

SMIB MEETING AT THE AMORY CENTRE 10.30 am on MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2022

AGENDA

Welcome
Apologies
Members
Agreeing Minutes of Last Meeting
Coordinator's Report SH
Treasurer's Report MM
Judging
Criteria....<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/news/articles/britain-in-bloom-judging-changes>
Jubilee Weekend
Symposium
AOB

MINUTES

SH welcomed everyone and in particular our newest member Sue Backhouse who sadly could not be with us today. Sue comes from Brighton and has led Brighton in Bloom to Gold and now lives in Chittlehampton.

ATTENDED:

Sue Harrison (Coordinator)
Jane Lucas (Secretary)
Mary McMonnies (Treasurer)
Kim Maxted
Kirstie Halls
Dawn Wellstood
Sue Sewell
Julie Vaughan
Helen Waller
David and Anne Beagley

APOLOGIES:

Lady Arran
Margaret Chester
Andy Brookes
Becca Wallis
Bridget Smith
Christine Goddard
Glenys Laws
Gail Macleod
David Worden

Sally Bourn
Sue Backhouse
Bridget Simmons
Elaine Symons
Will Lock

Minutes of Last meeting .. Agreed

Actions :

Display boards have been bought and all but two mounted in the Pannier Market. We were asked to remove two from the cafe area after Andrew (Town Clerk) had agreed but he has now agreed for us to put them on the LHS of the slope going out of the market. Marc will put these up on Wednesday and Andrew has agreed to buy the missing rawl plugs and screws), (after the council had removed them from the cafe). Sue H thanked Helen for all her work on the new sponsor posters.

Dawn has three small whips from Devon Wildlife Trust but it is so small that she is going to spend the next year bringing it on. Sue also has two trees from NDDC to be planted at the exit end of the Elan Estate and has already planted two on the Gateway Pathway.

We ended up spending £675 with Marc as he did 4 1/2 days in the end but after the three agreed days, I confirmed with Mary that it was OK to continue to 4 1/2.

(Now we need to decide if everyone is happy to continue using him for the heavy work as he is happy to work three days this week for us and any other time that we need him. Considering everyone is moving on with their private life and also some are recovering from Covid, I would like to propose that we spend monies raised to the benefit of the town and to lighten our load. This was seconded by everyone and therefore a unanimous vote.)

We are still seeking confirmation about the insurance for a shed if we buy one to be sited on the YMCA site. SH cannot get anything in writing from Amy Dowden from the YMCA. Julie said how she was there when Garry from the insurance company said the insurance did not exist. Kirstie raised the point that if we knew and nothing was done would we be partially responsible if anything happened. However Andrew Coates is aware. Sue Sewell assured us that she is sure it must exist. Sue H stressed that she cannot get an answer from Amy and Sue S said we would speak to Jeremy Yabsley. **Action: Andrew Coates to ask Amy Dowden**

SH has not been able to get hold of Ian at Quince but between Jane, Dawn, Sally and the new lady Sue, I think we are definitely on the right lines for the wildflower garden. However it was agreed for Marc to do more rotovating and get the earth finer and then rolling on Pathway area . As for the exit end of estate, Julie asked for this to be put on 'planned for next year' list, as thought it was much to do this year. It was decided that we would see how easy it was to do the Gateway Pathway end and review as we went along but to use Marc to do the heavy work. So the exit end of the estate may be on the planned for next year list. However it was agreed to use Marc to dig some holes for the two trees that Sue H has for that end of the estate from NDDC and Julie wants to progress the climbing roses along the

hedges the week after next. It was also mentioned by Kim that we should maybe leave the smaller side as the neighbour's building works may spoil anything we do.

We need to start pushing the Front Garden Competition so perhaps David can print a load of leaflets for us to door drop over the next few weeks but with the correct date (the week) for judging and Kirstie spoke to Slimming World but they cannot do a door drop for us because of insurance . However the group mostly said that they were happy to walk and door drop.

