

Minutes of the meeting of South Molton In Bloom at

The Garden Room, Amory Centre at 11am on Monday 6th December 2021.

Present:

Helen Waller

Jane Lucas

Sue Harrison (Chair)

Anne Beagley

Mary Mcmonnies

Gail Allen

Glenys Laws

Linda Mitchell

Sue Sewell

Apologies from everyone else.

Minutes of the last meeting already circulated and approved.

Welcome back to Glenys Laws and appreciation to the 3 new male members on the Group

Treasurer's report: as already circulated in the Business Plan sent to the Town Council and members 2 weeks ago.

Coordinator's report:

Sue Harrison made a presentation to the Town Council on the 23rd of November, accompanied by Sue Sewell. (Can be heard on Devon Live). An interim grant has been applied for to the Town Council for £600.00 which will be taken off the total if we are granted funding following the Town Council's setting of their budget in

January 2022. SH did say to Andrew that she hopes we will get £600 as the Library Gardens is only a small area and got £400, whereas we are talking about the whole town! It goes to the Finance Committee on Monday 13th.

South West Water is to do some digging works in Liverot Walk, which will take 2 of the set of 7 semi-circle beds, reducing them to 5 beds. We hope that the works will be completed by judging next year but doubtful. Estates Manager for NDDC, Mike Jones, was very positive about Liverot Walk. No decision has yet been made about the bed opposite Market Vets yet and we still have no answer to the letter sent 3 months ago about the gutter clearing of South Molton's roads for the judging day. Sue to ask David Worden to chase. **Action : David Worden**

Glenys pointed out the new criteria set by the National In Bloom committee which will move more from annual flowers and baskets to more sustainable planting. This was a newspaper article and so we will await the criteria presumably sent out next year by The RHS. Sue added that we had virtually made that move anyway, as we only do annuals in East St and The Enhancement.

Lady Arran has promised a tree to SMiB to go towards the Queen's Green Canopy Map, which will be planted in the new bed in the 'Sheep Pen' car park. Jane has already started digging this over and now the roots there need picking up. Andrew has said Steve will help do this. **Action: SH to ask Andrew Coates**

Banner: Permission by the Town Council has been granted to place a SMIB Banner across the top of Church Walk, to be paid for by the chemist Day-Lewis. The Day-Lewis shop will also house a display of the gold awards and the Ayres Cup in their window. We can also use this display to advertise things like The Animal Memorial. With grateful thanks to them. Elaine is to do the display some time soon. **Action: Elaine and Bridget Smith**

Three Spindle trees have been purchased and planted in the Gateway grass area. These are to be kindly paid for by Councillor Herniman.

Fundraising: Gail

The second Christmas market stall is to be on Thursday 16th December. Volunteers required to help on the stall. Prices agreed by group as follows: Wreaths £5, candles in jars £1 including a tealight which Mary will provide, wooden Christmas trees in 2 sizes £10 and £8, the animal memorial £5, Bottle Tombola ?? TBC, Christmas masks £1.50 and ordinary masks £1 (agreed with Elaine after the meeting) and calendars will all be for sale plus other Christmas themed things. Margaret is bringing flower/greenery decorations. Calendars are now in profit, but need to sell the 90 that

are left. Sue S to give Sue H a tray for the calendars and Sue will circulate with the calendars on 16th. Helen and Gail to work together on signage for the front of the stall and David Beagley will kindly print two A3 laminated posters. **Action: Helen and Gail**

Planters:

Until finances allow, the order for the granite look, 'self watering' planters is on hold. Permissions have been granted for them on the Enhancement by the Town Council. SMTC do not want wooden planters as they have been tried before and they rot. Andrew to be asked for written confirmation by email. **Action: SH / Andrew Coates**

Recycling display

Appeal to all members to save foil sweet wrappers, silver foil, crisp packets, (clean) & foil tablet packets for the art display next year. Letters to the local schools to go out this week.

Action: SH.

AOB

Julie Vaughan through Gail asked if there was a policy stating that if an item of over £200 that it should be referred to the Group? Sue replied that on visits to garden centres which is where we spend most, we always go in pairs or more and large expenditures always go to the group beforehand. Just to confirm the planters have not been ordered until the money situation is robust enough to do the order.

Thanks to go to Sainsbury's for their donation of Violas, and Sweet William plants, which have already been planted. A lot of chrysanthemums are in Sue's garden under cover, hoping to be planted next Spring if they survive. The free baskets that Sainsburys donated raised £73 **Action: SH.**

Library Garden: Glenys liked the colours chosen for next year and that more chippings were to be put down following £400 funding from SMTC.

Date of next meeting: 6th January 2022 11am

