

REPORT of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy
Committee held 28th January 2016

Present: Cllr: Helen Harrison (Chairman)

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

Judith Payne (Town Clerk)
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

2. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Sheryl Drewitt to the meeting and invited her to address members.

The following matters were brought to members' attention:-

- Three burglaries had occurred recently, one in Chantry Road, one in Jubilee Drive and another in Alveston. These had a pattern of being early evening break-ins.
- The travellers that were located in the Leisure Centre car park moved out on Saturday 23rd January, having been served notice by South Gloucestershire Council two days previously. The Police had received eight calls from the general public while they were in the town, mostly complaints of intimidating behaviour by the travellers' children.
- The problem with skateboarding in St. Mary Centre has now been resolved and 'No Skateboarding' signs have been requested. The Police had suggested to the offenders that they use the Skatepark but they said it is too dark and they are now in contact with Dan Potter to explore installing lighting at the Skatepark.
- A shop window had been broken in St. Mary Centre and the offender being dealt with under restorative justice.

PCSO Sheryl Drewitt was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Thornbury Hospital/Health Centre Development

The Clerk informed members that e-mails she had sent to Ben Bennett of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had been returned but she had forwarded it to Dr. Jonathan Hayes, Chairman of the CCG.

Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell advised that the CCG had a Board meeting in March and the Health Scrutiny Committee would receive a briefing in February. It was agreed that an open letter to the press could be considered by members after those meetings.

(b) Safer and Stronger Community Group

Cllr Matthew Stringer reported that the Thornbury, Alveston, Aust and Severn group had not yet had a meeting but that Dan Budd had been appointed Chairman for newly- formed group.

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

The Clerk had conveyed Council's comments on the potential changes to Youth Services Funding to both Amanda Deeks and George Kousouros and had received responses from both.

Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell advised that she was unable to comment on any proposals until after the South Gloucestershire Council Budget was released. It was anticipated, however, that funding would be retained in deprived areas but others would receive half the existing funding in the next financial year and a further cut of £100,000 in the following year. Penny Baker of Krunch was working closely with other groups to maximise funding but nothing will be confirmed until the Budget has been agreed.

Cllrs. Maggie Tyrrell and Shirley Holloway would be arranging a meeting with Amanda Deeks to discuss several issues relating to Youth Provision, including the Youth Club's use of Turnberries.

The information was noted.

(d) Creating a Dementia Friendly Community

Cllr. Clive Parkinson reported that the last meeting of the group had been held on the 26th January where Town Council was thanked for agreeing to fund stickers for shops. Pauline Sandell of Age UK, who had agreed to chair the group, now had personal problems and was unable to continue in the role. The next meeting of the group would be in April.

The Dementia Awareness sessions in the Library before Christmas had been quite well attended but the ones planned for this year did not have many attendees. Three dates had been fixed for Library sessions between now and March and it was agreed that Councillors and Staff could attend one of these sessions rather than have a separate event.

(e) Police Premises in the Town Hall

A draft Heads of Terms of Lease had now been prepared as a base for discussion with the Police. The Police had encountered a slight problem with a signal to their radios from inside the Town Hall and there were plans to place a small aerial on the roof to overcome the problem. The information was noted

(f) Retirement of Town Clerk and Appointment of Successor

(It was agreed that this item would be dealt with as last business)

(g) South Gloucestershire Council – Queen Elizabeth – 90th Birthday Celebrations

Cllr. Guy Rawlinson reported that invitations had been sent out but he was unaware of the recipients. He would be having a meeting with Dame Janet Trotter next week where he hoped to obtain up-to-date information. The information was received and noted.

(h) Policy for Street Naming

It had been agreed at the last meeting that Council should produce a policy giving guidelines on granting a request to have a street/road named after a Thornbury resident.

It was agreed that a Working Party be formed to consider appropriate criteria for considering any proposed name and Cllrs. Bob Griffin, Benj Emmerson, Shirley Holloway and Maggie Tyrrell agreed to be Committee's representatives on the Working Party.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Lease of 67 High Street

(It was agreed to take this item as penultimate business)

5. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

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

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

Central Services

Petty Cash		100.00
Consortium	Stationery	58.66
Consortium	Envelopes	16.67
Consortium	Envelopes	16.91
Danwood	Copier Paper	51.12
Danwood	Copier Meter Reading	34.44
Pitney Bowes	Franking Machine Top Up	160.80
Big Interactive	Projector and Screen	650.00

Playing Fields & Cemetery

Abbey Loos	Mobile Toilet Unit Hire	110.40
G.A.P Supplies Ltd	Repair Materials – Cemetery	169.26
Lathams Ltd	Buffalo Board	174.71
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	45.27
Thornbury Tyre services Ltd	Tyre – Ford Transit	95.94
Veolia	Waste Collection	250.20
Veolia	Waste Collection	136.54
Yate Supplies	Refuse Sack	99.72

Environment

Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	30.16
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6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Thornbury Sea Cadets – Grant Application

A letter had been received from the Chairman of Thornbury Sea Cadets requesting grant aid in order for the unit to purchase 3 paddles to use with some paddleboards that had been donated to them. It was proposed by Cllr Clive Parkinson, seconded by Cllr Guy Rawlinson and unanimously agreed to fully grant aid the cost of the paddles for a sum of £210.00.

(b) ALCA – Royal Garden Party - Invitation

An e-mail had been received from ALCA asking for nominations to attend the Royal Garden Party on Tuesday 10th May 2016, it was agreed that Cllr Helen Harrison would draw two names to put into the ballot.

(c) National Grid Community Relations Team

An e-mail had been received from Simon Keen of the National Grid Community Relations team advising of the refurbishment work this year on the pylon route between Iron Acton substation and Oldbury Power Station. The information was noted and it was suggested that if a map could be sourced it would be useful information to go on the Town Council website.

7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

No publications had been received.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Lease of 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 to Appoint the agreed agent to act on Council's behalf for the renewal of the lease and to explore the most cost effective option.

3. (f) Retirement of Town Clerk and Appointment of Successor

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. 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

On return to open session members resolved to rescind the current offer of appointment and advise the applicant accordingly.