

REPORT of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy
Committee held 24th September 2015

Present: Cllr: Maggie Tyrrell (in the Chair)

Cllrs: Benj Emmerson
Bob Griffin
Shirley Holloway
Clive Parkinson
Angela Symonds
Gail Whitehead

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

Absent : Cllr: Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Guy Rawlinson (Mayoral Engagement)
Matthew Stringer (Other Commitment)

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC Sean White had sent apologies for non-attendance and had provided a report for members' information.

The following matters were brought to members' attention.

- There had been a theft of food from the Co-op involving a male and his young daughter.
- Three Bristol males were arrested in Castle Street in a car stolen from Westbury-on-Trym.
- Two mopeds had been stolen overnight from outside addresses in Thornbury and had been located/recovered concealed nearby.
- Since the last meeting there had been no great trend in crime and Thornbury/Alveston still has a low crime rate.
- There have been issues with travellers during the summer and the police have been working with landowners giving advice on how to prevent future problem. South Gloucestershire Council would be replacing the height barrier at the entrance to Rock Street car park.
- DJ Derek, a high risk missing person, has not been seen for several weeks. He has connections in this area and his bus pass suggests he caught the Thornbury bus from Bristol on Sunday 12th July. Searches had taken place locally but he remains missing.
- There was a minor spate of rural crime in July and since that time the "Farm Watch" scheme has been introduced. Over 50 farms had been visited by the police and signed up to the scheme in an effort to reduce crime in the future.

The Clerk advised that an incident had occurred at the cemetery when a person (probably male) had deposited four parcels of chopped meat wrapped in white cloths in four locations in the cemetery. The incident had been caught on CCTV and the police have taken the meat away for analysis.

As Cllr. Clare Fardell was in attendance, it was agreed to take Item 6(g) as next business

6.(g) John Riddiford – Parking for First Responder

John Riddiford had approached Cllr. Clare Fardell seeking advice on the possibility of finding a parking space for the First Responder vehicle near his shop. His vehicle was normally parked at the Fire Station and when he is on duty, and in the shop, there is a delay whilst he travels to the Fire Station. He would, therefore, prefer to park near the High Street. Cllr. Fardell had suggested that the Bakery Annexe may be a suitable place for a parking space and the Clerk was asked if this was feasible.

The Clerk advised that any decision would have to be made by the Armstrong Hall Management Committee as the Trust owned the land. She also said that members the Art Club used the yard to park vehicles four days a week in conjunction with its hiring of the Bakery Annexe and several of the Club members were disabled.

Age UK and the tenant of the Flat had one parking space each and Council's handyman also parked there and needed access to his workshop. There was also a problem with random people parking in there even with the sign advising that the area was private and for the use of authorised vehicles only. Because of these ongoing parking problems, the Clerk felt that there was a distinct possibility that the First Responder ambulance could be blocked in with very dangerous consequences.

It was agreed that the best option would be for South Gloucestershire Council to agree to a dedicated space in either St. Mary Street car park or the High Street. It was also suggested that, as the police parking space at the top of the High Street was not often used, it could be used jointly with the First Responder ambulance. Cllr. Fardell said that a formal request had not yet been made to South Gloucestershire Council and stated that she would contact both the police and South Gloucestershire Council to try and resolve the matter.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Project Steering Group for Thornbury Hospital

The Clerk reported that Ben Bennett of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had agreed to attend the October Council meeting. Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell reported that the next Stakeholders meeting would be held in November. The information was noted.

(b) Safer and Stronger Community Group

Cllr. Clive Parkinson advised that South Gloucestershire Council would no longer be supporting the Safer and Stronger Community Group to the same extent as it had in the past. Brian Gaches of South Gloucestershire Council did not know what would be happening to the group in the future.

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had advised that Town Council would pursue the issue of pedestrian crossings for residents of the new Park Farm and Bloor Homes developments. It was agreed to write to South Gloucestershire Council requesting information on proposed pedestrian and traffic management plans intended on the two developments and the intended timescale to implement the proposals. It was also agreed that Council requests the installation of a zebra crossing by the Anchor Inn and seek information on the proposed traffic arrangements at the junction of Butt Lane and Gloucester Road. When any information has been received it should be sent to Brian Gaches who has agreed to distribute it.

If any other issues are raised by residents, they should be advised to present them at the Area Forum.

(c) Youth Provision in Thornbury

The Clerk confirmed that a cheque had been raised in respect of Council's grant of £10,600 and would be paid to Krunch this evening subject to members' approval. Cllr. Clive Parkinson reported that, through the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee, the skatepark user group would be pursuing the possibility of creating a cafe next to the skatepark. Krunch's Penny Baker would be submitting applications for funding.

Cllr. Parkinson expressed great concern that South Gloucestershire Council was looking to reduce funding to youth services in the town and it would be necessary to monitor the situation and make it clear that Council was strongly opposed to any cuts to this service.

The information was noted.

(d) Creating a Dementia Friendly Community

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had attended a meeting at Age UK where it was reported that the first two Dementia Awareness dates had been agreed. One would be in October and one in November and both sessions would be held in the Library. Cllr. Parkinson had received fliers advertising the events and would ensure they were given to office staff to place on the town notice boards.

Before the election, Jane Gilliard had requested that members and staff be invited to Dementia Awareness session and that they either attend a public session or have a private one. At the end of a session it was anticipated that Council would be committed to agree to some involvement.

