

South Molton In Bloom

Minutes

Meetings held at the Amory Centre/Zoom

17/05/21 at 11am & 7pm

Present:

11am

Ruth Taylor Jones, Chris Goddard, Anne Dockerty, Anne Beagley, Margaret Chester, Julie Vaughan, Kirstie Hall, Dawn Wellstood, Mary McMonnies (Treasurer), Gail Allen, Jane Lucas, Sue Sewell, Mayor Mervyn Way, Sue Harrison (Coordinator)

On Zoom: Cllr. David Worden, Cllr. Matt Bushell, Debbie Woolley, Glenys Laws, Will Locke, Verity Hanson, Bridget Simmons, Mary McMonnies (Treasurer), Jane Lucas (Sec.), Sue Harrison (Chair)

Apologies: Mandy Ostler, Wendy Fong, Andrew Coates, Elaine Symons

Absent: Andrea Hutchings, Dave Toms, Helen Cousans, Joanne Harris, Paul Henderson

Opening welcome by Sue .. including new members Anne, Matt and Mervyn

Minutes of last meeting: Approved

Matters arising:

i) latch & slate not repaired yet in Library Gardens **Action : Andrew Coates**

ii) Tyres to be done in Pathfields, but not up by Quince Honey Farm. All

Agreed. Mr Herniman has given a donation for planting of Pathfields tyre. M. Ostler has planted up tyre by Exeter Gate at own expense.

iii) Head Teacher not approached because the Police are monitoring the Library Gds. area and Central Park.

iv) 30 Swift boxes installed around town, SH has 2 to be given away & put up... Fran Sendell has them at the mo.

v) Debbie giving poppy seeds

vi) Penny Grigg .. no news on Hanging Basket article .. probably too late now

Chairs report:

Sue asked group to vote in Jane Lucas as Full Secretary as Bridget had agreed to retire as Minutes Secretary as she only stepped in to help me out at the very beginning. Vote was unanimous.

Sue praised the group on how everyone was working so well together as a team and the group has such an amalgam of different skills.

Sue asked the group if they would support Matt Bushell's idea of an Arboretum in The Gullacombe Valley. The group all agreed enthusiastically in principle as long as the funding did not have to come from the group. The group agreed that 106 money should be used for it. In the evening Matt asked David to agenda this item on The Amenities Group. Sue H asked if she could attend one of their meetings and David agreed. Will Locke offered us an oak tree which the group agreed to put in Central Park. **Action : Will Locke**

Sue reported on the state of all areas .. Pannier Market Beds and three circular beds at the end of North St completed. Schools now have their goods from the anonymous business sponsorship money ie £52 compost for Cof E School and £5.20 worth of compost plus the rest in plants from the Plant Stall for The

Community School. Joanne has since collected all of the plants. We are yet to donate a few runner bean plants. We are still to plant all the beds in East St and the town. The grasses still need to go around the path in the Burial Ground leading up to the tree. We still have to plant the four planters there too. We need some more plants in Lorry Wash, New Rd, Church Walk, Squires Court, Livarot and Community Woodland Gateway Pathway and Library Gardens. Central Park : Fence still to be painted with Homebase Paint and still to plant entrance beds to CP. Climbers still to be done up the painted fence. The tyres are completed.

Sue H gave the **Treasurer's report** as The Nat West have removed Ruth but not yet agreed to Mary. Report is attached. Sue also ran through all the sponsors to date and thanked them for their generosity

Matt suggested we might ask for compensation from Nat West **Action: Sue H to complete**

Councillor Grants

Discussion ensued about grants. Sue Explained that she had asked Matt, David and Paul for £1080 specialised tulips, hyacinths & hellebores. Decision yet to be announced.

Plant Sale

The group thanked Debbie and her family for another fantastic result, raising £200.30 pence and in fact in essence more, as we gave the school at least £50 worth of plants from the stalls too. We discussed the next plant sale on 27th May . Sue H said Lynne Miller Christian Aid, is going to bring lots of plants to the stall and various members offered to help Anne on the day. We may do two tables depending on the weather and Sue H to ring Mel the Market Manager just before the day.

Plan between now and Judging Day

Group talked about planting at The Medical centre area and in their three planters – a suggestion of NHS logo was made. **Action: Kirstie** to design and plant !

