

REPORT of the Meeting of the
Environment Committee held on 18 June 2019

Present: Cllr Matt Stringer (Chairman)
Cllr Clare Fardell
Cllr Guy Rawlinson
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Martin Trueman (arrived late)

Felicity Harrison (Sustainable Thornbury-arrived late)
Brett Harrison (Composting Site, Filnore Allotments and Woods-
arrived late)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)
Paul Le Riche (Playing Fields and Grounds staff)

1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Eva Fielding (Work commitment)

2. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present

3. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

**4. TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 14 MAY 2019**

(a) Fairtrade – Update

Cllr Clare Fardell suggested the leaflets should be reviewed for accuracy every six months, with the next review in September and the following in February, before Thornbury In Bloom. This was agreed.

(b) Seating in the Town

(i) Seating along Streamside Walk – discuss options for siting

The deputy clerk tabled a plan of the area with three possible locations which were discussed. She noted that the police advised the seat should be visible from Morton Way. Councillors agreed that the locations further away from the underpass were preferable and those close to the housing estate were more open and would therefore discourage antisocial behaviour. It

was questioned what the benches would be made of and agreed that ones without a back rest would make them less inviting for youths to loiter on.

(Cllr Martin Trueman arrived part way through discussion)

A position further back from the bypass but in a visible area near the housing was proposed by Cllr Guy Rawlinson, seconded by Cllr Jayne Stansfield and unanimously agreed.

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

The deputy clerk explained that staff were completing utility checks on the works sites. This is a time consuming process.

(c) Walks Booklet – Jeff Pead

Jeff Pead was absent so there was no discussion on this point

(d) Solar Panels on Pavilion - Update

The deputy clerk reported that she was still communicating with EDF over information they had requested.

(e) Recycling bins in Thornbury - Update

Paul Le Riche reported that he and the Deputy Clerk had spoken with Yate Town Council about their recycling bins in Kingsgate, which had been successful only after a 2 year period of education. They were three openings in each metal bin for different types of waste. Paul explained that the £500 cost of each steel bin was justified due to their longevity and resistance to vandalism. The involvement and responsibilities of South Glos Council regarding recycling facilities in the town as a whole were questioned and Cllr Guy Rawlinson stated that it was a confused and complicated situation. The Deputy Clerk confirmed there was money in the budget for a recycling bin and it was agreed that one bin would be placed in the play area on the Mundy Playing Fields and the success of it would be monitored.

(Brett and Felicity Harrison arrived)

5. MATTERS IN PROGRESS AND NEW ISSUES

(a) Discussion of an issue relating to land adjacent to Ashgrove

The Deputy Clerk reported that our Health and Safety advisor had given advice regarding the safety of the equipment and working practices for the resident concerned. Councillors spoke on what they wanted to see happen to the area, highlighting that we would not want any kind of fencing. Cllr Guy Rawlinson proposed that the resident should be allowed to continue maintenance, under a time bound licence. Cllr Martin Trueman seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.

(b) Consideration of Green Projects and Budgeting For Them

(c) Planting of roundabout at Grovesend and Rock Street Planter

(d) Poulterbrook environmental area

- What to plant
- Trees
- Bug wall

Item B was taken together with C and continued into item D as they had relevance to the budget. The Deputy Clerk had received figures from South Glos Council for planting of

perennials and maintenance for the Grovesend roundabout and Rock Street planter. The location of the beds were clarified. The Council was in support of the perennial planting, but it was not clear where the finance for it would come from. It was questioned whether CIL money could be used for this, as the increase in the first year (leading to significant savings in subsequent years) was an isolated cost. It was suggested by Cllr Guy Rawlinson that the work might be split into two parts to make it more affordable. Cllr Martin Trueman asked whether there was time to investigate the criteria for CIL money so that it could be better understood.

Cllr Rawlinson gave insight on the updated criteria for Britain in Bloom judging, highlighting the increased weighting of community projects. Whilst it was felt that the Bug Wall project on Poulterbrook was a positive idea, it was debated whether it is necessary when the abundance of wild flowers and the constructed log pile provided these habitats already. Paul Le Riche had held previous meetings with Judith Hurford, tree warden and an ecological officer from South Glos, who had been very impressed by the work done on Poulterbrook. Paul asked the council whether we could find the money, potentially as part of a larger project from CIL, to buy more wild flower seeds which had previously been very expensive but equally successful. The council's reaction to this was positive.

