

THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 30th July 2019 in the Council Chamber**

Present: Cllrs Angela Symonds (Chairman and Mayor)
Jayne Stansfield (Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor)
Shirley Holloway
Guy Rawlinson
Benj Emmerson
Clare Fardell
Chris Davies
Clive Parkinson
Matthew Stringer
Maggie Tyrrell
Eva Fielding
Bob Griffin
Pam Shipp
Helen Harrison

Louise Powell (Town Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

Absent: Cllr Ashley Bijster

1. **To receive any apologies for absence**

206/19 Cllr Martin Trueman (out of Thornbury)

2. **To receive any members' declarations of interest**

207/19 Cllrs Clive Parkinson and Helen Harrison declared an interest in matters relating to the Castle School Educational Trust, in connection with item 10.
Cllr Benj Emmerson declared an interest in matters relating to item 14 on the agenda

3. **To receive any Chairman's announcements**

208/19 The Chairman gave a brief outline of events she had attended as Town Mayor, including the carnival, which had been very successful. She had been present at the luncheon for the Thornbury In Bloom judging and was pleased with the number of people who had contributed to the town's achievements. Angela had also attended the TMTG Junior production of CATS, which was excellent. Cllrs Harrison and Symonds would be setting up Youth Awards soon.

4. **To receive any representations from the public**

209/19 A member of the public had attended to address the council regarding her concerns over 5G technology. She spoke passionately on the subject, stating that she felt people do not understand the technology and blamed the press for misrepresenting it in the media. Cllr Parkinson asked what concerned people should do, to which she replied that they should speak with their council. It was agreed this item would be put on the next agenda of the Town Development Committee for discussion.

5. **Discussion with Sue Mountstevens, Police & Crime Commissioner, on policing in Thornbury**

- 210/19 Cllr Tyrell gave background to the reasons the Commissioner had been invited to attend. Council were concerned over increasing levels of antisocial behaviour and drug use within the town. Each year, there is a turnover of members in a small group that provide problems and it is felt that more is needed to stop the behaviour of these individuals before it escalates into matters of greater severity.
- 211/19 Sue Mountstevens explained that she is one of three independent Police & Crime Commissioners nationally, the rest all being linked to political parties. Since she was elected to post, she has seen eight years of austerity and drastic cuts to numbers of officers, with nearly 30,000 being lost nationwide. She is acutely aware of the importance of neighbourhood policing, explaining her decision in 2016 to ringfence funding for this. Her first priority is to protect the most vulnerable people in society, with increasing exploitation of children being of particular concern. To combat this, tax for policing has been increased by £2 per month to allow an increased focus on three particular types of crime that the public are concerned about: residential burglary, drug use and knife crime. Referencing the recent appointment of the new Prime Minister and his promise of twenty thousand more officers, Sue Mountstevens explained the meeting of the National Police Board 31.07.19 would determine how the money for this would be allocated. She went onto to outline the PQF scheme for recruiting officers to replace those leaving. The training involved spending 75% of time with the constabulary and 25% of time at UWE. She hopes that over the next three years, we might see 800-900 officers replaced through this scheme in addition to the 500 expected to be allocated from the national increase.
- 212/19 Chief Inspector Ben Moseley, responsible for overseeing policing matters in South Gloucestershire, followed with a presentation which went into more detail on specific figures. He noted there had been significant crimes in the area at the end of last year involving fires and a high value burglary. He started his presentation with some headlines from the Gazette, explaining that three arrests had been made over the fire in the portacabin at The Castle School. Following damage to the property over Christmas, a further eight arrests had been made and the Police were preparing to take this matter to the Crown Prosecution Service. In response to this, intensive patrols were set up, including high visibility routes through the parks at weekends, when it was acknowledged that there was a problem, particularly in the evenings. In addition to this, fortnightly reviews are carried out to ensure resources are best allocated.
- 213/19 The police have recently had a meeting with key partners to discuss how to deal with young people likely to get involved with antisocial behaviour. Part of the solution has been to give high quality assemblies in schools, in addition to an ongoing review of security at the Castle School in particular. CCTV had been installed on Midland Way and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts had been employed at the end of November 2018. He highlighted the risks to his officers in tackling this kind of crime, stating that two officers had been assaulted on Eastland Avenue after confronting an individual for smoking cannabis.
- 214/19 The figures for antisocial behaviour over a rolling twelve month period were positive; overall, there had been a 2.3% reduction in antisocial behaviour, with a 18.2% reduction in that classed as 'nuisance' and a 41.7% reduction in that classed as 'personal', although he acknowledged that the latter was based on few figures. Ben displayed a graph demonstrating the seasonal trend for antisocial behaviour incidents, stating that an increase is always expected between the months of May and July. Cllr Fielding enquired as to the correlation between incident reports and prosecutions. Ben highlighted that prosecutions are not always the most appropriate course of action to prevent reoffending. Writing to parents, unannounced home visits and other forms of early intervention such as acceptable behaviour contracts are often preferable before enforcement through the courts. Lots of offenders in Thornbury are young people who might benefit from this approach.