Wood Chips donation from the Honey farm: All agreed to be put on beds after final planting.

Schools: they are to submit a portfolio of their gardens and works for judging day

Group agreed much work to be done before judging in terms of planting, weeding and laying wood chips. Work groups to be organised throughout June.

Beds in Town: need, work taking out old stuff & lifting daffodil bulbs if good for storage. **Action: Mervyn** to drop off compost for filling & replanting

Sue gave the news that Henry from the Wombles would like to take responsibility for the little bed next to The Skate Park to put in succulents and cacti .. we just need to weed and prepare it for him.

Julie raised the question as to whether we could repair the Central Park Welome sign **Action: Sue H to take photos and talk to Mens Shed**

Action. SH appeal for plants on Facebook due to the reduction in money in the bank.

Primary Schools .. see above

Litter Picking Group

Litter Picking: poor turnout on Saturday, hoops, bags and pickers are available from SH. Another day to be planned. **Action: Will Locke to organise and plan**

Mick from Fire Service happy to organise a massive litter pick but needed a skip ..Mervyn agreed to place a skip in his yard on Pathfields. **Action: Sue H to ask SWM Waste if they could provide a skip.**

Litter picking: David W – the Barnstaple litter pickers would like to link up with SM Wombles and share resources from ND Council, plus set up a Whatsapp Group. **Action : David Worden to organise**

Front Garden Competition

Julie Vaughan reported that at the time there are 10 shop windows, 6 Frontages & 3 Front Gardens entered. More needed – volunteers to put out flyers

to suitable homes in the town. David Beagley will print .. thanks to David for all his hard work printing. Charity shops all want to do something colourful and creative. Hanging baskets available from the end of May.

Art Display

Elaine Symons is making garlands for the Pannier Market. Arts Destination are doing their own display too for the market. Elaine has not had response from the schools yet. We need to ask Stella if she can design a logo for the Exmoor and the Devon flag .. **Action : Elaine/ SH to email Stella**

Skate Park

Skate Park: Brad to finish painting..big thanks given to Verity's husband. John & Matt doing murals on the next dry W/E. John has got local firm Branhams from Exmouth, to agree to give plywood and spare light bulbs for free. Blue hut that is to be demolished later in the year to be spray painted by a street artist as a spaceship. Verity Hanson has asked for the area under the CCTV to be cleared so it can have a clear view of the Central Park. VH reported that council are to let Skate Park have their own side bank account for funding and donations given. Skate-Jam being planned for July/August. VH asked to be present at Town Council Amenities meetings. Verity also asked for another bin by The Skate Park **Action: Andrew to organise? Verity to discuss with him.**

Fundraising

Ideas to be discussed and organised after judging day

RHS Days out

Notices from RHS: 2 days open to members at Seaton on the 24th June & presentation day at Western Super Mare 7th October, names to SH.

Group agreed not to go to 24th June and to wait until after Judging Day to decide about Oct outing to Weston Super Mare but to keep October 7th free in the diary.

Judging Day

Tuesday 13th July. A request from SH for members to keep the date in their diary. Also to be free the previous W/E & Monday for litter pick and general tidy up. 'Wombles' to be asked to help over weekend to do a massive clear up.

There will be a buffet lunch for the Judge and members at Sue Harrison's on the 13/7/21. Judging of the town and the Community Gardens will take place in the morning and then Central Park in the afternoon. The group are to be dotted around the route on the day. Sue Sewell will accompany Sue H around the route. Anyone wishing to make food for the buffet, please contact Sue. Front Garden/ Frontage competition will be judged after the 13th. Harris fencing in the Activity Centre needs to be moved before judging day. **Action: Andrew Coates**

AOB

SH is asking for a shed for tools & equipment and suggestions of where one may be were discussed. To put a request out on FB for shed/ land. **Action: Mervyn** said he would try to supply the shed.

SH informed us that her son was going to start a Website for SMIB this weekend and also a fundraising page on FB.

Julie asked about water butts .. discussion ensued and **Action: Sue S to ask council**

The Mayor MW thanked the SMIB Group for all their hard work.

Date of Next Meeting : Monday 14th June at 11 am & Zoom at 7pm. Venue tbc