

**REPORT of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy
Committee held on 3rd November 2011**

Present: Cllr. Neil Halsall (Chairman)

Cllrs. Gill Brooks
Rob Hudson
Clive Parkinson
Phyllida Parsloe
Guy Rawlinson
Matt Stringer
Maggie Tyrrell
Judith Payne (Town Clerk)
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies had been received:-

Cllr: Bob Griffin (Out of Thornbury)

2. POLICE MATTERS

No Police representatives were in attendance.

Cllr. Gill Brooks reported that the Turkish takeaway in St. Mary Centre had experienced problems with youths particularly on Halloween. The incidents had not been reported to the police as this action had not prompted an effective response in the past. It was agreed that Cllrs. Gill Brooks and Clive Parkinson speak to the café owners.

Cllr. Gill Brooks questioned the non-attendance of the police at the recent Finance and Policy Committee meetings and asked if a representative was supposed to attend. Cllr. Clive Parkinson advised that, at a Parish Charter Working Group meeting two years ago, the police advised that they would no longer attend any Council meetings but would have representation at the Safer and Stronger Community Group meetings. However, this decision was rescinded and it was agreed that a police representative would attend, when possible, Council's Finance and Policy committee meetings. It was agreed to invite the new Inspector to the next committee meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

(a) Project Steering Group for Thornbury Hospital

There had been no meeting of the Steering Group but Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell advised that the NHS would be reporting to South Gloucestershire Council's Health Scrutiny Committee in the next week.

(b) Safer and Stronger Communities Group

Cllr. Clive Parkinson advised that the next meeting of the group would be held on 30th November and that he had requested 'Parking on Gloucester Road' be placed as an item on the agenda.

(c) Quaker Lane Toilets

Cllr. Neil Halsall reported that the Working Group would be meeting on the 21st November. Members queried why the toilets were still locked following the deep clean carried out by South Gloucestershire Council. The Clerk reported that South Gloucestershire Council had closed the toilets on health and safety grounds and Cllr. Neil Halsall advised that a structural survey was being carried out as part of the schedule of condition for the proposed lease.

The Clerk also reported that, after the deep clean, South Gloucestershire Council changed the padlocks on the toilets and town hall staff had been endeavouring to obtain a key to the premises. It was agreed that the Clerk inform Cllr. Neil Halsall of the name of the South Gloucestershire Council officer dealing with this issue and he would pursue the matter with that officer.

(d) Remembrance Day Service and Parade

Cllr. Gill Brooks had met with the Rev. Stoddard and was advised that he would provide her with a copy of the reading and list of hymns for the service. All participants had been notified, refreshments arranged and road closure order obtained. A representative of the Sea Cadets had informed Cllr. Bob Griffin that the organisation of the parade had been finalised.

The arrangements for this year's event had been rather piecemeal and it was anticipated that next year's Remembrance Day would probably be organised by Council.

(e) Town Hall Computer System

(i) Web Site Development

The Clerk reported that new software had been received and Council's website was now up to date. It was agreed that all Armstrong Hall Trust and Management Meeting reports should be on the Armstrong Hall website.

- (ii) The Clerk informed members that two computer experts had investigated the problems of wi-fi reception at the town hall. Both had reached the same conclusion that the wi-fi signal was intermittent caused by interference from an unknown source. Readings had shown that the strength of the signal varied significantly and even placing a laptop next to the router had not overcome the problem of interrupted reception. The information was noted.

(f) Public Participation

Cllr. Rob Hudson had raised the issue of how members of the public could get issues onto Committee agendas. Members agreed that it would not be appropriate for this information to be included in Standing Orders as these are rarely seen by the public but that it should be added to the information sheet being prepared giving an explanation how members engage with local residents.

The information provided should be that residents may ask for an issue to be included on an agenda of Council or appropriate Committee by:-

- (i) Raising it through public participation at a meeting.
(ii) Writing to the Town Clerk before 10.00am on the day the agendas are sent out, i.e. one week before a meeting.

The Clerk suggested that this information could be included in Council's newsletter in the Gazette.

It was also agreed that it was for the Clerk to decide which issues were appropriate and which committee should consider them.

(g) Thornbury Youth Centre – Request for Funding

No response had been received from the Centre Based Youth Worker despite the Clerk having e-mailed him on three separate occasions.

Cllr. Clive Parkinson had met with Dan Potter, the Thornbury Churches Together Outreach Worker, who had advised that he wanted to use Turnberries to engage with Thornbury youngsters. However, Mr. Potter did not wish to appear to be taking over the Youth Club.

Cllr. Helen Harrison had undertaken some work on a questionnaire and Dan Potter had started his outreach work in town on Friday night.

(h) Thornbury Museum – Renewal of Lease for 4 Chapel Street

The Clerk and Cllr. Phyllida Parsloe had not yet met with Sandi Shallcross, Chair of the Heritage Trust, as she had been involved with arrangements for the Museum's 25th Anniversary Commemoration. Mrs. Shallcross had advised that she would be available to discuss the matter after the event. The information was noted

(i) South Gloucestershire 2026 – Sustainable Community Strategy – Workshop.