- 215/19 Cllr Parkinson asked about the relationship between drug use and antisocial behaviour. Ben felt that the two couldn't be separated and other factors such as alcohol also played a part. It was highlighted that there had been significant cutbacks to Youth Services from South Gloucestershire Council and the effects of this had been felt. Cllr Parkinson had recently had a meeting with a local youth club, and it was felt that police support had fallen away since crime rates had dropped. It was felt that it is preferable for the youth groups to have regular support rather than the police only getting involved when a problem occurred. Cllr Harrison reported that previously, the police used to visit once a month and had forged good relationships with young people. She acknowledged that officer Natalie Jones being based at The Castle School was having a positive impact, but whilst she is stationed there, she isn't able to serve the wider community. Ben Moseley took this on board and acknowledged the Council's concern. Cllr Harrison followed up with another question specifically on the action taken to tackle children being groomed. It was explained that the police have funded Barnardo's to assist in this, but it was a difficult task as many children don't realise what is happening when they're being groomed and it can take a long time to earn their trust.
- 216/19 Cllr Griffin asked directly whether there would be more officers on the beat. The Commissioner contested that the historic level of beat officers was as high as perception and stated that crime had changed. People are more likely to be subject to a crime in their own homes than on the street, for example victims of cyber-crime which is an increasing threat. As crime changes, policing has to change too. She explained as a result, all frontline officers are now issued with laptops and encouraged to use them in public places such as coffee shops and parks so that they are visible. She illustrated the need for further investigators as without them, it takes up front line officer time which could be better used elsewhere. She stated that there are not enough officers at the moment.
- 217/19 Cllr Fielding stated that elderly people also fall in the vulnerable category and wanted to know what the police were doing to help them. The Commissioner responded that they were looking to install 'chat benches' for people to sit and talk, which helped them remain integrated with society when otherwise they would be isolated. There is a specific Senior Citizen Liaison Team who work to protect the elderly from scams. It is felt that reducing isolation in all sectors of society helps to reduce vulnerability to crime. Over the summer holidays, there is a particular problem with young people being isolated and talking only with 'virtual' friends. It was suggested sport might be a good way of helping them communicate.
- 218/19 Cllr Tyrrell finished by saying she felt there was a lack of morale within the force and the beat team seemed demoralised, sometimes leading to Thornbury issues being downplayed as the team explained they didn't have the resources required to tackle problems. The Commissioner understood the situation. She reiterated that nearly thirty thousand officers had been lost nationwide and there were an increasing number of assaults on officers which did not encourage positivity. She reported that some constabularies had cut PCSOs altogether, which she was not in support of; she didn't want the police force to become responsive only to problems, she felt the police should be building relationships with people, not just visiting when they were in crisis.
- 219/19 Cllr Parkinson wrapped up the session by thanking the police representatives present for their time, which was very much valued.

