

Minutes of the meeting of South Molton In Bloom at

The Garden Room, Amory Centre at 11am 7/9/21

PRESENT

Kirsty Halls

Margaret Chester

Julie Vaughan

Chris Goddard

Darrellyn Gunzburg

Helen Waller

Jane Lucas (Secretary

Sue Harrison (Coordinator)

Dawn Wellstood

Anne Beagley

APOLOGIES

From everyone else.

Minutes of the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> August '21 approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Agreed with Andrew Coates that the group can work on the Garden Courtyard in conjunction with the Dementia Friendly group. The area has been cleared and

brambles removed by Stephen. Dawn queried the plants at the back and it was explained they needed to stay because of the drop and prevention of vandalism. The work to be costed separately and shown to Andrew so we can use the Garden Room (cost free) for our meetings. We will work with the Dementia group which meets fortnightly there. A Lottery grant has been applied for just under 2k to spend on the Courtyard but nothing heard from them so far. Kirsty suggested contacting Adam from Home Instead for more money but Sue said she would do so in Spring as twice in a year is too invasive!

**ACTION: SH & DG to chase up the grant.**

Margaret C & Sue S have put together a letter to the Councillors to ask for a town plan with the Councils' responsibilities of individual areas to be clearly identified and for a maintenance plan for the year of the verges, beds & road gutters. SMOB would be happy to meet with Councillors to discuss. (A copy of the letter to be kept by MC and Sue S who will pursue this). **ACTION: MC and SS**

Julie gave a report of the Front Gardens Competitions she and Margaret have worked on in readiness for next year. Rules for the Competitions were made, giving the categories and what constituted each category of Front Garden, Frontages, Courtyard and Shop windows. Posters have already been devised. The theme is to be Wellies and Tiaras in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The winners of this year's competition have agreed to be the judges for the Pre- judging days next year with Mandy (this year's judge) for continuity. A suggestion was made ( and agreed by all) that a token of appreciation eg Melchoir Chocolates from SMIB would go to Lady Arran after the SMIB results are known on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. The competition will be announced next Spring. Dawn asked about a plan B in the event of HM's death but it was agreed to continue in celebration of her anyway.

Gail handed Julie a 3 fold leaflet from Ledbury In Bloom, which SMIB could emulate with details how to contribute etc. **ACTION: SH**

Julie asked about the South Molton Floral Club and if we should be speaking to them about SMIB. Margaret to attend their AGM this evening and ask as they are affiliated to RHS. & would they like to do a floral demonstration at the stall in the market on Dec 11th. **ACTION: MC**

Sue had a meeting with Mike Jones NDDC Estates manager, to look at the expansion of areas around South Molton; Looking at the area behind the Library garden, the 2 trees in the livestock area and their surroundings and the area opposite the Market Vets; he agreed and was disgusted that these areas had not been maintained. Their visit to Liverot Gdns has been delayed so talking about the citing of the water-but there is delayed to October. These areas were forwarded to Paige at NDDC in order to be given a licence for SMIB to be able to access and

garden them, but it has been refused on the grounds of disputed ownership, leases and health & safety. The email has been forwarded to the Town Councillors on the group plus Andrew. SMiB needs to have these areas to expand on from this year. It was unanimously agreed to take this matter forward and if we were not successful, we would have to reconsider entering next year as we need new things to show the judge. The group are asking David Worden to take this forward with the help of the other councillors and Andrew. **ACTION: SH. DW. AC. MW. MB. PH**

The South Molton Fire Brigade have agreed to top up water butts next year wherever they can. To ask them if they can do the newly installed water butt by the Medical Centre. **ACTION SH**

SH asked for a statement from MVF , should be enough to buy another water-butt but need to wait for Caroline to come back from leave to give us a proper statement. Need a reducing pipe and a bend to fit on the Courtyard garden roof to a butt to enable Julie to fit the other newly bought butt. **ACTION: SH & JV to talk to AC after the meeting.**

Sue had looked at 'self watering planters' for the Enhancement, but they are prohibitively expensive at this time. Long discussion ensued re using newly bought farming items for planting on the enhancement in place of three tiered planters.

Sue stated that Andrew was happy for Elaine to use the chapel at the cemetery for art storage.

A question was asked about the Shed for storage: Cllr. Way has it in hand.

KH asked about the Sentry box in the Library Gdns? and to whom it belonged, that it would make a platform for surplus plants with an 'honesty-box' beside it for donations. **ACTION: SH to confirm**

KH also has platinum paint for use next year and suggested that SMIB may look at 'Browns Yard' to see if there is anything suitable for us to use. This led to a discussion about old farm machinery for 2022. That South Molton Vintage Group might be of some help, also to contact the local Young farmers group for old machinery, also Exmoor Hardware for a container. **ACTION: JL & KH**

### **Coordinator's report**

SH stated very much as above as not much had happened since last meeting.

## **Finances**

As attached to the agenda. Discussion ensued as to whether we should become a charity if we were to succeed in getting lots of funds. **Action: MM and SH to ask AC**

## **Fundraising:**

DG gave a report on behalf of Gail too, on the Fundraising ideas that have already been circulated to the Committee and were attached to the agenda. A superb report from both with excellent ideas.

Items for discussion at the October meeting. Christmas Tree Festival at the Parish Church & the Christmas Stall at the market in December.

## **Action: JL DG GM**

**SMIB Logo.** HE gave out an A4 sheet with 5 different Logos on, it was decided by those present to further work on numbers 3 & 4 and HW would take them and think further on producing some variations on them. SH said it would be important for everyone on the group to have a say on this and so to itemize it as a major discussion for the next meeting. **ACTION: HW**

Christmas dinner may be on Wednesday evening 15<sup>th</sup> December or 11<sup>th</sup> evening as planned originally but SH to look at taxis and venues, as nothing forthcoming from local venues in SM. **ACTION: SH**

The tea for sponsors would be discussed when Elaine is present at the next meeting.

## **AOB**

Possibility of selling sunflower seeds on the stall for a completion next year at the Revel or later was muted by Dawn and Kirstie but asked if they wanted to take the lead on it and said no so have left to DG and GM to see if they want to include it as part of fundraising..

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October Garden Room Amory Centre at 11am