

WELCOME TO SMIB South Molton in Bloom

BIG THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT

Minutes of Meeting held by Zoom February 11th 2021 at 6.30pm

Present :

Sue Harrison
David Worden
Bridget Simmons
Ruth Taylor-Jones
Elaine Symons
Anne Beagley
Sue Sewell
Glenys Laws
Christine Goddard
Joanne Harris
Mandy and Rob Ostler
Judith Ward
Debbie Woolley

Also present Andrew Coates in his role as Town Clerk

Apologies:

Christine and Ian Barnes
Sue Cornish
Helen Cousans
Penny Grigg
Paul Henderson
Kirstie Halls
Andrea Hutchings
Lorna Hazelden
Jackie Griffiths

Meeting started at 1830

1.Sue welcomed everyone to the first meeting and gave thanks to all for their enthusiasm. She asked to go through everything that had happened to date, to keep all informed and then ask everyone to contribute individually afterwards.

2.Everyone has agreed the constitution both on email/phone and again here tonight so the group is officially a group as from today! **Action: Sue H Will send out to group and Andrew**

3.Luckily Andrew has agreed to include us on the town council insurance as a temporary option until we take our own insurance out. *It does mean though we will only be covered if we inform Andrew via me on email where and when we are working and clearly it has to be*

in the areas covered by South Molton in Bloom. **Action: Sue H will apply for insurance through the RHS**

4. Ruth has agreed to be Treasurer. Ruth and I have applied to the only bank possible ie the Nat West for a community account and our application is being considered. In the meantime Andrew is going to let us use a sub account within the council so that we can do cheques for the competitions etc. Also the great news is thanks to Paul Henderson, the mayor, we have £300 in the bank account straight away so can pay for the entry to SW in Bloom. Furthermore he has generously agreed to sponsor two beds in town on behalf of South Molton News and his Print Shop. He has also agreed to publish an article monthly in the South Molton News as has Molton Monthly. **Action :Sue to write an introductory article for both this month**

5. To date we have 24 members in the group as can be seen above. Andrew will help us out as Town Clerk. **Action : Sue to send out the member list with contact details, as agreed in constitution.**

6. Bridget Simmons has agreed to be Minutes Secretary. There will be two signatories on all cheques ie Sue Harrison and Ruth Taylor-Jones. As an emergency, Christine Goddard has agreed to be a third signatory but we can only add her after the account has been opened as mentioned on a previous email.

7. To begin we have agreed to focus on the following areas with permission from Andrew and David:

- .All raised beds in the town
- .Two borders through the iron gates leading up to the church steps
- .Raised bed in the Recreation area behind the Pannier Market
- .Area behind the library under the mural and the seated area which is for Glenys is happy to care for but we can help as Glenys wants
- Central Park
- Sheep Fair Field (in conjunction with Fran Sendell)
- Land leading down to The Community Woods
- Raleigh Mead green areas around the play area
- The green area opposite Squire Court
- Touts Court

(Swift boxes,community gardens,allotments and two primary schools .. all to come under the umbrella of South Molton in Bloom but they run themselves.)

Most important NOT GRASS MOWING !!!

Action:Andrew and I to discuss possibility of roundabouts when we have established the above

8. Need a theme for all the above beds, bearing in mind horticulture, the environment and the community. Decided on rainbows as current and colourful.

9. Another thought is to run a gardening competition in the town, especially concentrating on front gardens and hanging baskets. Perhaps a smaller subgroup needs to run this ?

10. We also need to think about fundraising/grant applications. *Need volunteers*

11. Anne and her husband have given us loads of seeds to grow into plugs to raise funds for SMIB so need volunteers to grow please. (Helen has already offered to take some). Penny and Elaine are going to grow sunflowers to plant along the fence going down towards the community woods.

12. Tyres.. Wendy and David from Townhouse Barton have offered us lots of free tyres and have kindly offered to transport them around too. He will sort groups of seven of the same size in good condition. The Cof E primary school are going to take 14 and The Community Primary School are going to take 7. In addition we have 35 others for which we needed storage, where we could keep them safe and paint. Andrew kindly agreed to us using the Recreation Centre until they could be moved to other areas in the town. **Action: Sue to liaise with Wendy to arrange delivery**

13. Sue is going around all local businesses encouraging sponsorship and many have already agreed to sponsor us. Sue approached The Men' Shed today to do wooden signs as environmentally friendly to be engraved with sponsored by etc .. The Men's Shed will buy the equipment needed. Sue then contacted RGB who agreed to supply a lot of wood to do these signs. Colin from The Men's Shed will collect this wood and start the project. **Action:Sue to continue raising sponsorship and liaise with The Men's Shed to do the signs.**

14. John May has agreed to go to Deepmoor to get free compost and transport to where it is needed as well as sponsoring a bed.

15. Christine Goddard is The Manager from Squires Court and has agreed to try and raise some money and get the residents involved with the planting on the land opposite and their gardens.

16. Joanne Harris is on the group and The community primary school is going to be very much involved with both the areas in town especially Central Park and also very active within their own grounds. This is also the case for the Church of England School. Kevin, the headmaster, has some free trees coming from the Woodland Trust and is happy for us to plant some in the town areas. Both schools are happy to be involved in painting the walls around Central Park and Andrew agreed that it was a good idea, as where this had been done before there was no graffiti since.