(Cllr Bob Griffin left the meeting)

10. **To consider informal consultation on an application for Special Extinguishment of footpath – PT.6312**

- 220/19 Item 10 was brought forwards to allow a member of the public to speak. The gentleman was a member of Thornbury Ramblers Club and gave background on the development and formalisation of the British footpath network. Cllr Holloway queried a historic proposal to install fencing on either side of the footpath. It was explained that this was rejected as being

a safety issue, potentially causing entrapment of users. Cllr Fielding questioned what the police response would be to the claims of violence and harassment at the Sheiling School site. She stated that it was not the path itself causing issues, but an underlying problem. She also put forward a point regarding the benefits of normalising those with disabilities in society. She felt there was benefit to integration over segregation. As the footpath warden, Cllr Rawlinson recalled a previous visit to the Council by the Sheiling School to request the footpath be move to the other side of the fence, into The Castle School property. He noted that this time it was a joint application. He continued that the footpath had been poignant during discussion the application for the Park Farm development; it had been a vital route to connect the development to the town centre. He was concerned that regardless of the circumstances, the closure of this footpath would set a precedent that would be undesirable.

221/19 Cllr Stansfield felt it was unusual for schools not to be fenced all the way around the perimeter, whilst Cllr Holloway could see the difficulties with teaching P.E. lessons on a playing field open to the general public. It was acknowledged by Cllr Fardell that whilst The Castle School was only open to students in daylight hours, the Sheiling School was operational 24 hrs a day and this presented a greater challenge. The existing footpath and easy access to the property would discourage potential criminals being challenged. Cllr Emmerson concluded that only comments had been requested, rather than a recommendation. Comments could be given that reflected the varying opinions around the table. It was agreed that the Clerk would put forward comments to the effect that the Council's instinct is to preserve footpaths, but they are understanding of the special considerations in this instance. They would like all other options explored before the footpath is extinguished and if it should reach this conclusion, it should be highlighted that the need is surrounding vulnerable children, not a general risk to the public, in order that this does not set a precedent.

6. **To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting of Thornbury Town Council on 11.06.2019 and any matters arising from them**

222/19 Item 4 was queried and explained that it would go to the Finance and Policy Committee. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Stringer to be a true record, which was seconded by Cllr Emmerson and unanimously adopted.

7. **To receive reports from the following committees and any matters arising from them**

a) Environment on 18.06.19

223/19 The report was presented by Cllr Stringer who explained they were still waiting for information on the feeding tariff for the solar panels. They were in the process of compiling a significant plan for Poulterbrook which would be presented at the next environment meeting. There was a gap on the rota for the Heritage Open Doors event. All hanging baskets have been sold. Cllr Stringer proposed the report as a true record, which was seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and unanimously adopted.

b) Playing Fields and Cemetery on 02.07.19

224/19 Cllr Harrison presented the report, highlighting that the Osprey Park tenders were under way. She wished to thank Chris for his support with the early morning watering, which she acknowledged was a difficult task. It was clarified that work on the war memorial would be sympathetic to the timing of Remembrance Day. Cllr Parkinson also noted that as they had been promoted, Thornbury Football Club would be playing in the FA Cup. Cllr Harrison proposed the report to be a true record, which Cllr Fielding seconded and it was unanimously adopted.

c) Town Development on 02.07.19

225/19 Cllr Tyrell handed the presentation of the report over to the Vice Chair Cllr Fardell. Cllr Fardell proposed this as an accurate record, which was seconded by Cllr Tyrell and unanimously adopted.

d) Finance & Policy on 04.07.19 and 11.07.19

226/19 Cllr Stansfield presented the report, stating that RBS had been installed and training was under way for the staff. Cllr Parkinson requested the Clerk to write to the police and thank them for their attendance at this meeting. The reports were proposed as a true record by Cllr Stansfield, seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and unanimously adopted.

e) Staffing on 04.07.19

227/19 Cllr Rawlinson presented the report, proposing it as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Stringer and unanimously adopted.