Signs to town have definitely been ordered but Andrew has only agreed three. The group have asked for them to be sited Mill on the Mole end, the Pathfields/North Rd and Exeter Gate. **Action: Andrew Coates**

Sue S was dealing with Park entrance signs and has asked Andrew Coates to deal with it. **Action: Andrew Coates**

COORDINATOR'S REPORT SH

Once again a lot has happened in the last month:

1. We received four stars (silver equivalent) at the RHS Pride in Park Awards. Looking at the five star winners, we thought that no matter what we did this year in Central Park, we would never win five stars as we are not allowed to put beds etc in there .. even the beech heart has raised complaints and the swimming pool insurance company has said that we have to remove the tyres and there is no way we will get CCTV in the park this year. I therefore propose that we do not reenter the Pride in Parks award this year and that we leave the proposed water tank in the Meddlars for the moment and move it somewhere else when we are ready. I propose we maintain those areas that we have done and that Henry continues with his grass/ succulent bed, supported by us when needed. **This was voted for unanimously** but it was also stressed that the beech heart appears to have the bottom end missing so needs checking **Action: Elaine S and Sue H** and that we will remove the roses and distribute to other places ie. roses in Stags and Squires Court and that the empty tyres would need moving to the medlars where we could grow other things but that we would need help of council as cannot lift them.
2. Sue Sewell has arranged a meeting with Jeremy Yabsley this month to discuss gutters and weeds. She has also compiled a list of other things to ask him on Monday 11th April. ie waste bins, bollards, area by Market vets and ownership along Southley Rd, YMCA insurance and refuse along footpaths on Station Rd and North Street. **Action: Sue S**
3. Fundraising. I have started going around all the businesses raising funds and am starting to bring more money in, so there will be a full report next month. I have also spoken with Paul and David about the councillor grants. We will address the symposium later. We still have approximately £600 to come from the RBL and £1600 from the SMTC.
4. I have spoken with Andrew about the two bus stops in town and he is going to come back to me on that as Elaine has found someone to decorate the bus stops. I have

also agreed to paint the lower part of the arch to Church Walk and the seats there .. I understand if no one wants to help me but we need to care for the street furniture and if we do not do it, it will not be done. However Andrew has agreed to do the top bit that is out of reach.

5. The Mens Shed have cleaned and prepared all the signs for painting and are ready to do new signs so we have to buy them some wood. They have agreed for us to use the chapel on the following days to revarnish them and paint the lettering black... April 11th, 12th, 14th, 25th and 26th. PLEASE CAN I HAVE AS MANY VOLUNTEERS AS POSSIBLE? I need to give names to Colin for insurance purposes so please let me know by this Friday.
6. The three water tanks that Elaine got us for £60 each have been installed at The Gateway and Liverot and The Meddlars. We have had to buy plants and reed camouflage to disguise them as residents think they are ugly. Firemen have loaded them and are happy to keep them topped.
7. Maritime Motifs are giving us 15 Hi Vis Purple and Silver Vests with our logo on as sponsorship
8. Condate had invited us for a photoshoot this afternoon at 1330 but it is cancelled due to the weather.
9. I have ordered 100 raffle tickets from The Rotary Club as all but 10% of the proceeds go to us and we can get as many tickets as we want and the raffle runs until October.
10. I met up with Imogen .. A Community Engagement Officer for North Devon Biosphere..who is working with vulnerable adults and she has asked if she can do some projects with us in April and May. We are both applying for a biosphere grant so it is dependent on that but if successful, we are going to do another raised bed in front of the hospital and a wildflower bed around the entrance sign. They are also going to do a town clean before the Jubilee Weekend.
11. Sue Backhouse is going to organise compost bins for us in The Meddlars to address some of the judging criteria.
12. I am distributing a TO DO plan for what is needed before judging and what we have done, then everyone needs to add what we still need to do to fulfil the judging criteria and win GOLD and become THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS! By the way I think we are way ahead of the game and am so impressed how we continue to work together as a team. Wednesday this last week was amazing as we all came together again and had fun.
13. Lastly Andrew Coates has given us permission to use The Meddlars Corner and rename it. Suggested names were asked for and those present agreed on BLOOMERS' CORNER. It was agreed that we could tidy it up, use it for doing plant sales, keep the water tank there for ease of watering, put all our gardening implements in there dressed with flowers, so they were safe from vandalism and on show for the whole town in front of the Central Car Park and also safer from a health

and safety point of view, giving consideration to public safety. Sue B can also do the composting there.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the last monthly meeting there was no breakdown of income and expenditure since the AGM so as of 31 March it is as follows:

CASH

Income	£1,327	mostly from Elaine's very successful Bingo night.
Expenditure	£675	to pay Mark & £180 for water tanks
Balance	£490	£450 will be used to pay Mark for more work

BANK ACCOUNT

Income	£4,764	made up of £2,499 from NDDC; £2,000 from Condate; £65 from Day Lewis; £200 from SMTC
Expenditure	£4,430.55	for planting, wood, compost & bark chippings
	£1,387	for fundraising which includes the display boards & expenditure for the Bingo night
	£72.83	for printer cartridges & paper
	£74.29	for art
	£45	for RHS entry
Balance	£2,911.91	

Looking ahead we still have £1,600 to come from SMTC & whatever we get from sponsors.

