises in the Town Hall

The Clerk informed members that she was considering the Heads of Terms of Lease for the proposed Police premises in the Town Hall. A new front door to the premises had been installed and it was agreed that Council would cover part of the cost as the existing door was rotten.

(f) Retirement of Town Clerk and Appointment of Successor

It was reported that a short list had been drawn up and that psychometric tests had been carried out. Two candidates would be interviewed in the following week.

(g) South Gloucestershire Council – Queen Elizabeth – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that the relevant information had been sent to the organisers of the event and that, it was anticipated, there would be no further progress with this matter until the New Year.

**4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

There were no matters in progress to be discussed.

**5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Financial Statement for October was received and noted.

**6. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

South Gloucestershire Council	Rates (November) – Town Hall	1294.00
South Gloucestershire Council	Rates (November) - Cemetery	278.00

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

**Central Services**

Avon Local Councils' Association	Subscription November 2015/March 2016	367.32
British Telecommunications plc	Telephone Bill – Town Hall	204.10
British Telecommunications plc	Telephone Bill	97.37
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – Town Hall	315.34
Open Spaces Society	Subscription 2016	45.00
SITA UK Ltd	Waste collection	249.74
Pitney Bowes	Ink cartridge – Franking Machine	203.82
Postage By Phone – Pitney Bowes	Franking Machine Top-Up	160.80

Petty Cash		120.00
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### **Playing Fields & Cemetery**

Abbey Loos	Hire of toilet unit	100.80
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	230.88
British Telecommunications	Telephone Bill – PFC	30.80
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	331.44
Countrywide Farmers plc	Boots and Jackets	103.48
Countrywide Farmers plc	Spade Handle	5.99
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – Cemetery	17.17
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – MPF	115.99
GAP Supplies Ltd	Stock items – sand etc	122.39
D & S Pierce	Hedge Cutting	600.00
Sullivans Machinery	Clutch cable etc	64.42
Travis Perkins	Cement	42.55
Travis Perkins	Valves	22.71
Travis Perkins	Sand and shovels	55.35
Travis Perkins	Cement	42.55
Thornbury Tyre Services Ltd	Tube	59.88
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	118.36
T H White Ltd	Pipe	23.58
Bristol Lime & Conservation Ltd	Repairs to War Memorial	2340.00

### **Environment**

Earth Anchors	Seat	650.40
Hawkins of Thornbury	Bolts	3.80
Horders Thornbury Press	Christmas Cards	234.00
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	78.90

### **Land & Property**

T Hopkins Building Service	Roof repairs – 67 High Street	1,475.00
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### **Grants & Contingencies**

The Festive Lighting Co Ltd	Christmas Lights	48.00
The Festive Lighting Co Ltd	Christmas Lights	990.00
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Advertisement	210.00
The Swan	Community Toilet Scheme	187.50
Steamers Ltd (Wheatsheaf)	Community Toilet Scheme	150.00
Armstrong Hall	Community Toilet Scheme	250.00
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – Museum	301.23
Murray Hire Centres Ltd	Crowd Barriers & panels	92.70
The Chantry	Room Hire – Remembrance Tea	32.30
N Chittenden	Winding clocks at Wildings	75.00
Northavon Youth Theatre Company	Grant	250.00
Thornbury Arts Festival	Grant	900.00
Thornbury in Bloom	Grant	1,400.00
Thornbury Christmas Lights Assoc	Grant	2,000.00
Thornbury Carnival	Grant	800.00
Inspire Arts Trust	Grant	250.00

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

### (a) South Gloucestershire Council - Budget and Savings programme 2016/17

Copies of the programme had been circulated to members, via e-mail, prior to the meeting and the information was received and noted.

### (b) South Gloucestershire Council- Sexual Health Consultation

Copies of the consultation had been circulated to members, via e-mail, prior to the meeting and the information was received and noted.

### (c) South Gloucestershire Council –Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Copies of the Assessment had been circulated to members, via e-mail, prior to the meeting and the information was received and noted.

### (d) South Gloucestershire Council – Summary Draft Cycling Strategy

Copies of the Strategy had been circulated to members, via e-mail, prior to the meeting and the information was received and noted.

### (e) South Gloucestershire Council – Post 16 Travel Assistance – Consultation

Copies of the Consultation had been circulated to members, via e-mail, prior to the meeting and the information was received and noted.

### (f) Neil & Bridget Humphries – request for Road naming in Memory of Paul Wildgoose

A letter had been received from Neil and Bridget Humphries requesting that consideration be given to naming a road on one of the new developments after Bridget's late father, Paul Wildgoose, in recognition of all he had done for the town.

After some discussion it was agreed that if this request was granted, it could set a precedent and many more similar requests may be presented to Council. It was agreed to keep the correspondence on file and Council consider producing a policy to cover such requests.

## **8. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

No publications had been received.