

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 10th May 2016

Present:

Cllrs: Matthew Stringer (Chairman)

Alan Carman
Vincent Costello
Benj Emmerson
Clare Fardell
Guy Rawlinson
Pam Shipp
Martin Trueman
Gail Whitehead

Allan Burberry (Filnore Woods)
Brett Harrison (Thornbury Composting and Filnore Allotments)
Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr: Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

It was proposed by Cllr Matthew Stringer, seconded by Cllr Guy Rawlinson and agreed that Cllr Gail Whitehead be elected as vice chair for the ensuing year.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Fairtrade Status

Cllr Gail Whitehead reported that she would be giving a presentation on Fairtrade to the South Gloucestershire Business Forum and had also been asked to chair the Fairtrade Steering Group.

(b) Town Centre Directional Signage

The signs had been delivered and it was hoped that they would be sited in the near future.

(c) Seating In The Town

(i) Seating Along Streamside Walk

The deputy Clerk reported that she had been unable to meet with South Gloucestershire Council officer Ian Williams to pinpoint the exact spot for the proposed seat on the stretch of Streamside from Gloucester Road to Park Road.

She continued to inform members that in the annual inspection of the seats around the town it had been reported by Council's handyman that the seats on Rock Street were in a bad state of repair and suggested that these be replaced with two purchased from the Hatch. The handyman could then make one seat from the two old seats on Rock Street that would be suitable for Streamside Walk. Members agreed to this idea.

Cllr Benj Emmerson reported that he had been investigating the possibility of siting a seat on the Grovesend Road. He had looked at areas around the Black Horse, the bus shelter opposite and the flats in that area but it was thought that a seat further out of town might be more beneficial. Cllr Benj Emmerson agreed to investigate the area thoroughly and report back to the next meeting. The deputy clerk advised that a seat further out of town was more likely to be vandalised and suggested that members consider purchasing a metal seat as had been sited successfully in similar areas.

(ii) Seat in Memory of Derek Anthony

Members were informed that the seat had been delivered and it was hoped that it would be installed in the near future.

(d) Environmental Area at Poulterbrook

Allan Burberry reported that he would be meeting on site with Paul LeRiche to inspect the area concerned.

(e) Development of Land Adjacent to Composting Site

It was reported that the Tree officer would be investigating the area.

(f) Volunteer Evening

The volunteer evening was a great success and members thanked Judith Hurford for her informative talk and display on the Tree Strategy Group and it's planting around the town. Cllr Clare Fardell suggested that the display be shown in one of the empty shops in the centre and that a press release be sent to the Gazette. Members agreed to this and Cllr Clare Fardell volunteered to implement these suggestions.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson suggested that it would be good to have a leaflet with a map showing where the tress had been planted and to include an informative tree walk. He suggested that students at Castle School had helped with the Streamside Walk signs and that they may be interested to take this on as another project.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

A schedule of minor matters had been circulated and the information was noted.

(b) Summer Walkabout

After much discussion it was agreed that the summer walkabout take place on Monday 27th June meeting on the corner of Butt Lane and Gloucester Road at 6.00pm. Members would then walk along Morton Way where they would see many of the trees planted by Judith Hurford.

(c) Wildlife in Thornbury

Members felt that Thornbury was a remarkable place in that it had a vast amount of wildlife and they thought they would like to carry out a project to bring it all to the attention of the residents. It was agreed that members consider the matter and bring ideas to the next meeting.

(d) Planting on Roundabout at Grovesend

At a recent council meeting a member of the public had stated that they felt the roundabout at Grovesend, which is planted by South Gloucestershire Council but paid for by Town Council, was not looking good and required attention.

Members asked the deputy clerk to contact South Gloucestershire Council requesting a full schedule of works for all areas planted by them and paid for by this council.

4. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The deputy clerk reported that she was about to register with South Gloucestershire Council that the Town Hall would be open for guided tours on 10th September as part of the Heritage Open Doors to be entered in their Discover leaflet. This detailed all events carried out as part of the Open Doors Scheme.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison thanked members for the £1000 grant that Council have given the group recently. He informed committee that a resident of Bristol Road had requested from South Gloucestershire Council through the Freedom of Information, they reveal what their intentions for access to the area opposite the composting site would be should it be developed. He asked them if they would be cutting the composting site in two and how practicable access would be. A reply was awaited.

(c) Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that the plant swap would be on Sunday 15th May.

(d) Filnore Woods

Allan Burberry reported that a recent working party had had a successful session. It had been calculated that at the site there had been 585 hours per year donated by volunteers.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Cllr Vincent Costello reported that the area had now been fenced completely and that the only access was via a stream as long as it was not too wet. He advised that he would investigate the access further.

The deputy clerk reported that she had received a complaint from a resident of the area that she could no longer walk the fishponds and it was agreed that the deputy clerk talk to Historic England to gain a progress report of the situation.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

Judith Hurford tabled information on the trees planted to date and their locations. The information was noted.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury

Felicity Harrison reported that advertising for the groups forthcoming workshops had been displayed and they were now waiting to see if the take up of the workshops would make them a viable event.

(h) Footpath Warden

The Footpath Warden had nothing to report at this time but hoped that as he was no longer chair of council he would have more time to walk the paths particularly those on the new developments.

The deputy clerk informed committee that as requested she had contacted Public Rights of Way at South Gloucestershire Council to discuss the footpath OTH/19 and what measures could be taken to ensure that residents of the Sheiling school would not be affected by the public from the new development walking the path. She had been informed that the Sheiling School had discussed this with South Gloucestershire Council several years ago and had been advised that they could apply for a footpath diversion but that this would cost. The information was noted.

6. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

(a) Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts 2015/16

The draft income and expenditure accounts showing a forward balance of £22366.76 was presented to committee and the information noted.

(b) Reallocation of Forward Balances

It was agreed that the following forward balances be re-allocated as follows:-

Signs	£1,000
Tree Planting	£2,000
Poulterbrook Development	£2,000
Fairtrade	£1,000
Seats	£2,000
Sustainable projects	£5,000
Uncommitted	£9,366.76

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Warwick Place neighbourhood Watch

A request from Warwick Place Neighbourhood Watch for five signs and three 'no cold calling' signs had been received. The deputy clerk informed members that having spoken with the police they no longer supplied 'no cold calling' signs for lampposts etc.

After some discussion members agreed that four signs would be ample and agreed to pay 50% of the cost.

6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

There were no publications