

REPORT of the Meeting of the
Environment Committee held on 19 February 2019

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

Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Brett Harrison (Composting Site, Filnore Allotments and Woods)

Sandra Richardson (Deputy Clerk)
Wendy Sydenham (Administrator/Minutes)

(Cllr Martin Trueman – absent)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Helen Harrison (another commitment)
(Judith Hurford – Tree Warden)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Shirley Holloway declared an interest in matters relating to Plastic Free Thornbury as a member of the organisation.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF MEETING ON 15 JANUARY 2019

(a) Fairtrade – Update on Leaflet

A copy of the Thornbury Fairtrade Directory leaflet had been circulated and was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Clare Fardell would ask Cllr Helen Harrison to make two changes to the leaflet before it was printed and circulated throughout Thornbury - (1) the main Fairtrade brand of ice cream should be named in brackets, and (2) the lines separating the shops/coffee shops and the categories should be made more bold as they were currently hard to see. With these changes, the Committee agreed that the leaflet should be printed and circulated. Copies would be distributed in various places throughout the town including the Library, Over 60s Tea Room, Town Hall, etc, and also put on the Town Council website.

There were a number of other issues identified as needing to be investigated further and perhaps changes made in future editions of the leaflet - (1) some shops/coffee shops who indicated that they sold Fairtrade hot chocolate may only stock a particular brand that had previously been Fairtrade but was no longer, (2) the criteria for "fairly traded" needs to be clarified and more information included on the leaflet, and (3) whether coffee shops default to serving Fairtrade or whether this has to be specifically requested.

Cllr Fardell confirmed that there would be a coffee morning organised by Churches Together on 9 March 2019 at 10.00am-12.00noon in the Methodist Church Hall. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor would be attending. A Fairtrade grower would also be attending and would give a short talk. Cllr Matthew Stringer agreed to check if there was a screen and projector available for the talk. It was agreed that the environment budget should cover the cost of lunch for the Fairtrade grower and their interpreter.

(b) Seating in the Town

(i) Seating along Streamside Walk

The Deputy Clerk reported that this seat seemed too big for the space and the suggestion was made that this seat could be moved to the Cemetery to replace another rotting seat. This proposal was agreed.

(ii) Seat at Malvern Drive

The Deputy Clerk reported that this seat was now in place and it was agreed that this item could therefore be taken off the Committee agenda.

(iii) Moving of Seats at Gillingstool

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the seat opposite Knapp Road had been moved and that the concrete plinth would be taken away as soon as possible. With regard to the seat at the junction of Oakleaze and Gillingstool, the Deputy Clerk suggested that members of the Committee look at this seat and its situation so that this could be considered further at the next meeting.

(c) Walks Booklet Information

In Jeff Paed's absence, it was agreed that this agenda item be carried forward.

(d) Solar Panels on Pavilion

The Deputy Clerk had circulated three quotes for the installation of solar panels on the Pavilion and highlighted that a decision would need to be made quickly as if we decided to proceed, the panels needed to be in place by the end of March in order to take advantage of the favourable tariff. The Deputy Clerk presented the quotes and they were discussed by the Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Guy Rawlinson that we proceed with Company 2 including obtaining an EPC rating. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Vincent Costello and unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that the issue of insulation of the Pavilion should be on a future Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee agenda.

(e) Planting of Roundabout at Grovesend

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she had not yet received the figures relating to this item and it was therefore agreed to carry this forward.

(f) Plastic Free Thornbury

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the stream clean had been moved and that she would re-circulate the email with the new date. It was noted that as this would take place during Purdah, Councillors could only attend as members of the public and not as representatives of Council.

(g) Toilet Scheme

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the new posters had been distributed to participating establishments (Wheatsheaf, Papilio, Malt House and Swan) who had all confirmed that they would be prominently displayed. It was agreed that this should be monitored but could be removed from the agenda.

(h) Volunteer Evening

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had received a large number of acceptances for the Volunteer Evening on Wednesday 27 February 2019 and that she would be contacting the speaker to check that he had everything he needed for his talk.

(i) Annual Spring Clean

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she would email Committee members with the dates for this event and asked that Committee members let her know if they wished to attend so that she could inform the organisers.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

A list of reported minor matters had been circulated and the information was noted. Brett Harrison reported that the lights were not working in the underpass near Tesco (under the old railway line) and the Deputy Clerk agreed to report this.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

(a) Operational Matters

The Deputy Clerk reported that letters had been sent out for the Accommodation Guide.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison reported there had been a very productive meeting with South Gloucestershire Council who had indicated that they would like the composting site to continue into its 20th year.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that following the recent break in, the locked container had been repaired and strengthened and the lost equipment had been replaced with second hand equipment from the Men's Shed at a much reduced cost.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

A report was tabled and noted.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Cllr Vincent Costello reported that he and the Tree Warden were waiting for the area to dry out and more leaves to be on the trees before revisiting, at which point he would be able to provide a further report.

(f) Tree Warden's Report

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that there was nothing to report in the Tree Warden's absence. The tree strategy meeting had been postponed due to the snow and would be rearranged shortly.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Felicity Harrison confirmed that there was nothing further to report at this stage and that they were awaiting their next meeting.

(h) Footpath Warden's Report

The Footpath Warden had nothing to report.

(i) Thornbury Ramblers' Report

There was no report from Thornbury Ramblers.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Deputy Clerk read out an email received from a member of the public regarding the lack of recycling waste bins in Thornbury and highlighting that these facilities were available in busy parts of Chipping Sodbury and Yate. The issue was discussed, including costs involved in providing the bins and emptying them, and whether this would be met by South Gloucestershire Council or the Town Council. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should investigate how the system worked in Chipping Sodbury and Yate and report back to the Committee.