

REPORT of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy
Committee held 7th July 2016

Present: Cllr: Alan Carman (Chairman)

Cllrs: Benj Emmerson
Matthew Stringer
Angela Symonds
Maggie Tyrrell

Clare Nelmes (Town Clerk)
Graham Smith (Temporary RFO)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Guy Rawlinson (Out of Thornbury)
Bob Griffin (Out of Thornbury)
Helen Harrison (Mayoral duties)
Clive Parkinson (Out of Thornbury)
Shirley Holloway (Out of Thornbury)

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. POLICE MATTERS

PC Sean White and Special Sgt Roland Lock were in attendance and reported on the following matters:-

- Police officers and PCSO's now based at the Town Hall is working well and is helping to maintain and improve working relationships with the town councils and local businesses.
- There has been a slight increase in theft from shops (particularly Boots & Tesco's) and Police are working with them to reduce incidents, changes to store layout have been suggested.
- There has been a slight increase in reports of ASB in the St Mary's Centre, mostly skateboarding. Signage, some bans and ABC's have been introduced to tackle behaviour.
- A homeless individual is causing some concern and incidents and a multi-agency approach is being taken to address the situation.
- There has been damage to the window of the Baptist Church which is being investigated
- Travellers attempted to access the Rock St car park but were prevented from doing so by the height barrier and were moved on.
- Carnival went well with no reported incidents
- Arrests have been made following incidents at the Mundy Playing Fields and at Alveston. Police are re-assuring public that instances of this nature are very rare and are advising children in schools.
- Update on CCTV
The St Mary's Centre has a very good system consisting of 22 cameras.
SGC manage 3 cameras in the High St which are monitored under contract by Bristol City Council. The quality of these is not as good as others and it would be good to get these upgraded.
Town council have CCTV at the Mundy Playing Fields and the Cemetery
It is hoped that the Police can have a live feed of local camera's from their office.

A new scheme is being introduced to Shop Watch which will allow easier image and information sharing to prevent crimes.

The Peer Group security have body cameras. The Police are due to get body worn cameras later this year.

- Cllr Emerson asked about incidents at Oakleaze Green, which the Police confirmed have reduced and concerns about security at the Dags Allotments. The Police answered by stating that they had not had any new incidents reported to them, they patrol the allotments regularly and that there was due to be a meeting with allotment holders to discuss their concerns.

Thanks were given to both for the update

4. MATTERS ARISING AND IN PROGRESS FROM LAST MEETING

(a) Thornbury Hospital/Health Centre Development

Cllr Tyrrell reported that this has not been scheduled into the Health Scrutiny work programme for an update. The NHS Estate Plan was scheduled to be discussed and that this was a potential route for a funding bid for the development

(b) Safer and Stronger Community Group

Cllr Matthew Stringer reported that the date of the next meeting would now be 20th July 2016 and that these have now been renamed as Community Engagement Forum following the ceasing of Area Forums by SGC.

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

The Clerk is due to meet with Penny Baker to discuss youth work in the town and any issues regarding youth services and provision.

(d) Creating a Dementia Friendly Community

Some councillors have been on training. The clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of any further training opportunities and for the information to be circulated to Cllrs, who were not able to attend previously

(e) Appointment of new town clerk and temporary RFO

The new Clerk and RFO introduced themselves and discussed how they were settling into their new roles and initial thoughts on what they have found so far. The RFO talked about potential options the council may wish to explore and a review of financial processes and procedures including the outsourcing of elements of accountancy as an option. Cllrs views were also gathered on how they would like financial information presented to them in the future with suggestions including spend against budget on a quarterly basis, and comparisons with previous years.

(f) Tenancy of flat at 67 High Street

Councillors were informed that the Flat at 67 High St had been re-let following the departure of the previous tenant. The Clerk had inspected the premises and noticed that whilst in good overall condition, the flats kitchen was outdated and that it's replacement would be considered as part of next years budget.

(g) Mayors Youth Award

There was nothing to report

(h) Three Year Council Plan

The clerk reported that this was currently being drafted following discussions with individual committee chairs and staff and included existing projects and decisions. It was hoped that a draft would be presented to councillors in September for agreement and that this would help to inform the council's budget setting process.

