

**REPORT of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy
Committee held 29th May 2008**

Present: Cllr. Phyllida Parsloe (Chairman)

Cllrs. Alan Dukes
Benj Emmerson
Clare Fardell
Bob Griffin
Neil Halsall
Shirley Holloway
Clive Parkinson
Maggie Tyrrell
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Cllr. Bob Griffin be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. POLICE MATTERS

As the police were not in attendance, there were no matters to report.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Project Steering Group for Thornbury Hospital

Copies of the Report and Supplementary Report of the Project Steering Group held on 1.5.08 had been circulated with the agenda for members' information. Since that meeting Cllrs. Phyllida Parsloe, Shirley Holloway and Maggie Tyrrell had met with the new Chair, Chris Clarke and Jane Gibbs of the South Gloucestershire PCT and expressed grave concerns that, having read the Inventures report, it was apparent that the project had now regressed right back to the beginning. Chris Clarke apologised for the lack of progress and admitted that mistakes had been made.

Members stated that when plans for the super hospital had first been launched, the Thornbury Hospital project had been an integral part of the plan. It now appeared that the Thornbury Hospital part of the plan was being tested again and fears were expressed that the Thornbury project may be considered in tandem with the Frenchay Hospital project and the extra 80 acute beds proposed outside of the super hospital may all be accommodated at Frenchay. Cllrs. Shirley Holloway and Maggie Tyrrell had met with Sonia Mills, Chief Executive of the North Bristol Hospital Trust who had stated that, as far as the Trust was concerned, Thornbury Hospital project was still an integral part of the overall plan. Members also felt that it was important that other facilities, such as a dementia unit and extra care housing, be included in the Thornbury Hospital Project.

Members were aware that, as Yate and Kingswood were considered to be the top priorities, it was important to sustain the high profile of Thornbury's project to ensure that it did not lose prominence on the priority list. It was also significant that Frenchay Hospital was now involved in the process and Council and the Thornbury Project Steering Group should continue to be vocal in support of the local scheme.

Cllr. Shirley Holloway advised that the Frenchay Community Project Steering Group had invited parish councils and members of the Thornbury Project Steering Group to its next meeting.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Clerk, in liaison with Cllr. Phyllida Parsloe, write to the Chair of the South Gloucestershire PCT expressing great displeasure that the work carried over the past eighteen months on the Thornbury Hospital Project had been wasted and urging the PCT to now move ahead with all possible speed. It was also agreed to write to the local press providing details of the current position of the Thornbury project

Cllrs. Shirley Holloway and Maggie Tyrrell advised that they would be attending the Stakeholder Workshop on 2nd June 2008.

(b) Access Issues

Cllr. Shirley Holloway reported that the posters advertising the Shopmobility Scheme would soon be in place in Rock Street car park and that a photo shoot was planned for next week. It was quite disappointing that numbers of members of the scheme had not increased but it was hoped that this situation would be remedied by the proposed advertising.

(c) Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership – Partnership Plan 2008-2011-Consultation

Members had been advised of the location of the Consultation document on the South Gloucestershire Council website prior to the meeting. The contents of the document were noted and members agreed not to comment at this time.

Cllr. Clive Parkinson agreed to ask if South Gloucestershire Council would wish to include the Consultation Document on the agenda for discussion at next week's Safer and Stronger Community Group meeting.

(d) Review of Allowances for Councillors

Cllr. Clive Parkinson advised that a report of the Working Group would be presented at the next meeting.

The Clerk provided the information that Patchway Town Council paid allowances to its members but Bradley Stoke Town Council did not.

The information was noted.

(e) Mayors' Insignia Badges

The Clerk reported that she had received information from Cllr. Neil Halsall on the name of the company that manufactured for the chairs of South Gloucestershire Council. She was in the process of obtaining a quotation for Mayors' Insignia Badges from that company. The information was noted.

(f) Thornbury and District Heritage Trust – Roman Coin Hoard Project

Members' comments made at the last meeting had been conveyed to Sandi Shallcross, Chairman of the Heritage Trust.

Mrs. Shallcross had responded and advised that, as the coin project was very self-contained, the Heritage Trust felt that it could only acknowledge its funding partners on the display panel with the coins exhibit. However, the general support that the Trust receives from other organisations and individuals would be acknowledged on a separate panel and the Town Council would be included in that list. The information was noted.

(g) 67 High Street – Subletting Premises

There was nothing further to report on this matter at the present time.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) ALCA – South Gloucestershire Area Group

(i) Meeting of 27.3.08

Minutes of the Group meeting held on 27th March 2008 had been circulated with the agenda and the information noted.