The expenditure we have to plan for is more bark chippings, paint for the various bits of machinery & plant pots & summer planting.

We do already have summer bulbs.

JUDGING

Looking at the criteria and the plan that we sent out Sue asked for ideas that we have missed.

Bridget : What work you have all been doing - wow.

The farming implements will make a real focal impact on the displays - full of colour. Maybe outside the hospital and in the centre of town etc. Fabulous.

I love the composting thing as well.

Margaret Chester: Sue my only thoughts re 2022 plan are:

- a. Has the decorative wooden arch to the park from the car park been repaired
- b. As the tyres in the park have now been considered a 'fire hazard' have they and the contents been removed, and can they be used elsewhere?

Sue Backhouse: Water tanks - surround them with reed screening and tie on. Then grow climbers onto the screening. That way they are disguised immediately, rather than waiting for the climbers to grow.

Water butts - on downpipes on both chapels in cemetery. Even though they are listed, Council Conservation Officer can give permission to tap into the pipes. **Action: Julie Vaughan to look at them and then Sue H to contact Conservation Officer and Andrew Coates if Julie's husband can fix them**

Composters made from pallets are very cheap and quick to make. Fast composters (grass, leaves, soft cutback) will turn round in 6-8 months. Slower composters (grass and harder cutback) takes around a year. Both can work on concrete, doesn't have to be soil. Could be sited opposite Pannier entrance by car park.

Lots of points available from In Bloom for this kind of recycling. **Action: Sue B**

Dawn W asked whether the workload was sustainable this summer and it was agreed that the water tanks, butts and placing stuff in the Medlars would make it easier.

It was agreed that if we took on Southley Rd that we would ask NDDC or County to help clear it so we could plant around there so reducing the heavy workload.

The street furniture, gutters and composting were stressed as priority with the possibility of adding more water butts ? also possible perhaps to add one at the back of The Pannier Market in Market Vets Car Park.

Meddlars Corner converting to Bloomers' Corner will also help us...this will mean we can add points by using a derelict and unsightly site and making the best of it. It was also voted that we keep our table in The Bloomers Corner and not put in The Amory Centre.

JUBILEE

The band is only available for an hour and Arts Destination want to do their floral dance which I now learn is traditional to this town as well. So I propose we keep our song and do it for the carnival and our float ? Unanimously agreed.

Also reselling planted wellies at a stall, I have said to Andrew that we probably do not have enough and he is happy for us to dot them around (planted) in town but not necessarily for the jubilee. We have been given £200 and he has asked that we still do some sort of stall on the Friday. Agreed we could do a stall to sell raffle tickets, push the Animal Memorial and anything else we think is appropriate.

SYMPOSIUM

There is such a poor response for this at the moment even from sponsors, although I still have more to ask. Only two people had asked for tickets. It was unanimously agreed to delay this until beginning of October and change the name from Symposium to something more simple and perhaps reduce the price.

AOB

David Beagley has offered 12 Justaberries **Action: Sue H to ask Fran Sendell if she would like them for Sheep Fare .. if not we would try and sell!**

John May has offered to get some compost so it was agreed that Sue H will ask him if we can have it for the week after next to go at the Elan exit end of the estate in the dip before the hedge.
Action: SH

Kim pointed out that I had missed out Gail from those that had worked on The Memorial and Sue H profusely apologised and has also personally apologised to Gail and will alter the plan. See attached

Dawn suggested that we get Karolina to do some more mural painting in The Bloomers Corner, related to The Queen **Action: SH**

Everyone asked for Elaine to inform us whether she needs any more toilet rolls, crisp packets etc as our drawers are full !

Best wishes to all of you who have covid .. get better soon!.

Meeting closed at 1155am

NEXT MEETING : TUES 10th May 10.30am The Amory Centre