

REPORT of the Meeting of the Environment
Committee held 4th September 2018

Present: Cllrs: Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Clare Fardell
Shirley Holloway
Guy Rawlinson
Angela Symonds

Bret Harrison (Composting Site and Filnore Allotments & Filnore
Woods)

Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)
Jeff Pead (Thornbury Ramblers)

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)
Pam Shipp (Out of Thornbury)
Martin Trueman (Family Commitment)

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 15.5.18**

As the Chair of Thornbury in Bloom and Alison Brown a landscape architect from South Gloucestershire Council were present it was agreed to take item 3(h) as first business

(h) **Re-Planting of Roundabout at Grovesend under Localism Bill**

Alison Brown gave a brief outline of the planting idea and plants to be used in the new design for the Grovesend Roundabout. However this would not now be possible until next autumn as winter bedding had already been ordered for next year and summer would not be an ideal time to start such a project as it would be harder to establish good hardy plants at this time of year. She suggested that members made a decision so that the redesigning could go ahead next autumn.

The Chair of Thornbury in Bloom explained that the use of perennials would give a considerable saving to this council once planted as maintenance of the area would be considerably reduced. The biodiversity and sustainability of the area would also be increased which the group felt would be a good thing for Thornbury.

The deputy clerk reported that the resident of Pullins Green who had many years ago volunteered to maintain the flower beds in that area has recently written to explain that she could no longer continue with the work.

Members hoped that savings on the roundabout might help toward payment to South Gloucestershire Council for this area and it was agreed that the deputy clerk liaise with Alison Brown as to costs and the redesigning and planting with perennials at the top of Gillingstool in the beds that run parallel to Rock Street Car park.

Committee thanked the visitors for their presentation and information.

Alison Brown left the meeting

(a) Fairtrade Status

The Fairtrade group had met and had discussed the promoting of Fairtrade goods in the area. They had agreed that a leaflet be produced showing all goods available in the town and the outlets for these. They felt that it was important to make the public aware of such an initiative in the town and to encourage them to buy the products. It was hoped to launch the campaign in Fairtrade fortnight next year. Cllr Shirley Holloway agreed to raise the matter at the next Town Centre Partnership and hopefully encourage the Chamber of Trade to help with the collecting of the information from businesses within the town.

Members were in agreement with the groups ideas and it was hoped to draft a letter to all retailers etc in the near future requesting them to inform council of the Fairtrade goods that they stocked.

(b) Seating in the Town

(i) Seat on Streamside Walk

After much discussion on where exactly to site the seat it was agreed that Cllr Guy Rawlinson and the Deputy Clerk have a site meeting to find a suitable place for the seat at the Gloucester Road end of this section of Streamside Walk.

(ii) Seat opposite Anchor Pub

The seat was sited and being well used. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(iii) Seat at Malvern Drive

The Deputy Clerk reported that at present due to long term sickness and summer holidays the seat had not been sited but hoped that it would be in the early autumn.

(iv) Seats at Gillingstool

The Deputy Clerk was hoping to liaise with South Gloucestershire Council on the re-siting of the two seats at Gillingstool that committee had requested

(c) Wildlife in Thornbury – Butterfly Bank

It was felt that the butterfly bank was now well established and would be cared for by all concerned. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(d) Walks Booklet Information

Jeff Pead reported that this was an ongoing project.

(e) Solar Panels on Pavilion

The Deputy Clerk reported that following a discussion with Ian Gething of Planning and Conservation at South Gloucestershire Council it had been established that planning permission was not required to site solar panels on the pavilion roof at the Mundy Playing Fields.

In view of this she had contacted three companies who provide and install such equipment and reported to committee the sums quoted so that they could consider this when setting next years budget for environment.

Members were also informed that committee's idea of siting the panels on the Pavilion would be an item on the Playing Fields and Cemetery agenda for that committee to consider at their next meeting.

(f) Siting of Litterbin in Vilner Lane

Members were informed that the bin had been received and that it was awaiting installation.

(g) Heritage Open Doors

Everything was now in place for the event and it was hoped that it would be as successful as in previous years.

(i) Plastic Free Thornbury

There was no further information to report at this time and the Deputy Clerk was asked to contact the lady who had brought it to their attention to find what progress she had made.

(j) Poulterbrook Environmental Area and Summer Walk About

Members had visited Poulterbrook for the summer walkabout and were impressed with the work that had been carried out there. It was agreed to consider planting etc. of the area in the near future.

They expressed their thanks to Paul LeRiche and Andy Heybyrne who had carried out the work.

(k) Loss of Litterbins at Castle School

There had been no further progress with this item and it was agreed to contact the school again to request what had happened to the bins.

(l) Repair to seats in Garden Area Next to Scout Hut Park Road

David Ashford, the police antisocial behaviour officer had inspected the area and felt that it was unadvisable to use the site for a teen shelter.

It was reported that South Gloucestershire Council had tidied the area and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

A list of minor matters that had been reported since the last meeting had been circulated and the information noted.

Cllr Guy Rawlinson informed members that a resident of Pine Close whose garden backed onto Thicket Walk had complained about some pine trees that were causing problems to his property.

The Deputy Clerk agreed to investigate the matter.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The Deputy Clerk informed members that the watering had gone well this year especially considering the very hot summer we had experienced but that unfortunately it would have to come to an end that week and that all premises had been informed of this with the hope that they would continue to water their baskets for a few more weeks.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison informed members that the very hot weather had led to a reduction in the amount of waste deposited at the site. The site had assisted Thornbury in Bloom in both the regional and national competitions.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

Members were informed that the group were holding their annual summer social event at the weekend.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

There was nothing to report at this time

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Members were informed that Robert Duff of Earlsfield Town Planning Ltd., the company who had been employed by the developer of the area to progress the Fishponds was hoping to meet with South Gloucestershire Council on 27th September to move the matter forward. Members requested that Cllr Vincent Costello, committees representative for the Fishponds be included in this meeting and the Deputy Clerk agreed to forward any further information to him.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

The tree warden reported that she had now planted 130 trees in total and was heading toward 150 but that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find new sites.

She continued to report that she has received a large amount of support from the townsfolk who wanted to see more trees and were wishing to sponsor them and take responsibility for those already planted by helping with watering etc. which she welcomed

especially this hot summer. This had also helped her to replace some trees which were dying or had suffered from vandalism.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Members were informed that the group would be holding its AGM and were continuing to be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan.

(h) Footpath Warden's Report

The footpath warden informed members that he had reported vegetation that was obstructing the footpath at Stokefield Close to Lindsay Saunders of South Gloucestershire Council.

(i) Thornbury Ramblers Report

Members were informed that that the group had almost filled their programme for 2019

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) View Architect – Electric Car Charge Points.

An email had been received from the Director of View Architects asking that members consider the provision of electric car charge points in Rock Street Car Park. Members agreed with the idea in principle and suggested that he be put in contact with Danny Bonnett who was already campaigning for and working towards such a scheme in the town.

(b) Jenny Evans – Flower Beds at Pullins Green

This item was covered in item 3(h)