

REPORT of the Meeting of the
Environment Committee held on 8 October 2019

- Present: Cllr Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Cllr Clare Fardell
Cllr Guy Rawlinson
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Pam Shipp
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
- Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury)
Brett Harrison (Composting Site, Filnore Allotments and Woods)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)
Jerry Dicker (Filnore Woods)
- Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)
- Absent: Cllr Martin Trueman
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1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Eva Fielding – another commitment

2. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none present.

3. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2019 NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

The Deputy Clerk updated the Committee on the process for recovering the costs of replacing the damaged tree following the recent incident on the Grovesend Roundabout. The Committee asked the Deputy Clerk to write to the individual concerned to ask for them to pay the costs of the replacement tree.

5. TO CONSIDER MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Thornbury as a Zero Carbon Town (CATS)

The latest version of the CATS presentation had been circulated and the action points were discussed. It was noted that full Council were supporting the initiative in principle. It was agreed that the action points were either covered by existing plans, could be borne in mind during the Committee's meetings or had been delegated to other Committees to progress. Cllr Angela Symonds had been invited to their launch event in her role as Town Mayor. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would liaise with Cllr Clive Parkinson and Cllr Angela Symonds regarding her speech.

(b) Poulterbrook environmental area

The Committee was happy for the Deputy Clerk to proceed in getting quotes to go ahead with the work. It was clarified that the trees could be planted before the end of 2019, but the wildflowers and picnic area would be progressed in Spring 2020.

(c) Perennial planting in Pullins Green raised beds and the Agreement with South Gloucestershire Council for the Provision of Services

The most recent Agreement with South Gloucestershire Council had been circulated and was noted. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should investigate how the costs would be affected by the changes to perennial planting in the Grovesend Roundabout and the Rock Street bed, and whether this could fund the planting in Pullins Green.

(d) Issue relating to land adjacent to Ashgrove

The Deputy Clerk reported that no progress had been made on the license to be issued. Cllr Guy Rawlinson had visited the site as well as the Tree Warden and were content that the area was maintained.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Cllr Guy Rawlinson reported that he had attended a meeting regarding the plan for the area which was for sensitive management. The plan included putting in a circular walk around the perimeter with viewing points. Once the work was completed, the site would be handed over to a CIC with the Council having non-voting representation on the group.

(f) Update on seating in the town

(i) Seating along Streamside Walk

The Deputy Clerk had put a license request into South Glos Council but had not yet heard back.

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

Work had commenced and the seat had been taken out of its old location. It would shortly be moved into the new location, depending on staffing availability.

(g) Schedule of Tree Works

An updated version of the planned works was tabled. It was requested that the letter previously sent to the owner of tree in poor condition overhanging the Chantry Field be chased. Judith Hurford, Tree Warden reported that she had visited the field and expressed surprise that a large number of trees appeared to have been felled. These were not planned works and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would investigate. Judith Hurford and Jerry Dicker would walk the field again, to identify and establish exactly which trees had gone.

(h) Schedule of Minor Matters

The Deputy Clerk updated on progress made on these items. The blocked drain at Quaker Lane had been fixed. The squeaky gate was being looked into. A site visit had been made to the house near Gillingstool but South Glos were unable to give details at this stage. The blue grass on Streamside Walk had been reported. Cllr Guy Rawlinson stated that this was the second occurrence and felt the matter was urgent, so requested the Deputy Clerk put a chase on this with the Environment Agency. The blocked drain outside the New Vicarage was on a

list to be inspected. The bollards near the Castle had been removed. The Castle Street pavement was also on a list to be investigated.

(i) Walks booklet

In his absence, Jeff Pead had sent a message that the work was ongoing.

6. TO CONSIDER NEW ISSUES

(a) South Gloucestershire Council Tree Planting Project

Details of South Gloucestershire Council's tree planting project had been circulated. The project was discussed. It was agreed that the Committee was supportive in principle of the project. However, there were some concerns raised regarding the possible loss of open spaces. It was further agreed that we take up the Biodiversity Officer's offer to meet with Councillors and walk around some of the areas identified as potential planting areas. It was also noted that as new developments in Thornbury are not owned by South Gloucestershire Council, these would not be included in the planting. The launch event planned for 10 December 2019 at 1.30pm was noted.

(b) Installation of drinking water fountain in the Mundy Playing Fields

This had been looked into and determined that Poulterbrook was not a viable possibility due to water supply issues, but that it could be possible to mount one on the outside of the Pavilion.

(c) Installation of new recycling bin at Mundy Playing Fields

The Deputy Clerk reported that the recycling bin had been delivered and would be installed soon at the Mundy Playing Fields. It was agreed that the new recycling facilities should be publicised.

(d) Community Toilet Scheme

The Deputy Clerk had walked around each of the sites and reported whether they were publicising their participation in the scheme, which is a requirement for receiving funding. There were varying levels of co-operation with this rule. One establishment was to be given notice that they must put the poster up or their funding would be removed.

7. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

(a) Operational Matters (Open Doors Feedback)

Cllr Matt Stringer thanked Councillors for their involvement and the museum for their assistance. The 33 people who had visited had found it worthwhile and enjoyable.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

The Composting Site had been made aware that due to potential development, it may be necessary to move to a new location. More details on this would follow. The Deputy Clerk reported that the Clerk had written to South Gloucestershire Council regarding this issue. Brett Harrison explained that they were also having problems with their South Gloucestershire Council grant application.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

Brett Harrison reported that there had been a plant swap the previous Sunday, but unfortunately it had rained which discouraged people. The AGM was tomorrow.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

Jerry Dicker presented a report to the Committee with a timeline of completed works. They had experienced problems with their robotic cutting machine, which had broken down. As a result, they had to do a lot of manual work which was unfortunate. Cllr Matthew Stringer thanked Mr Dicker for their valuable work.

(e) Tree Warden's Report

Judith Hurford reported that an extra 1000 trees had been made available from South Glos Council that we could bid for. They came with the restriction that they had to be planted on Council land by a trained member of staff. Mrs Hurford thanked the Committee for its donation towards replacing a damaged tree - £85 had been raised so far. Mrs Hurford had done a walk around with the Biodiversity Officer from South Glos and also CATS and now had plans to plant several trees in multiple locations.

(f) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Sustainable Thornbury were busy liaising with the Neighbourhood Plan and CATS.

(g) Footpath Warden's Report

Cllr Rawlinson, as Footpath Warden was concerned about diversions on new estates. He has asked the staff to work on a plan of where the diversions are so that he can walk them and check maintenance levels. This was not a simple job and would take time.

(h) Thornbury Rambler's Report

Jeff Pead was not present.