

REPORT of the meeting of the Environment
Committee held 29 November 2011

Present: Cllrs: Guy Rawlinson (Chairman)
Chris Clifford
Vincent Costello
Gareth Davies
Benj Emmerson
Pam Shipp
Matthew Stringer

Allan Burberry (Avon Wildlife Trust)
Brett Harrison (Composting Site)

Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies had been received:-

Cllr Gill Brooks (family commitment)
Neil Halsall (Out of Thornbury)
Helen Harridson (Other Commitment)
Judith Hurford (Tree Warden)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Part Night Lighting

The chairman reported that there had been a press release informing of the progress of the project.

It was reported that a petition had been received from Frome Court as it was felt that they had experienced an increase in unreported crime but as yet there had been no outcome.

(b) Highway Works

There was no further progress on the matter. Following a report from Cllr Clive Parkinson at council it was agreed to write to South Gloucestershire Council requesting that they urgently investigate the highway in High Street from the Town Hall to the Tesco mini roundabout.

(c) Streamside Walk Signs

The deputy clerk reported that the signs with words misspelt had been removed and would be returned to the manufacturer to be corrected.

(d) Litter Bins

(i) Siting of Bin on Oakleaze Green

A bin had been installed on Oakleaze Green as requested by Litter Busters

(ii) Replacement Bin Bath Road

Members were informed that a bin in this location had been vandalised and replaced on several occasions.

(iii) Signage for Litter Busters

The deputy clerk informed members that she was awaiting the correct web address for Litter Busters to be displayed on litterbins in the town.

(e) Licence for Tree Wardens to Carry out Work at Hacket

In the absence of the Tree Warden the deputy clerk informed members that Judith Hurford had not received a licence for the ecologist to carry out a survey of the area despite trying for the past three years. It was agreed that the Chief Executive of South Gloucestershire Council, Amanda Deekes be informed of the situation and asked to move it forward as soon as possible.

(f) Cycle Path Between Thornbury and Alveston

There had been no response from the landowner and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until further information became available.

(g) Town Centre Signage

There was nothing to report on this item.

(h) Access Around Sweet Chestnut Tree – Castle Street

Mark Parry of South Gloucestershire Council was unaware of the problem with the tree and the footpath. He continued that this type of work would fall into the budget to improve facilities for the disabled and the list at present stands at over 150 similar requests. The budget for this financial year has been fully considered and this request would have to be considered the following financial year.

Members agreed to inform South Gloucestershire Council that this project be added to the next years budget.

(i) Provision of Seat in Bus Shelter

Letters had been delivered to all residents opposite the shelter informing them that Town Council was looking to supply seating in the shelter at Gillingstool. There had been no comment from the residents.

Members were informed that the cost of the seat would be £97.49 per seat and that three would be needed. It was agreed to place an order for three seats.

(j) Map of Dropped Kerbs Around the Town

Cllrs Guy Rawlinson and Benj Emmerson had started to identify the dropped kerbs in their wards. After some discussion as to type of leaflet etc. the chairman request that the deputy clerk forward to him a contact in South Gloucestershire Council who may be able to help with the publication so that he could discuss the matter with them.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) Schedule of Minor Matters

A schedule of Minor Matters had been circulated with the agenda and the information was noted.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

(a) Operational Matters

The deputy clerk informed members that she had been unable to obtain a price for the Thornbury in Bloom plaque to commemorate their winning a gold medal in the national competition.

(b) Composting Site

Brett Harrison reported that investigations were progressing to improve the cctv in the area in an attempt to identify those who were flytipping at the site.

(c) Allotments Report

Brett Harrison informed members that a container had been purchased to use as a tool store and would be installed in the near future.

c) Filnore Woods

There was nothing to report on this item

(d) Medieval Fishponds

It was reported that work would resume on the site on 4th December 2011. There had been a large amount of rubbish tipped on the site from the neighbouring field which South Gloucestershire Council had agreed to remove..

Allan Burberry expressed concern that he had been informed by South Gloucestershire Council that this council would not be taking over ownership of the site and it was agreed that Richard Aston from South Gloucestershire Council be invited to the next meeting to discuss the matter with members. The clerk advised that if members were investigating the possibility of being land owners of the site then a sum should be set aside for the project when considering next years budget. The chairman agreed that now the site had been given monument status from English Heritage then the land owner could incur costs for any works that English Heritage deemed necessary.

(e) Tree Wardens Report

The tree warden tabled a report and the information was noted.

(e) Sustainable Thornbury

There was nothing to report on this item.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Biodiversity Action Plan

The information had been emailed and noted by committee.

(b) South Gloucestershire Council – Wild4Life Project

Information on a new project Wild4Life which supports people and communities in South Gloucestershire to access and enjoy local green spaces for health, well being and community.

Cllr Benj Emmerson identified the environmental area at Poulterbrook as a possible project and agreed to contact South Gloucestershire Council to investigate this further.

6. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

A list of publication had been circulated with the agenda.