Cllr. Ann Rogers had asked, via e-mail, whether there was any information in print to verify that Diamond Card holders would qualify for reduced fares on National Express. Cllr. Neil Halsall advised, that in his experience, if card holders turned up on the day of their journey not having pre-booked, if seats were available, they could travel free of charge. However, if card holders pre-book a seat they would still get a 50% reduction on the cost of a ticket.

(ii) Meeting of 22.5.08

Cllr. Clive Parkinson reported on his attendance at the meeting. The effectiveness of Planning Enforcement was discussed at the meeting and attendees were advised that the Enforcement Service had improved. South Gloucestershire Council's Legal Department had, however, stated that the Planning Enforcement Department would not provide any information on enforcement matters.

Cllr. Clare Fardell advised that anyone who had registered a complaint about a planning enforcement matter would receive information and updates. Enforcement Officers were only allowed to divulge information to interested parties.

The information was noted.

(b) Remedial Works to Drains at Town Hall

The Clerk advised that there was a continuing problem of toilet drains blocking at the Town Hall. Engineers from Dynorod had investigated the problem and advised that it had been caused by the presence of a 'T' junction in the current configuration of the pipework. It was recommended that a 'swept bend' be installed and a quotation of £495 had been given for the work.

It was agreed to accept the quotation and instruct Dynorod to carry out the work.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement for April 2008 was received and noted.

6. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved that the following accounts now due for payment be approved:-

Central Services

British Telecom plc	Telephone bill – Town Hall	198.00
Capita Insurance Brokers	Commercial Insurance	4242.05
N Power	Electricity bill – Town Hall	2014.51
Pitney Bowes – Postage by Phone	Postage top-up	154.51
Skinner Board	Heating system maintenance	54.24
Thornbury Window Cleaning	Window cleaning	55.00

Playing Fields & Cemetery

British Telecom plc	Telephone bill – Playing Fields	31.37
Countrywide Farmers	Working shoes	20.99
Countrywide Farmers	Miracle Grow Tub	23.98
Capita Insurance Brokers	Commercial Insurance	4084.93
Lampier	Motor Insurance	263.55
GAP Supplies Ltd	Items for	245.64
The Mower Doctor	Pulley assembly	44.04
Panoramic Ltd	PVC replacement windows for Pavilion	2379.00
South Glos Council	Dog waste collection	37.37
Skinner Board	Heating system maintenance	100.35
Veolia Environmental Services	Empty easibin	111.74
Veolia Environmental Services	Empty easibin	202.68
T H White	Hydraulic Oil	43.05
Coll Scaffolding	Scaffolding for pavilion windows	998.75

Land & Property

Capita Insurance Brokers	Commercial Insurance	1099.79
PHS Group plc	Waste disposal Quaker Lane	216.80
South Glos Council	Cleaning toilets – Quaker Lane	527.86
Skinner Board	Heating system maintenance	96.35

Environment

Lampier	Motor Insurance	263.55
Tony & Sue's Flowers Ltd	Planting for Thornbury in Bloom	168.95

Grants & Contingencies

Tearfund	Youth Award	100.00
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7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Parish Charter Working Group

Notes of the meeting of the 15th April 2008 and copies of the Revised Parish Charter had been circulated, via e-mail, to members prior to the meeting. The information was received and noted.

(b) Ira De N'Yeurt – Funding for Rosemount House Open Garden

An e-mail had been received from Mr. N'Yeurt seeking financial support for his proposal to restore the garden at Rosemount House to its former glory. The overall cost of the project would be approximately £300,000 and the finished garden would be open to the public.

It was agreed that Council was not in a position to support the proposals but would wish Mr. N'Yeurt every success with his project.

8. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

(a) Land and Property

Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2007-08 were received and noted. A comparison of actual balances with the 2007 revised projection showed a total of £4,662.33 available for re-allocation.

Agreed that the re-allocation be made as follows:-

Repairs to Town Hall	£2,000.00
Uncommitted	£2,662.33

(b) Central Services

Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2007-08 were received and noted. A comparison of actual balances with the 2007 revised projection showed a total of £7,232.45 available for re-allocation.

Agreed that the re-allocation be made as follows:-

Copier Charge	£500.00
Equipment	£1,000.00
Lift Modification	£1,000.00
Uncommitted	£4,732.45

(c) Grants and Contingencies

Draft Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2007-08 were received and noted. A comparison of actual balances with the 2007 revised projection showed a total of £12,726.13 available for re-allocation.

Agreed that the re-allocation be made as follows:-

Contingency and Working Balance	£12,726.13
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9. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

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