Members felt that not all members and staff would be available to attend the same session so it was agreed to recommend that two sessions, one public and one private, be arranged. Cllr. Parkinson said that he would arranged a couple of dates

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

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

(f) Police Premises in the Town Centre

The deputy clerk had met with representatives of the police when it was agreed that, provided the lease had been signed and alterations completed, the moving- in date would be 2nd November.

The information was noted.

(g) Remembrance Day Road Closures and Street Marshalling

The Thornbury Rotary Club whose members steward the road closures had expressed concern that its volunteers had received abusive comments from members of the public who were annoyed that they could not access certain roads particularly Kington Lane. PC Sean White had advised the Clerk he would be on duty on Remembrance Sunday and that he would patrol Kington Lane. The Clerk had advised the Rotary Club representative accordingly who was happy with this arrangement.

(h) Thornbury Community Composting Site – Grant Request

The Clerk had asked the outside staff how often they used the Community Composting site and it transpired that green rubbish was deposited there on a regular basis. It was agreed, therefore, that the Composting site to be asked to make a formal application for grant aid and that outside staff should endeavour to find other ways to dispose of Council's green waste.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Thornbury Town Football Club – Request for Grant

The Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee had considered a request from Thornbury Town Football Club to give a grant towards to provision of new rails around the No.1 football pitch. The cost of the work had been £6,000 and Council had been asked to contribute £1,000. Members had agreed to recommend to Committee that a £1,000 grant be awarded.

Members agreed to award a grant of £1,000 to the Football Club.

(b) Q Cells – Tower Hill Solar Farm

It was agreed that the annual community grant in respect of Tower Hill Solar Farm due from Q Cells be placed in Council's Reserve Account so that it can be accumulated and used towards a substantial project in the town.

(c) Request for Plaque on Town Pump

This matter had been referred from Full Council when Mrs. Rosemary Fergus's request to place a small memorial plaque on the town pump in memory of her parents had been considered. Her father, the late Lyndon Hawkins had donated the pump when it was reinstalled at The Plain.

Members agreed in principle subject to the design and wording being accepted by members.

(d) Review of Town Councillor Allowances

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had raised the issue of members receiving allowances and said that this would be the third time that allowances had been discussed and that during that time members had been unanimous in their agreement to refuse any payment.

He recommended that all members remain volunteers and receive no allowance payments. It was agreed to recommend this decision to Full Council at its next meeting.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement for August was received and noted

6. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

EDF	Electricity Bill – Museum	235.76
EDF	Electricity Bill – MPF	105.24
EDF	Electricity Bill – Chapel	15.88

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

Central Services

Danwood	A4 Paper	51.12
Horders	Sharp fax cartridge	56.00
Siemens	Sharp Copier Rental	369.44
Danwood	Copier Meter Readings	39.67
Grant Thorntons	2015 Annual Return	1590.00
G.A.P Supplies	Repair Materials	16.22

Playing Fields & Cemetery

Hardtrac	Tractor Repairs	116.52
T H White	Mower Spares	78.12
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	32.40
Travis Perkins	Paint Brush	7.92
Veolia	Waste Collections	361.85
Veolia	Waste Collection	136.54
Yate Supplies	Compacta Sacks	60.34

TH White	Hire of Grass Cutter	120.00
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	164.70
Countrywide	Roundup ProBio	114.00
G.A.P Supplies	Repair Materials	75.41

Environment

Thornbury garden Shop	Summer Planting	5484.78
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	97.10
Bristol Water	Water services Bill	18.78

Grants & Contingencies

J.N.C.Ltd	Service Fire extinguishers	38.10
Just-So Balloons	500 Printed Balloons	177.00
Krunch	Grant	10,600.00

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council - Taxi Licensing Pre-Consultation

The pre-consultation appeared to be directed at members of the public and it was agreed that if members wished to reply then they should do so as individuals and not as Councillors.

(b) South Gloucestershire Council- Special Expenses & LCTR Support Grant – Consultations

Copies of the consultation had been circulated to members, via e-mail, prior to the meeting. Members agreed unanimously that there should be no reduction whatsoever in the LCTR Support Grant, particularly as there was no confidence that the Government would change its mind in requiring town and parish council to undertake a referendum if they wished to raise the precept more than 2%.

(c) Town Centre Partnership – Minutes of meeting of 3.9.15

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

(d) South Gloucestershire Council – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy – Consultation

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

(e) Children’s Community Health Services – Re-commissioning

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

(f) Christ the King – request for Saturday Morning Prayers for Healing – Silver Street

A letter had been received from Deacon Kingsley Fulbrook of Christ the King Catholic Parish requesting permission to use Silver Street on a Saturday morning for the purpose of prayer for healing. Members considered the request but felt that as Silver Street was a prominent area in the middle of a busy High Street it was not an appropriate place to hold such gatherings. Mr. Fulbrook would be advised accordingly.

(g) *This matter was dealt with as first business*

(h) Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)

Correspondence had been received from Citizen's Advice Bureau Chief Executive, Christine Kenny, requesting funding for the organisation had been circulated to members, via e-mail, prior to the meeting.

As Council had already budgeted to grant aid CAB in the amount of £1,000 in this financial year, it was agreed that this amount be awarded to the Bureau.

8. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

No publications had been received.

9. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Clerk advised that repairs were required to the Flat at 67 High Street to prevent water ingressing through the lounge window. The Clerk had obtained quotations for the work and the best value for money had been a local builder at the cost of £1,325. She would be placing an order in the next couple of days.

The information was noted.