

REPORT of the Meeting of the Environment
Committee held 15th January 2019

Present: Cllrs: Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Vincent Costello
Clare Fardell
Helen Harrison
Shirley Holloway
Pam Shipp

Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Brett Harrison (Composting Site, Filnore Allotments and Woods)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)
Jeff Pead (Thornbury Ramblers)

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: Cllrs: Guy Rawlinson (Out of Thornbury)
Angela Symonds (Out of Thornbury)
Martin Trueman (Work Commitment)

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING OF 13.11.18**

(a) **Fairtrade Status**

A representative from Make Poverty History was in attendance

The response from traders in the town to council's letter requesting information on Fairtrade products that they sold had been poor and it was agreed that Cllrs Clare Fardell and Pam Shipp visit those in the town who are known to sell such goods to encourage them to pass on the necessary information. The representative from Make Poverty History informed members that the churches also sell Fairtrade and it was agreed to investigate where and when this happened.

It was hoped that the information could be compiled into a leaflet in time to be launched at an event being held for Fairtrade fortnight which would start at the end of February.

It was also agreed that Council would ensure that all interested parties would meet with the Nicaraguan producer who would be visiting the town for Fairtrade Fortnight to talk about their work and supply of Fairtrade goods. It was planned that this would take place on the morning of 2nd of March in the Methodist Hall

The representative from Make Poverty History left the meeting

(b) Seating in the Town

(i) Seat on Streamside Walk

There had been no progress on this item.

(ii) Seat at Malvern Drive

The Deputy Clerk reported that it was hoped the seat would be installed later in the week

(iii) Seats at Gillingstool

The Deputy Clerk informed members that the seat opposite Knapp Road would be moved closer to the road in the next week.

There had been no further progress on finding an area to re-site the seat which was currently at the junction of Oakleaze Road and Gillingstool and members agreed to give this some more thought before the next meeting.

(c) Walks Booklet Information

Jeff Pead reported that the checking of the paths in Council's Walks Around Thornbury leaflet was an ongoing project for the ramblers and that at present they had not found a problem with any of the walks as detailed in the booklet.

(d) Solar Panels on Pavilion

The deputy clerk informed members that whilst having been advised to obtain an energy performance certificate before installing panels as this could increase the feed in tariff obtaining the certificate was proving difficult. Most inspectors only carried out the test on domestic property and it was becoming difficult to find anyone who would look at the pavilion. The certificate was not a necessity but they needed to be aware that the rate of the tariff might be lower without it and that the rate in January had dropped and would not be available after the end of March.

Cllr Vince Costello advised members that they should investigate and consider the matter carefully as the drop in tariff might not give a good return on the outlay. It should be decided if the installation was for eco grounds or monetary grounds

It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk make further investigations into the feed in tariff rate and expected pay back sums compared with the initial outlay.

(e) Planting of the Roundabout at Grovesend

Members were informed that the deputy clerk was in contact with Marcus Gill of South Gloucestershire Council to ensure that council would not be paying for the planting of any areas that Thornbury in Bloom had taken responsibility for and that some figures would be supplied for the possible perennial planting on Grovesend roundabout and at Gillingstool.

An email from Alison Brown of South Gloucestershire, the landscape architect was tabled. It informed members that she had met with Thornbury in Bloom to discuss perennial planting in various areas for the future but that summer bedding would be used for the coming season. The information was noted.

(f) Plastic Free Thornbury

Cllr Helen Harrison informed members that the Plastic Free Thornbury group had organised a clean of streamside walk as they had previously carried out to be held on 30th March.

(g) Toilet Scheme

New posters for the premises in the toilet scheme had been compiled and it was hoped they would be distributed in the next few days.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

A list of reported minor matters had been circulated with the agenda and the information was noted.

(b) Volunteer Evening

Members agreed to host the annual Volunteer evening and it was agreed this would take place on Wednesday 27th February with the usual format etc. It was hoped there would be talk on the progress of Filnore Woods.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to carry out the usual arrangements along with issuing invites.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

In view of the recent problems on Daggs allotments that adjoin the Poulterbrook Environmental area members were requested to consider putting a prickly growing plant along the border wall when they consider planting the area in the spring.

Following a meeting with Thornbury in Bloom the Deputy Clerk reported that they had requested that council consider using peat free compost in both their displays outside the town hall and hanging baskets for the town. Whilst it was too late to use peat free in the baskets for this year it was agreed to investigate the use in the floral displays outside the town hall.

The Mens Shed had volunteered to make new boxes to replace those at the back of the Town Hall where the wood was now rotting. The cost would only be for the wood and it was agreed to take up this offer.

Members were informed that notification had been received of the annual National Spring clean event. It was suggested that members join with Litterbusters as usual and that maybe Litterbusters would be interest in joining in with the plastic free stream clean as discussed earlier.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison informed members that they were approaching the 20th anniversary at the composting site but unfortunately if further financial aid was not received then the site would not have enough money to continue. A big problem was the fact that commercial waste was being deposited at the site illegally as it wasn't clearly stated on the South Gloucestershire website that this site was for domestic garden waste only. A letter had been written to South Gloucestershire council explaining the situation and Cllr Clare Fardell requested that South Gloucestershire councillors who were also Town Councillors be copied into the letter.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

It was reported that the locked container where tools were kept on the site had been broken into and a strimmer which was for the use of allotment holders had been stolen.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

A report was tabled and the information noted. Members were also informed that the thieves from the allotments had also attempted to break into the container store at this site but had been unsuccessful.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Mr Duff had given some dates when he would be available to meet with committees representative Cllr Vincent Costello and it was hoped a meeting would be convened in the near future to discuss the future development of the fishponds.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

The tree warden tabled a report and the information was noted. She reported that she would be returning to the Plying Fields and Cemetery committee with some planting plans she had for many of council's outside spaces.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Felicity Harrison reported that the group were continuing with its meetings in Hawkes House in order to try and attract and encourage younger people into the group and to ascertain their views.

(h) Footpath Warden's Report

The footpath warden had nothing to report.

(i) Thornbury Ramblers Report

There was nothing to report from the rambling club.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Consultation on Potential Removal of Recycling Bags for Kerbside Collection

The information had been circulated with the agenda and members expressed their support for the proposed removal of recycling bags and that it all be collected in one bin..

(b) Butterfly Bank

A letter had been received from a member of the public requesting that the butterfly bank be extend along Morton Way.

Members were informed that the group were waiting to see if the butterflies returned and increased in number after the problems of the previous year before carrying out any further work to the area.