5 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The financial statement for May 2016 was presented to committee and the information noted.

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

South Gloucestershire Council	Rates (June) – Town Hall	1305.00
South Gloucestershire Council	Rates (June) – Cemetery	281.00

(b) It was proposed by Cllr Matthew Stringer, seconded by Cllr Benj Emerson and unanimously agreed that the following accounts now due for payment be approved:-

Central Services

ALCA Avon local Councils	CiLCA Support Course	20.00
British Telecom	Telephone Bill	369.32
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – TH	351.66
EKE Security Ltd	Replace Monitor & DVR	199.20
Graham Smith	Accountancy Support	525.00
NALC	Annual Subscription	108.00
Siemens financial Services Ltd	Photocopier Rental	369.44
The Consortium	Stationery	4.43
The Consortium	Stationery	116.55
Grantley House (Hawkins)	Extension Leads	35.99
Danwood Group Ltd	Copy Paper	51.12
Melrose (UK) Ltd	APLH Training Course	150.00
Postage By Phone	Franking Machine Top Up	160.80

Playing Fields & Cemetery

Almondsbury Garden Centre	Bedding Plants	663.94
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – Chapel	14.35
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill – MPF	84.99
Countrywide Farmers	Slug & Snail Killer	52.99
Brass Founders	Brass Plaques	122.98
British Telecom	Telephone Bill	41.66
GAP Supplies Ltd	Washers, Tape etc	13.88
Sullivans Machinery	Clutch Cable etc	47.84
Sullivans Machinery	Cable Assembly	22.20
Silvey Oil Fuel Specialists	Gas Oil	184.79
Travis Perkins	Roller kits etc	43.73
Travis Perkins	Masonry Set	14.40
Travis Perkins	Dulux weathershield	194.59
Travis Perkins	Dulux Gloss Paint	186.91
Tony's Skip Hire	Skip hire – 19 th May	384.00
The Consortium	Cleaning Materials	99.42

Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	104.79
Travis Perkins	Barrier Repair	16.70
Travis Perkins	Trade Screw	9.68

Land & Property

Gas Sure Services Ltd	Repair Gas Boiler	342.00
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Environment

Almondsbury Garden Centre	Hanging Baskets	60.45
Bristol Link with Nicaragua	Fairtrade Grower Visit	50.00
South Glos Council	Localism Service Charge	4221.51
Tony & Sue's Flowers Ltd	Hanging Basket Brackets	149.40
Thornbury & District Heritage	Tea Towels	27.50
Grantley House (Hawkins)	Cable Ties, Paint & Silicone	31.93
Thornbury Motors	Petrol	157.19
T & J Owen	Planting	1602.00

Grants & Contingencies

Matrix BES Ltd	Floodlight Repair – Church	21.66
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- (c) The transfer of funds from council's base rate tracker account to the wages account was proposed by Cllr Matthew Stringer, seconded by Cllr Benj Emerson and unanimously agreed.

6. PAVILLION ROOF

Cllrs considered the three quotations for the repair of the pavilion roof. Cllr Benj Emerson proposed and Cllr Matthew Stringer, seconded and it was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Graham Allen & Sons Ltd.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Police & Crime Commissioner consultation on Policing Priorities 2016 to 2021

The information on the above consultation had been e-mailed with the agenda and was noted. Members felt that the priorities outlined were reasonable and wanted to emphasise how strongly we support the local policing team and the benefits of having a locally based team to the community. The clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

- (b) South Gloucestershire Council Dementia Strategy, Carers Strategy and Falls Prevention Strategy consultations

This consultation was noted and the clerk was asked to respond stating Town Council's commitment to being a dementia friendly town.

- (c) South Gloucestershire Council Consultation on the future of Day Services provision at currently provided at Turnberries

This consultation was noted and the clerk was asked to respond stating Town Council's request to be involved in any future discussions about the use of the Turnberries building.

- (d) A letter of thanks for the grant awarded was also received from Jigsaw

The chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.