8. To consider the following matters relating to council finance

a) To approve the accounts for payment

ACCOUNTS PAID OUT OF MEETING

South Gos Council	Rates (July) – Town Hall	1289.00
South Gos Council	Rates (July) – Cemetery	329.00
Sage UK	Accounts Support (DD)	180.00
EDF	Energy Bill – MPF	70.11
Matrix Office Supplies	Desk/Chair/Filing Cabinet for AH Manager (to be transferred to A/H account)	354.60
Pearce Bros (Autorentals) Ltd	Transit Van Rental	210.00
Nationwide CRC Ltd	Excess on Insurance Policy	279.88

ACCOUNTS NOW DUE FOR PAYMENT – 30TH JULY 2019

Central Services

TTS Training Services Ltd	PAT Training x 8 delegates	810.00
ALCA	Good Cllr Course	200.00
Corona Energy	Town Hall Energy	128.49
Alexandra Workwear	Cllr Uniform	11.64
Matrix Office Supplies	GDPR Cabinets	252.00
Melrose Group	APLH Course for AH Manager	150.00
Initial	Sanitary Bin Service	74.88
Walker Fire	Fire Alarm Service	792.34
ALCA	Planning Course	200.00
MCL House	Copier Charges	133.22
Consortium	Stationery	137.61
Consortium	Cleaning Materials	16.43
KRUNCH UK	Youth SLA-Quarter 2 Aug – Oct 2019	8750.00
**British Red Cross	First Aid Course for AH Supervisor	334.80
**Amazon (Online)	HDMI Cable	4.98
**John Lewis & Partners	Full HD Epson Projector	499.99

*Thorn & District Heritage Trust	Heritage Trail Leaflets	45.00
Nina Flint	Accounts Assistant	599.00
OTIS	Lift Service	289.01
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill	284.09

Playing Fields & Cemetery

Matrix BES Ltd	Mixer Valves-Public WCs/Water Heater	1317.60
T H White Group	3 Day Mule Hire	222.00
Yate Supplies	Black Sacks	83.38
Hardtrac Ltd	Tractor - Hitch Repair	42.00
Alexandra Workwear	Uniform	16.50
Alexandra Workwear	Uniform	3.78
Zurich Municipal	Insurance	706.56
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Fuel	80.63
Thornbury Motors Ltd	Fuel	44.20
Travis Perkins	Duct Tape	13.25
Corona Energy	Cemetery Energy	72.23
Matrix BES Ltd	Electrical Installation Condition Report	614.40
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	174.22
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	174.22
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	174.22
Wicksteed Leisure	Repair Materials	95.40
Murray Hire Centre	Mini Digger Hire	137.70
Alexandra Workwear	Uniform	22.68
Alexandra Workwear	Uniform	66.00
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	128.09
Brass Founders	Brass Plaque	128.09
Thomas Silvey Ltd	Gas Oil	574.98
T H White Group	Knapsack Sprayer / Grease Arbor	118.51
Wicksteed Leisure	Playground Parts	95.40
T H White	Backhoe Loader	13176.00
T H White	Rotary Mower	61676.40
Sullivans	Stroke Oil	28.95
Andersons Waste Mgt	Empty Drainage System	150.00
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill	16.21
EDF Energy	Electricity Bill	68.42

Land & Property

Pass & Totterdell	Toilet Repair – MPF	103.96
Walker Fire Ltd	Fire Extinguisher Service – Museum	120.00

Grants & Contingencies

xxx	xxx	xx.xx
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Environment

Thornbury Motors ltd	Fuel	51.96
T & J Owen	Compost & Baskets	453.78
T & J Owen	Planting TIB	1749.00

**Credit Card Payment

*Cheque Payment

228/19

The accounts were proposed for payment by Cllr Stringer, seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and unanimously agreed.

