

**REPORT of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy  
Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

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*Present:* Cllr. Phyllida Parsloe

Cllrs. Clare Fardell  
Bob Griffin  
Neil Halsall  
Shirley Holloway  
Clive Parkinson  
Ann Rogers

Judith Payne (Town Clerk)  
Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following apologies had been received:-

Cllrs: Chris Clifford (Out of Thornbury)  
Alan Dukes (Work Commitment)  
Maggie Tyrrell (Other Meeting)

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

Members welcomed Community Support officer Dawn Golding to the meeting and invited her to address committee.

- (i) There had been two more incidents of car damage in Pullin's Green since the site meeting
- (ii) Over the Christmas period there had been 7 cases of damage to cars in the Thornbury/Alveston area all of which had their doors forced open and stereos, satnavs etc. stolen from the vehicles. There had also been several shop windows smashed, one in the High Street and three in St. Mary Centre.
- (iii) The window of the Newsagents in St. Mary Centre had been kicked in and a youth arrested for burglary.
- (iii) The police had been working with Castle School to ensure that pupils were not causing a nuisance in the town during the lunch period. Several teachers have come into the town centre during the lunch hour and sent the children back to school.
- (iv) Dawn had been working with the parking attendants to ensure that parents parking outside schools were doing so safely. The area around Crossways School had been particularly problematic and a parking ticket had been issued. Manorbrook School had taken steps to address the problem and published articles in its newsletter.
- (v) Cllr. Bob Griffin reported that cars parking in Stafford Crescent were causing an obstruction and had prevented the refuse lorries from carrying out their collections Dawn agreed to investigate the problem.

- (vi) Members asked if the CCTV in the High Street had provided any footage of the incident of the shop window vandalism in the High Street. Dawn advised that, as the CCTV images were monitored in Bristol, recordings were not readily available. It was agreed that Cllr. Shirley Holloway and PCSO Dawn Golding would pursue the matter with Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
- (vii) Copies of the police quarterly newsletter were distributed to members. The police had endeavoured to ensure that every household within the town had received a copy.

Community Support Officer Dawn Golding was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT**

#### **(a) Project Steering Group for Thornbury Hospital**

Copies of the report of the meeting of the Group held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 had been circulated to members, by e-mail, prior to the meeting. The information was received and noted.

Cllr. Phyllida Parlsoe advised that South Gloucestershire Council was anxious to close Old Peoples' Homes and had identified the need to build extra care housing in the area. Some disappointment was expressed that a planned 3 month consultation in the autumn would slow the project down.

Members thanked Cllr. Phyllida Parsloe for producing a detailed report of the meeting.

#### **(b) Safer and Stronger Communities Group – Street Light in Alleyway and Paving Slabs Outside Natwest Bank**

Cllr Clive Parkinson reported on his site meeting Jacqui Ward of South Gloucestershire Council. Jacqui Ward had agreed to progress the resetting of the paving slabs but that since that meeting the bad weather had caused the slabs to lift even more. To ensure pedestrian safety South Gloucestershire Council had taped off the area and Jacqui Ward was waiting for South Gloucestershire Council Engineers to produce plans for the necessary works. It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk would try to progress the matter with Jacqui Ward.

The possibility of providing a street light at the High Street end of the alley way that runs parallel to Castle Court car park was also discussed with Jacqui Ward. She agreed to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Safer and Stronger Community Group.

#### **(c) Quaker Lane Toilets**

##### **(i) Lease**

The clerk informed members that South Gloucestershire Council had agreed to an extended lease for the toilets at Quaker Lane.

##### **(ii) Refurbishment**

A further quote of £72,000 for the refurbishment of the toilets had been received. As reported at the last meeting a suggestion had been made during the preparation of the Town Centre Strategy that the Peer and the Town Council could consider providing one toilet facility in St. Mary Centre. It was agreed that the Clerk raise the matter with the Peer Group.

(d) Better Support for Older People Consultation

A response was still awaited from South Gloucestershire Council.