Cllr. Clive Parkinson reported that the Workshop arranged for the 18th October had been cancelled and had been rearranged for the morning of 4th November at Kingswood Civic Centre. The information was noted.

(j) Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Clerk advised that an article would be placed in the January edition of Thornbury Magazine seeking suggestions from residents for possible ways to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Society of Council Clerks' Forum was compiling a list of suggestions and the Clerk would bring appropriate proposals to Committee for consideration.

Cllr. Bob Griffin had suggested that a piece of play equipment be dedicated to the Jubilee and members were advised that Thornbury in Bloom intended to plant a commemorative tree.

4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS

(a) South Gloucestershire Councillor Report at Full Council

An e-mail from Cllr. Neil Halsall proposing that a 'South Gloucestershire Councillor Report' be placed on the Full Council agenda had been circulated by e-mail to members prior to the meeting. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for this specific item to be placed on the Full Council agenda and that South Gloucestershire Councillors could attend committee meetings if they have any matters to report. It would also be helpful if the Clerk received notification in advance of the matters they wished to raise so that these items could be placed on the correct agendas.

Cllr. Neil Halsall withdrew his suggestion and agreed to notify the two District Councillors accordingly.

(b) Bristol Count Court Claim Against Council

Resolved that in accordance with Standing Orders and under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business i.e. to consider the Bristol County Court Claim by a local resident on the grounds that it involves likely Disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 para. 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (relating to any legal proceedings by or against the authority).

On return to open session, members resolved to note the information

(c) Anti-Social Behaviour – Pullins Green

A second meeting with police and residents concerning the anti-social behaviour in Pullins Green had been held at the police station.

The police felt that the only course of action to alleviate the problem was the installation of CCTV. There were, however, problems in siting a fixed camera which are as follows:-

- A panel has to decide if the area is a crime hot spot
- There would be resistance from South Gloucestershire Council to the erection of a camera on a lamppost.
- If a camera is placed on a resident's wall and monitored by a private individual then every resident has to be in agreement.
- A Register of Agreement has to be retained for the whole time that the camera is operational.

The only solution would be to apply for one of South Gloucestershire Council's mobile cameras and Rhoddri Briggs, officer responsible for CCTV, advised that, if sanctioned, he may be able to deploy a camera in Pullins Green for approximately three months. It was agreed that Beat Officer, Natalie Draper, prepare a case for the placement of a mobile camera in Pullins Green and submit the application to South Gloucestershire Council. The information was noted.

(d) Parish Charter Review Meeting

Cllr. Clive Parkinson advised that as the meeting had been convened for 27th October the same evening as Council's Estimates meeting no Councillor had been able to attend. The information was noted.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

(a) Resolved that the following accounts paid out of meeting be approved:-

Central Services

South Gos Council	Town Hall Rates (November)	1137.00
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Playing Fields & Cemetery

South Gos Council	Cemetery Rates (November)	251.00
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Land & Property

South Gos Council	Quaker Lane Toilet Rates (November)	77.00
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(b) Resolved that the following accounts now due for payment be approved:-

Central Services

Leco Computer Supplies	Ink cartridge	24.30
Leco Computer Supplies	Ink cartridge	22.19
Pitney Bowes	Postage by phone top up	150.00
Viking Office Supplies	Stationery	149.75
Horders (Thornbury Press)	Christmas Cards	158.95

Environment

GAP Supplies Ltd	Stock items	7.20
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Petrol	142.95
Hawkins of Thornbury	Litter bin repairs	12.32

Playing Fields & Cemetery

Bristol Water plc	Water bill – Town Hall	1011.73
Bowcom	Grass	249.98
Brass Founders (Sheffield)	Brass plaques	203.88
GAP Supplies Ltd	Stock items	37.95
Sullivans Machinery	Belt	63.60
Sullivans Machinery	Belt	75.90
Thornbury Motors	Petrol	142.96
Wicksteed Playscapes	Swing fixings etc	54.79

Land & Property

GAP Supplies Ltd	Stock items	9.53
South Gloucestershire Council	Cleaning Toilets – Quaker Lane	394.38
South Gloucestershire Council	Dog waste collection	43.44
Tree Management	Attend to trees at Chantry Field	225.60
Hawkins of Thornbury	Valve for toilet	3.48

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Gloucestershire Council – Invitation to Localism Workshop

An invitation had been received from South Gloucestershire Council to a Partner Workshop on 21st November to discuss the Localism Bill, the broader aspects of Localism and how South Gloucestershire might approach delivery of the Localism agenda. A copy of the invitation had been e-mailed to members prior to the meeting and a place had already been booked for Cllr. Clive Parkinson.

Notification had also been received of a potential second workshop to be held on the evening of the 6th December and members were asked to contact the Clerk before the 11th November if they wished to attend.

7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS

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