b) To consider quarterly spend against budget

229/19 The accounts were tabled. The Clerk explained that the superannuation and wages would be split between the correct departments later in the year, which is why spend looked high, but they were actually in line with budget and expectation. She clarified that overall, the spend was slightly underbudget and she could see no cause for concern. Some of the payments for the accommodation guide and grave maintenance had been chased. Cllr Stringer queried why the solar panels were still showing in the budget to which the Clerk responded that they would stay until Council agrees to change the budget heading. She continued that she would have more reports from the new RBS system in the next quarter although there wouldn't be a direct comparison, as the nominal code headings differed slightly between systems. The accounts were proposed by Cllr Parkinson, seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and unanimously agreed.

c) To consider historic cheques and actions required

230/19 The clerk tabled a paper of cheques that had been written but unrepresented. She suggested due to the time scales involved, these should be written off. This was proposed by Cllr Parkinson seconded by Cllr Stringer and unanimously agreed.

d) To consider recommendations on direct debit/standing order payments

231/19 A number of accounts who often face late payment charges were highlighted by the temporary RFO as ones that could be paid by another method. The recommended courses of action were proposed by Cllr Rawlinson, seconded by Cllr Stringer and unanimously agreed.

e) To receive an update on accounting matters

232/19 The Clerk reported that RBS had arrived! The training was behind, as when the consultant arrived, it had been discovered that they needed more information than they had previously requested. Training was otherwise going well.

9. **To consider Planning and Licensing Applications as per the attached table**

233/19 Comments as per attached table.

11. **To consider Council's response to the following consultations:**

a. South Gloucestershire Council's Resource and Waste Strategy for 2020-2030

235/19 This item would be deferred to the next Council meeting.

b. South Gloucestershire Council's Updated Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for waste

236/19 The Council declined to comment.

c. South Gloucestershire Council's Consultation on Better Care Stronger Communities

237/19 This item would be deferred to the next Council meeting.

12. **To resolve under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

238/19 Resolved. The press and remaining members of the public left the room.

13. **To consider Debtors table and actions required and any actions on other financial matters**

239/19 The Clerk tabled a paper and requested permission to write off the transactions. Cllr Rawlinson proposed this course of action, which Cllr Stringer seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

240/19 The Clerk stated that the RFO had now left so we needed to appoint a temporary RFO until we recruit to the post. It was proposed by Cllr Rawlinson that the Clerk be the temporary RFO this was seconded by Cllr Symonds and it was unanimously agreed.

14. **To discuss a leasing issue at the Town Hall**

(Cllr Emmerson declared an interest and left the room)

241/19. The Clerk reported that progress had been made on the issue and Council responded positively to this news. A further update would be provided at the next Council meeting.

THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS that will expire before the next Council meeting on 30.07.19

DATE	REF NO	LOCATION	PROPOSAL	COMMENT	PLANNING DECISION
03.07.19	P19/7914/F	4 Larkspur Close Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 1UQ	Erection of single storey side extension to form additional living accommodation.	No objection	
04.07.19	P19/8107/F	7 Cossham Close Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 1JP	Demolition of existing garage. Erection of two storey side and single storey rear and front extensions to provide additional living accommodation. (Amendment to previously approved scheme PT18/4377/F)	Object. The extension is detrimental to neighbour's amenities, specifically loss of light to main living room.	
04.07.19	P19/6824/F	1 Parkmill Cottages Oldbury Lane Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire	Demolition of outbuildings. Erection of single storey rear and two storey side and single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation.	No objection	
04.07.19	PT18/3756/O The above planning application is to be considered by the Strategic Sites Delivery Committee at Turnberries, Bath Road, Thornbury, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, BS35 2BB on the	Land At Crossways Morton Way Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire	Development of up to 100 no. dwellings, up to 0.33 ha of B1 employment (Outline) with access to be determined. All other matters reserved.	Object. Thornbury Town Council's original objections to the application for housing on this site still stand. The development would be detrimental to the special rural character of the area and would spoil the healthy enjoyment of the area by walkers and cyclists who currently use the adjacent lanes extensively. The Council is particularly concerned regarding the suggestion that a future metrobus link could be driven through this very special area. This is	