17. Also need volunteers to apply for grants, to grow veg from seeds, to help grow interest with the gardening competition. Also discussed making insect hotels and encouraging bees.

18. Not heard from Quince Honey Farm .. can anyone help with contacting someone?

19. Need someone to design an invoice.

We then went around the group for comments, ideas and volunteers.

BRIDGET: Bridget has bought seven bare root roses to start off planting in Raleigh Mead. Asked about trees in Raleigh Mead .. David to action see below. Bridget asked how we are going to get waste taken away .**ACTION : Andrew to arrange for council guys to pick up from an agreed point. He has since given Sue the contact number.**

DAVID : Happy to continue helping as much as he can bearing in mind his council work. Sue commented that he has already helped loads! **Action:to contact North Devon Council to come and give advice and answer questions at Raleigh Mead whilst meeting with Bridget and Sue**

ELAINE: Happy to do any physical work ie painting tyres, bagging compost, planting and growing. Also asked if everyone could buy off Roger at £20. Came up with the idea that we put in local magazines that we do a massive clean up as individuals in South Molton focusing on the area immediately in front of your property and helping neighbours if necessary. **Action: Elaine will contact Ian Wallis from Quince Honey Farm. Sue will contact Roger to get clarification over basket prices and put in magazine articles. Sue will put the idea in May articles then praise people in June and ask them to repeat especially before judging day.**

RUTH : Happy to apply for grants and do invoice format. **Action:Sue to send logo and Ruth to design invoice. Sue to send links for grant applications** Both Ruth and Andrew have contacts within the scouts which would be useful for the work in Central Park and perhaps helping them with their badges. **Action: Ruth and Andrew to search out contact in the scouts and let Sue H know**

JUDITH : Happy to do anything physical and tyre painting

MANDY AND ROB OSTLER : Happy to do painting and planting. Mandy later suggested we might like to have a competition for children painting stones - area to be designated and classes drawn-up. Maybe we need to contact the schools for this as well.

SUE SEWELL: Sue and husband Dave are happy to do litter collecting through the town on a regular basis. Group will arrange a town tidy too before the judging. **Action : Sue to arrange contact with a group called Literatzy ?** Sue also suggested Touts Court as pretty and the residents care for it. **Action:Sue to walk round the town to show Sue H Touts Court** Sue happy to help with fund raising. Sue and Andrew to search out Market Manager's number to arrange a stall to sell veg plugs towards end of May.

ANNE : Has a lot of beans to plant up ready for sale as plugs. Happy to do a stall in the market to sell the plants. Happy to be involved in fundraising

DEBBIE: Happy to plant up seeds ready for sale and help with gardening

GLENYS : Happy to look after gardens behind the Library with help

JOANNE: Offered pupils to make Insect Hotel for Central Park **Action Joanne to arrange**

CHRISTINE: Explained that she was trying to get extra funding. Residents keen to get involved. Want to include their gardens as well as getting involved in land opposite.

ANDREW : Ready to place an order for three baskets for the town hall. Also he stressed that the council are responsible for weed killing in April/ May so to liaise with Andrew and Stephen. Also suggested contacting Mervyn Way again. **Action: Sue to contact Roger Partridge to place order**

NEXT MEETING : WEDNESDAY 10th MARCH 2021 7pm
(David to arrange zoom again)

Since this meeting Mervyn Way has offered compost for all the town beds including transportation and is going to sponsor New Rd bed for £100 this year and £40 thereafter annually.

Christine and Ian Barnes who could not make the meeting have promised to look after the circular beds by the old school surrounded by scaffolding which is fantastic, so they could definitely care for two but Andrea Hutchings is hoping to plant up a succulent bed in the other one. This can all be discussed at the next meeting
The C of E primary school will make a bug hotel for Raleigh Mead and/or Central Park, if we can get some palettes? The same school would like seeds to grow plants and Williams have offered to do this plus provide compost.

Roger Partridge has talked to me...happy to work with us. £20 for businesses in town to do baskets as a favour. £25 for the general public including mossed baskets 14" with chains and full of flowers. He will do the three tiered baskets in town for £75 each which I think is very reasonable and I will try and get a business to sponsor each of them.

The Men's Shed have started the signs, having collected the wood from RGB Ashmoor Nurseries and The Old Well Garden Centre will both give South Molton in Bloom 10% discount if we buy in bulk.

Sainsburys Homebase will help me with products nearer the time.

The Rotary Club is considering our application.

To date we have promised sponsorship for beds from..M Way, Exmoor Hardware, Shapland, John May, Williams, Daisy Park, Printworkx, South Molton News, Bray Valley Winesmany other businesses have been and are being contacted.

Moorland Larder are sponsoring a tree/shrub at £25

We cannot take any money at the moment and we will need a lot more, as loads to do!

Jackie Griffith will design a leaflet to drop off at any properties re. Front garden displays etc

Please let me know as actions are completed.

Next meeting we will discuss further areas of responsibility, decide on planting and start planning the work.

Any ideas for the next agenda, please email me.

Sue Harrison