

**REPORT** of the Meeting of the  
Environment Committee held on 12 November 2019

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Present: Cllr Matt Stringer (Chairman)  
Cllr Clare Fardell  
Cllr Guy Rawlinson  
Cllr Angela Symonds

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

Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)  
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

Absent: Cllr Martin Trueman  
Cllr Eva Fielding  
Cllr Pam Shipp

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**1. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Jayne Stansfield  
(Felicity Harrison - Sustainable Thornbury)

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none present.

**3. TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**4. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION/UPDATE FROM THE BIODIVERSITY OFFICER ON SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL'S TREE PLANTING PROJECT**

The Officer was unable to attend due to an urgent matter that had arisen, but in her absence, Cllr Rawlinson presented to the group. He had met with her earlier in the day and had an update. He explained the plan to plant 1000 whips, highlighting the possibility of restoring a hedgerow, which could take half of them. The whips would need caring for to stop them dying, as being young they are more vulnerable to temperature changes and vandalism than older trees would be. An open session was planned for 10.12.19.

It was felt that trees should not be allowed to take away natural play spaces once they are mature and will take up more room. It was highlighted also that anyone can apply for trees through the Woodland Trust.

**7b&c. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS – COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SITE REPORT & FILNORE ALLOTMENTS REPORT (taken out of order)**

Brett Harrison updated the Committee on difficulties that the Community Composting Group were dealing with including an attempt by South Gloucestershire Council to have the site moved. He was communicating with various media outlets and had started a petition.

**5. TO DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2019 NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

The Deputy Clerk had written via the Police to the individual who had damaged a tree on Grovesend roundabout to ask him to pay for the damage. She had received no reply.

**6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS IN PROGRESS AND RECEIVE UPDATES WHERE APPROPRIATE**

**(a) Perennial planting in Pullins Green raised beds including consideration of funding**

The Deputy Clerk raised the issue of the costs of the perennial planting on the Grovesend roundabout and the Rock Street bed and in particular that the invoice for the planting would need to be covered in this financial year. It had been hoped that this could be covered in 2020/21 but South Glos Council had confirmed that this was not possible. It was agreed that the Environment Committee would ask the Finance & Policy Committee to consider covering these costs from reserves.

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

There was £2600 in the budget next year for this.

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

The Deputy Clerk reported that the old bin had been taken out and then new one was in the process of being installed. It was agreed a photo would be taken of Councillors with the bin at 2pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November and this could be used to publicise the new facilities through local media. The Deputy Clerk would circulate these details to all Councillors.

**(d) Community Toilet Scheme**

The Deputy Clerk updated the Committee on progress and stated that all premises were now compliant.

**(e) Medieval Fishponds**

Cllr Rawlinson reported that there was no update and requested the item be taken off the agenda.

**(f) Update on seating in the town**

**(i) Seating along Streamside Walk**

The Deputy Clerk had put a license request into South Glos Council and they had taken a long time to get back to her. Eventually they said that the land was owned by Bloor Homes. The Deputy Clerk contacted them instead and was informed that they planned to put their own seating in the space we had wanted to put one.

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

The bench had been taken out of its old location and would go into the new one this week.

**(g) Schedule of Tree Works**

An updated version of the planned works was tabled. The tree surgeon had grouped the works into similar jobs and was working through them. The Outside Staff Supervisor had walked around the Chantry Field to check on trees that the Tree Warden had been concerned may have been removed. The Supervisor had reported that all trees were present. We were waiting on a date for the picus tomograph on one tree.

**(h) Schedule of Minor Matters**

The Deputy Clerk updated on progress made on these items. The streetlights were being dealt with by Western Power. The gate had been taken off South Glos's list of works. The Environment Agency had still not responded to a concern over blue grass.

The matter of litter bins outside the Armstrong Hall was raised. The Deputy Clerk reported that a staff member was working on it and would speak to them again to find out progress.

**(i) Walks booklet**

Jeff Pead reported that he was still working through the booklet routes. He requested that a seat be put in on a section of Jubilee Way (the footpath between the Mundy Playing Fields and the golf course). He said there was a bench there previously and it would be well used if another could be put in. It was stated that this was private land, but we could try and identify the land owner and Jeff confirmed he was happy to speak to them to discuss this option.

**7. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**(a) Operational Matters**

None.

**(d) Filnore Woods Report**

The report was noted.

**(e) Tree Warden's Report**

Judith Hurford reported that she had 18 trees ready to be planted. Land Care were going to give dates that they could do this on. 1 was going to be planted at Crossways in honour of their first headteacher. Judith had met with residents of Pullins Green and it had been agreed that another tree would be planted there. A Britain in Bloom outstanding award had been presented to the Tree Strategy Group, with a cup also presented to Judith for leading them.

Cllr Rawlinson reported that there was a plan to replace trees suffering with Ash Dieback.

**(f) Sustainable Thornbury Report**

There was nothing to report.

**(g) Footpath Warden's Report**

Cllr Rawlinson was still hoping to walk the footpaths on the new housing estates but staff had been unable to find a straightforward way of finding all the diversions. Cllr Rawlinson gave the

name of an Officer at South Glos Council who might be able to help. The Footpath Group would be meeting in Frampton Cottrell next week.

**(h) Thornbury Rambler's Report**

Jeff Pead reported that the group was still thriving and had just had its AGM. All was positive.

**8. TO CONSIDER ANY URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were none.

**9. TO RESOLVE UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

Resolved.

**10. TO CONSIDER A DRAFT LEASE FOR AN AREA OF LAND IN THORNBURY**

The Deputy Clerk presented the draft and it was discussed, in addition to a list of extra considerations that had been raised. It was queried what the exact purpose of the license should be for and agreed that the Deputy Clerk would speak to individual to clarify before proceeding.

**11. TO CONSIDER QUOTES RELATING TO THE POULTERBROOK ENVIRONMENT AREA**

The Deputy Clerk had obtained three quotes for the planting of 14 trees, although it had been difficult to get three that were comparable. Cllr Rawlinson proposed that Land Care be given the contract, with Cllr Fardell seconding and all in favour.