	11th July 2018, starting at 1.00pm.			the first time such a suggestion has been heard by the Council and it is completely inappropriate. This has been put forward without any sort of consultation taking place or any investigation of the feasibility. Since South Gloucestershire Council is about to invest in “quiet lanes” type of extra traffic calming to ensure the continued safety for pedestrians in Crossways Lane it seems perverse to consider such a route.	
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PLANNING APPLICATIONS to be considered on 30th July 19

DATE	REF NO	LOCATION	PROPOSAL	COMMENT	PLANNING DECISION
11.07.19	P19/8542/F	39 Jubilee Drive Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 2YQ	Erection of two storey front extension and conversion of original garage to form additional living accommodation. Erection of front single storey detached garage.	Object. The garage is intrusive to neighbouring amenities and changes the character of the landscaping.	
15.07.19	P19/7466/F	31 Ashgrove Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 2LH	Demolition of existing garage and erection of 1no detached dwelling. Access and associated works. (Resubmission of PT18/1795/F)	Previous comments for application PT18/1795/F still stand: OBJECT, Council has concerns regarding the lack of amenity space for neighbouring residences and concerns regarding over-development and the appropriateness of the proposals in that area.	
17.07.19	PT18/0913/O	Land At Post Farm Thornbury South Gloucestershire BS35 1RB	Erection of up to 39no. dwellings with public open space and associated infrastructure (outline) with access to be determined; all other matters reserved.	Object: as per previous comments on Post Farm applications	
18.07.19	LI19/3002/STS		Application for a Renewal Street Trading Consent in South Gloucestershire Re: High Street Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire Trading As: Thornbury Kebabs	No objection	
18.07.19	P19/8659/O	Land At Crossways Morton Way Thornbury South Gloucestershire	Development of up to 80 dwellings, up to 1.0 ha of B1/B2/B8 employment land (Outline) with access to be determined. All other matters reserved.	Object: scale may be inappropriate for location. Refer to all previous comments.	
19.07.19	P19/8588/O	5 North Road Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 1EA	Demolition of existing outbuilding and subdivision of existing dwelling to create 2no. dwellings and erection of 2no. new dwellings and associated works (Outline) with all matters	No objection in principle, but Council require clarity on amenity space provided.	

DATE	REF NO	LOCATION	PROPOSAL	COMMENT	PLANNING DECISION
			reserved.		
23.07.19	P19/09281/PDR	38 Jubilee Drive Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 2YQ	Erection of single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation	No objection	
23.07.19	P19/09252/F	29 Malvern Drive Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 2HY	Erection of a single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation.	No objection	
23.07.19	P19/09320/PNH	22 Hillcrest Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 2JA	The erection of a single storey rear extension which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 3.4 metres, for which the maximum height would be 3.8 metres, and for which the height of the eaves would be 2.7 metres.	No objection	
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER PAPERS SENT OUT					
25.07.19	P19/2524/RM <u>AMENDED PLANS RECEIVED BY SOUTH GLOS</u>	Land West Of Gloucester Road Thornbury Bristol	Erection of 130 no. dwellings on 8.00 hectares of land with parking, open space, allotments and associated works. (Approval of Reserved Matters external appearance, landscaping, layout, scale to be read in conjunction with outline permission PT16/4774/O).	Object- The Council is not convinced this change in layout will improve matters. The Layout is still inappropriate for the location. Refer to previous comments regarding layout being inappropriate for area. Council also support the landscape response comments from the 17 th July.	

DATE	REF NO	LOCATION	PROPOSAL	COMMENT	PLANNING DECISION
26.07.19	P19/09467/F	22 Hillcrest Thornbury Bristol South Gloucestershire BS35 2JA	Erection of a single storey side extension to form additional living accommodation.	No objection	