(e) Thornbury Town Council – Policy Statement

The contents of this document were still being considered and the matter was referred to the next meeting

(f) Letting of 67 High Street Offices

The Clerk advised members that the 'For Sale' board had been placed on the building and the particulars printed. The agents had advised that it would be necessary to obtain an Energy Performance Certificate for the building which would cost £350 + VAT. It was agreed that agents be instructed to organise the necessary inspection for the premises.

It was also agreed to install new kitchen units to improve the overall impression of the premises for any perspective client.

(g) State of Changing Rooms at Thornbury Leisure Centre

At a recent South Gloucestershire Council budget meeting Cllr. Maggie Tyrrell had asked what the proposed budget was for the refurbishment of Thornbury Leisure Centre. She was advised that during previous budget discussions it had been stated that money would be provided for this purpose only if resources were available and such resources were not now available.

Cllr. Neil Halsall advised that the Leisure Centre Trust was willing to provide £40,000 towards the cost of the refurbishment of the changing rooms and had hoped that South Gloucestershire Council would produce match funding.

Members agreed that the Clerk should write to Cllr Heather Goddard, South Gloucestershire Council's Executive Members for Communities, expressing Council's concern at South Gloucestershire Council's lack of commitment to providing funding for improvements at Thornbury Leisure Centre. A copy of the letter should also be sent to Steve Evans, South Gloucestershire Council's Director of Community Services. Cllr. Neil Halsall agreed to provide the Clerk with relevant information to include in the letter.

#### **4. MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

(a) Town Centre Strategy Action Plan

Members considered the Town Centre Strategy Action Plan and allocated the various actions to the relevant committees which would be included on their next meeting agendas. It was agreed that each committee be requested to report back to this committee on their progress every six months.

(b) Presentation by Independent Members of South Gloucestershire Standards Board

Due to the change of time for this committee meeting the representative of the South Gloucestershire Standards Committee was unable to attend but had agreed to attend the next meeting.

(c) Consideration of Paul Wildgoose's Request to Use Exhibition Room as Small Reference Library

*Cllr Phyllida Parsloe declared a personal interest as Council's representative on the Thornbury and District Heritage Trust.*

The clerk reported that the late Vic Hallet had left approximately 2,000 reference books to the museum. The Heritage Trust did not have the space in their premises to make these available to the public and Paul Wildgoose had asked if they could be housed in the Town Hall in the form of a small reference library. The Heritage Trust thought that the Exhibition Room would be an ideal location and was willing to provide small movable book cases that could be adapted easily to accommodate other exhibitions when required. Two librarians would supervise and maintain the library. Cllr Clare Fardell proposed that the museum be given permission to use the Exhibition Room as a library. It was seconded by Ann Rogers and six members voted in favour of the proposal, one voted against and one abstained.

**5. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

Capita Insurance	CRB Applications	160.89
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Resolved that the following accounts now due for payment be approved:-

**Central Services**

Petty Cash		100.00
Avon Wildlife Trust	Membership Renewal 2010	42.00
The Consortium	Stationery and cleaning materials	40.92
Corona Energy	Gas bill – Town Hall	342.99
Chipping Sodbury Glass	Glass for Drop in Centre	7.52
Dulux Decorator Centres	Paint for Exhibition Room	29.25
Hawkins of Thornbury	Cabinet lock	4.37
Horders Thornbury Press	Printing of letterheads etc	405.09
Pitney Bowes Ltd	Reset of meter	7.05

**Playing Fields & Cemetery**

Brass Founders Sheffield	Brass Plaques	193.76
Corona Energy	Gas bill – PFC	198.71
Days Contract Hire	Ford Transit extension (Jan)	242.43
Days Contract Hire	Ford Transit extension (Feb)	242.43
S J Howell Contractors	Hedge trimming	575.00
Sullivans Machinery	Mower	1194.98
Veolia ES Ltd	Container exchange	118.99
Veolia ES Ltd	Container exchange	217.28

**Environment**

Days Contract Hire	Ford Transit extension (Jan)	80.82
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**Grants & Contingencies**

Armstrong Hall Complex	Grant – Mortgage – 4 Chapel Street	171.58
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**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Children's Playlink Play Scheme for Disabled Children 2010**

A grant request had been received from the Children's Playlink Play Scheme for funding towards play provision for disabled children. Members agreed to award a grant of £100.

**7. SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATIONS**

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