

REPORT of the Meeting of the
Environment Committee held on 14 May 2019

Present: Cllr Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Cllr Clare Fardell
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Bob Griffin

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

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Guy Rawlinson (another commitment)
Cllr Martin Trueman (another commitment)
Cllr Eva Lily Fielding (Work commitment)

2. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Matt stringer nominated Cllr Guy Rawlinson as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Clare Fardell and in the absence of any other nominations, it was unanimously agreed.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

4. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5. TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2019

(a) Fairtrade – Update

Cllr Clare Fardell asked whether there were still leaflets in tourist information; the deputy clerk confirmed there were. Cllr Fardell questioned how to monitor the accuracy of the content and suggested that the leaflets be updated every six months. It was agreed this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

(b) Seating in the Town

(i) Seating along Streamside Walk - Update

The deputy clerk reported that the police were not happy with the proposed location due to anti social behaviour in the area. Cllr Jayne Stansfield questioned the proposed location, stating that residents had said they would prefer the seat to be positioned at the Malvern Drive end, as it was otherwise a long way to walk without a seat. This was considered and it was agreed the deputy clerk would speak with South Glos council, who own the land and also the police, to assess suitability of this location.

(ii) Moving of seat at junction of Oakleaze and Gillingstool - Update

The deputy clerk explained the seat was to be moved to a more accessible position, as currently there is a large grass bank on the approach to it. She had received a draft license from South Glos council which needed to be confirmed. She needed to check with various utility companies whether they had structures beneath the site which repositioning the seat could interfere with. This process would be time consuming.

(c) Walks Booklet – Jeff Pead

The deputy clerk confirmed she had not heard from Jeff Pead. The former deputy clerk, Sandra Richardson had previously offered to start assessing the accuracy of the maps and though this would be ongoing, it had been started. The deputy clerk queried whether she had authority to amend these booklets and it was confirmed she had.

(d) Solar Panels on Pavilion - Update

The deputy clerk reported the new solar panels had been installed successfully. She was waiting for the feeding tariff to be confirmed.

(e) Planting of Roundabout at Grovesend - Update

The Deputy Clerk had spoken with Alison Brown at South Glos Council and would be receiving updated costs in the next few weeks for the planting this Autumn.

(f) Plastic Free Thornbury - Update

There was no update, due to personnel issues at Plastic Free Thornbury

(g) Recycling bins in Thornbury - Update

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had spoken to Chipping Sodbury council who informed her they do not have recycling bins. They suggested that their town trust may have one. The deputy clerk had also spoken with Yate council's estate manager who stated that they empty all their own bins. They currently had 2 in Kings Gate Park, 1 in Abbots Wood and a further 2 planned for Kings Gate Park. The estate manager reported that the scheme did not work well initially and much of the recycling was contaminated. After six months, this improved.

Cllr Clare Fardell questioned whether there was a demand for recycling bins. If residents are currently taking waste home to be recycled, she felt there may not be a need to install them in public places. She advised we had previously had recycling bins, but they were removed as it was impossible to stop commercial use of them.

Due to the £400-500 cost to purchase bins and the ongoing requirement for grounds staff to sort them, it was agreed more information was needed to make a decision. The deputy clerk

will reply to the resident who originally emailed and also speak with our grounds staff about the current position and future requirement.

6. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

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

Judith Hurford had been made aware of an injured resident who had fallen on a public footpath. She had no further details and would find them out so it could be looked into.

(b) Poulterbrook environmental area

- **What to plant**
- **Trees**
- **Bug wall**

The deputy clerk is to contact the rep. about the bug wall in relation to Thornbury in Bloom.

Judith Hurford needs more places to plant trees and has received an offer from Paul Le Riche to help plant. He has requested Oak trees for their longevity. Judith reported two crab apples and a silver birch had already been planted. She stated that it costs £160 to plant each tree, due to needing to pass South Glos. Council criteria. At the next meeting she will request a grant. She was informed that £1030 was budgeted for the 2019/20 financial year. Judith stated that she intends to request a higher amount, as she has obtained permission to plant a larger number on South Glos land and also wishes to find an area to plant an orchard.

Cllr Clare Fardell suggested Judith Hurford investigate the possibility of sponsorship from local businesses. She is hoping to plant during Tree Week at the end of November.

For other planting, Judith Hurford requested bee friendly perennials, whilst Cllr Clare Fardell suggested primroses. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would confirm how much of the Green Projects budget was left after the purchase of solar panels.

(Jeff Pead arrived at meeting)

7. OPERATIONAL

(a) Operational Matters

The Heritage Open day would take place on 21st September 2019, Cllr Matt Stringer explained volunteers would be needed in various slots. Cllr Bob Griffin offered his time and the other councillors were invited to do the same.

The deputy clerk reported that the accommodation guide was complete.

The deputy clerk updated the committee on the position with hanging baskets. She reported there had been a lot of interest, but of the 160 on order, only 113-114 had been sold. She had however been advised not to reduce the order. Cllr Pam Shipp was attempting to generate more sales. Delivery was due at the end of May/beginning of June. The deputy clerk reported that a new waterer had been recruited.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison reported that new, young volunteers were clearing the site well. They were still contending with waste being dumped by contractors.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that the allotments had a waiting list with 4 people on it. There was a plant swap scheduled for this Sunday.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

Brett Harrison encouraged committee members to find the online blog by Jerry Dicker, which was very detailed. <http://filnorewoods.blogspot.com/>

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Judith Hurford had previously met with former councillor Vince Costello who had given her an overview of the ponds. A survey had been carried out on behalf of David Wilson Homes which was very detailed. The ponds are held in trust and residents have responsibility to look after them, however many don't know and funding is an issue. It was questioned who would implement the report's recommendations and whether the site was an SSSI in addition to a National Heritage site.

Judith Hurford requested that the above mentioned survey be circulated to the committee and an interest was expressed in a tour of the area, as several were not aware of the location.

(f) Tree Warden's Report

There had been a Tree Strategy Group meeting at the end of March, which had proved useful. Two watering teams were established, but more waters were needed. Last summer, 11 trees had needed watering daily.

A survey had been completed and maintenance list drawn up. In the past year, 15 trees had been planted, bringing the running total to 150. Several people had given trees to the cause.

Judith Hurford reported that she was currently working on a database and it was agreed that she would demonstrate the database to the Committee at the September meeting.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Felicity Harrison reported that work by the group was progressing

(h) Footpath Warden's Report

There was no Footpath Warden's report in Guy Rawlinson's absence.

(i) Thornbury Ramblers' Report

Jeff Paed reported that work was continuing on the Walks Booklet and he would forward any amendments to the Deputy Clerk.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be discussed.