

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 2 September 2008

Present: Cllrs: Benj Emmerson (Chairman)
Chris Clifford
Clare Fardell
Bob Griffin
Helen Harrison
Clive Parkinson
Guy Rawlinson
Ann Rogers

Allan Burberry (Avon Wildlife Trust)
Gill Denning (Sustainable Thornbury)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs: Phyllida Parsloe (Out of Thornbury)

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Provision of Bus Shelter

(i) Gillingstool

A local resident was in attendance and his earlier letter and petition to committee regarding the replacement of the bus shelter at Gillingstool had been circulated. The residents of the area expressed concern that a shelter with a seat would lead to youths congregating at the site. After some discussion it was agreed that a new enclosed shelter would be sited but that a seat would not be installed.

The gentleman left the meeting

The deputy clerk informed members that prices for a replacement shelter had been sought. The lowest quote was from a company not used by Council in the past and Cllr Clive Parkinson asked that the deputy clerk seek references from the company before committee made a decision. The chairman requested that prices also be sought for the town crest to be displayed on the shelter.

It was reported that Dorrell Ferguson, of South Gloucestershire Council, had informed the deputy clerk that he could not guarantee that his council would be in a position to give a grant for the shelter.

Members of EAT the allotment campaign from Sustainable Thornbury were in attendance and so it was agreed that item d be taken as next business.

(b) Provision of Allotments

The deputy clerk reported that she had contacted the landowner of the old railway embankment who now used the area as a driveway to his property. He did however advise that many years ago he had divided a piece of land on the A38 and sold it to approx 58 people who had used the area for allotments. Judith Hurford advised members that whilst this was true it had proved unsuitable land for allotments. Cllr Guy Rawlinson agreed to contact a family of farmers in the area who had not replied to a communication asking if they had suitable land for allotments available.

Information had been received from South Gloucestershire Council informing town council that a piece of land to the rear of Stokefield Close may soon become available. It was an area that committee had dismissed in the past as unsuitable due to the fact that it didn't have a water supply. Sustainable Thornbury had also put a submission into South Gloucestershire Council supporting the idea that the land be used for allotments and informed the environment committee that they would be in a position to administer the allotments and overcome problems such as the lack of a water supply.

After further discussion it was agreed to inform South Gloucestershire Council that Thornbury Town Council was interested in the area for environmental purposes, to include allotments, taking into account the footpath network that runs across the area and to request a meeting as soon as possible to move the project forward.

Members of EAT left the meeting

(c) Medina Close Steps

A copy of the tender document was still awaited.

(d) Making Thornbury Greener

(i) Compilation of Businesses Email Addresses

There was nothing to report on this item.

(ii) Climate Change Survey Booklet

The booklet had been compiled and was available on the sustainability stand in the foyer of the Town Hall. There was also a copy on town council's website.

(iii) Take It Away Give It Away Site At Sort It Centre

A reply to committee's request for a permanent Take It Away Give it Away centre to follow on from the June event organised by Sustainable Thornbury had been received. Sita felt that it was a good idea but were unable to accommodate the project on grounds of health and safety and man power.

(e) Jubilee Plaque

The plaque had been sited and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(f) Road Resurfacing Works

There was nothing to report on this item.

(g) Provision of Fair Trade Signs

The signs had been sited but Cllr Clive Parkinson felt that they were too small and it was agreed that he liaise with the deputy clerk to investigate the possibility of enlarging them.

(h) Cycle Route Between Thornbury and Alveston

A report of the site meeting between Chris Harris of South Gloucestershire Council, Cllr Bob Griffin and Allan Burberry had been circulated. At the site meeting it was discussed that the verge of the original footway on the hill be cleared, giving room for a cycle path up the hill. Members were not in agreement with this and still supported their proposal to have a combined footpath/cycleway following the original footpath through the fields. It was agreed that South Gloucestershire Council be informed of this.