Paul explained the ongoing projects and works at Poulterbrook, with planned work in the autumn to cut, rake and burn the dead material from the wild area to promote its healthy continuation. It was particularly pleasing that a very rare type of orchid is growing in this area which demonstrated its success. He went on to give ideas for hedge laying this winter and planting a line of Oak trees around Poulterbrook, which Councillors probed the location of, given the possibility of it being on a public right of way.

Following comments raised on the tree planting budget and the discovery of a bee highway, Cllr Trueman suggested that the above points be pulled together into a larger plan, which Cllr Rawlinson suggested naming "Save the Planet". This plan would encompass many smaller objectives the council wanted to achieve. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would make a skeleton plan to be discussed at the next Environment committee meeting and would clarify the criteria regarding CIL funds.

(e) Schedule of Minor Matters

Cllr Guy Rawlinson raised a matter he was aware of concerning the blockage of a grill situated within a ditch. The blockage had been caused by recent bad weather and the resulting standing water in the ditch was causing Warwick Place to flood. The Deputy Clerk agreed to report this to South Glos Council.

(f) Summer Walkabout – date and venue

Brett Harrison suggested the woodland area between Tesco and the compost heap as he felt this was an area that could be made better use of if it were maintained and protected. It was stated that this being South Glos land, we have little influence over it and it would be beneficial to visit somewhere we can affect greater change over. Poulterbrook and the Jubilee Way, as mentioned earlier in the meeting were suggested as an alternative and it was agreed that the meeting time would be 6:30pm on Monday 8th July at the Pavilion, with all councillors being invited.

(g) New Park Farm Estate – litter bins

It had been reported that no bins had been placed anywhere on the estate and residents were unhappy. Cllr Guy Rawlinson expressed that this was up to the estate developers to deal with and the council could not get involved in this matter. Cllr Jayne Stansfield was aware of a further issue with a playground that had not been built and was following up on this issue. Cllr Maggie Tyrrell (not present) had been approached originally on the matter, so it was agreed to feed this conclusion back to her so that she might update the resident(s) concerned.

6. OPERATIONAL

(a) Operational matters (heritage Open Doors/hanging baskets)

The Open Doors event still needed another volunteer, for which the Deputy Clerk would send out a request to council members not present. She reported that of the 180 hanging baskets purchased, over 150 had been sold. The new watering operative recently employed was doing well.

(b) Community Composting Site Report

Brett Harrison reported that he was having further trouble with contractors dumping waste. He had approached the leisure centre to ask for their assistance in gaining CCTV footage but had not been successful. The composting site have installed their own camera which last week caught three separate incidents that had been sent to South Gloucestershire Council. Cllr Rawlinson sought confirmation that South Glos would treat these incidents as fly tipping.

(c) Filnore Allotments Report

Brett Harrison was hoping to reach an agreement with the proposed skate park café on joint use of water pipes. This was promising.

(d) Filnore Woods Report

Brett Harrison provided a report on Jerry Dicker's behalf. He reported that 8 volunteers had been working on the area, they had cut nettles around the benches and provided aspen logs to the Sheilings School. They were hoping to get three cuts of hay from the area in June, July and August. The area is part of the blue token scheme at Tesco.

(e) Medieval Fishponds

Judith Hurford explained that a group of the councillors had met with former councillor Vincent Costello, who had given them an overview and handed paperwork over to her. Cllr Martin Trueman felt that the information held between those present should be collated. A suggestion was made to put a working party together to help maintain the site, but it was noted that as the site does not belong to Thornbury Town Council, we would face issues over access, ownership and insurance.

(f) Tree Wardens Report

Judith Hurford thanked the Deputy Clerk for her assistance with the Fishponds visit. She reported that a tree had died of unknown causes. Cllr Matt Stringer gave an overview of the recent tree survey carried out, noting that there was little urgent action needed. This item would be put on the next agenda for the Environmental Committee to track progress.

(g) Sustainable Thornbury Report

Felicity Harrison gave an update on the group's activities. They had a number of new members which was pleasing and they were working on a zero carbon project for Thornbury.

(h) Footpath Wardens Report

The footpath warden had nothing to report.

(i) Thornbury Ramblers Report

No representative from the organisation was present.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Wildflowers

The Deputy Clerk had circulated an email from a biodiversity officer at South Glos Council, requesting local councils think about what they could do to help wildlife. The Deputy Clerk outlined the activities we are already doing to meet these standards. She will reply outlining what we're already doing and what our future plans are.