(i) Out Of Town Cycle Racks

A reply had been received from McColls requiring clarification on two points regarding the installation of the cycle racks on their land at Oakleaze Road. Members were informed that once these points had been clarified it was hoped that permission would be given to install the racks

(j) Heritage Open Doors

The deputy clerk informed members that there was still one slot to be filled on the rota for the day and it was agreed that all councillors would again be emailed requesting their help. If a volunteer was not forthcoming the building would have to close at 2.00pm instead of 4.00pm

(k) Christmas Card 2008

A design for the card had been chosen but members felt that it would benefit from having some colour as it was a line drawing. It was agreed to contact Manorbrook school to enquire if the pupil could colour the card or, if they would prefer, perhaps the Castle School students would be able to enhance it with some colour. In order to obtain quotes for the printing of the cards before the next meeting it was agreed that once the card was ready for printing the deputy clerk and chairman meet to agree details for the quote.

(l) Summer Walkabout

A report of the walkabout had been forwarded to Ollie Mann of South Gloucestershire Council who agreed to investigate the works that were necessary as identified by the report. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

(m) Tree Nameplates

The Tree Warden had found a company who would provide tree nameplates and she agreed to progress the matter further.

(n) Dropped Kerbs on Swallow Park

A reply had been received from South Gloucestershire Council informing members that the cost of the kerbs would be approximately £20,000 and may be included in the 2009/2010 budget. Members felt that this was a large sum for the project and it was agreed that South Gloucestershire Council be informed that it would only be two kerbs.

The deputy clerk had received another request for dropped kerbs in Streamleaze and members reported that dropped kerbs were also necessary where Coombe Avenue crosses Severn Drive. It was agreed to request that South Gloucestershire Council also investigate these sites.

(o) Banning Of Trailers at Sort It Centre

Sita had informed members that measures were being investigated to control the amount of rubbish left at their sites, to discourage the tipping by commercial businesses and tipping from out of the parish. Members realised the problems but requested that Sita be informed that whilst appreciating their concerns people should not be discouraged from using the site.

2. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

There were no minor matters

(b) Community Action's Sustainable Communities Conference

A report by Cllr Ann Rogers had been circulated with the agenda and the information noted. Members expressed an interest in the Zero Waste pack which introduced practical ways for households to reduce their waste. It was agreed that Cllr Ann Rogers investigate this further

3. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

Members were informed that the watering of the hanging baskets would cease at the end of the week but that participants of the scheme had been advised and informed that they were welcome to continue the watering of their baskets themselves if they so wished. It was hoped that a report on the use of the self watering hanging baskets would be available for the next meeting.

(b) Community Composting Site

Due to the absence of the composting site representative there was nothing to report on this item.

(c) Filnore Woods

There was nothing to report on this item.

(d) Tree Wardens Report

The tree warden tabled a report containing the results of a tree survey she had carried out with a Thornbury In Bloom member, to investigate sites in the town that would benefit from tree planting. Members thanked Judith Hurford for her hard work and fully supported an exciting project. It was agreed that Allan Burberry and Cllr Guy Rawlinson join Judith to move the project forward.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Advance publication – Advertisement in South Cotwolds and Vale of Severn publication 2009

Members agreed to take a quarter page advertisement to promote Thornbury in the publication as per usual.

**(b) South Gloucestershire Council - Environment Forum – Report of Meeting
11.6.08**

The information had been circulated and was noted.

(c) NERC ACT – Guidance for parish Councils

A report by Allan Bunberry summarising the National Environmental Rural Act for Council's had been circulated with the agenda and the information noted. Allan felt that council was complying with the act.

(d) South Gloucestershire Council - Footway Slurry Seal programme

A list of the areas in Thornbury to be covered by the footway slurry programme had been circulated and the information noted. The areas listed were as those previously notified in a communication for works for the financial year 2008/09 as circulated by Jo Perry of South Gloucestershire Council's Highways Department.

5. Schedule of Publications

The schedule of publications received had been circulated with the agenda for information.