

**South Molton In Bloom Meeting at the Amory
Centre Tuesday 11th May at 10-30am**

Welcome: Sue Harrison

Apologies: Lady Arran, Gail McLeod, Kirstie Halls,
Dawn Wellstood, Christine Goddard, Sally Bourne,
Kim Maxted, Debbie Woolley, Kacper Zrabkowski ,
Samuel Mudge

Members present: Sue Harrison (Chair) Jane Lucas (Secretary) Mary McMonnies, (Treasurer) Julie Vaughan, Helen Waller, Anne & David Beagley, Sue Backhouse, Bridget Simmons, Margaret Chester, Elaine Symons. David Worden (Cllr). Will Locke. Sue Sewell.

Minutes of the last meeting: all approved

Matters arising:

Shed on YMCA, £300 in account to stay, leave for the moment, tell M. Way.... no news on insurance cover

Action: SH

Park Entrance signs ..we are leaving this as pulling out of the park because of vandalism ..vote taken and unanimously agreed

Town signs with Cllr Paul Henderson who has agreed to attach and to wash signs, as we are not allowed.

Julie has looked at down pipes on the two chapels and it cannot be done but Julie to fix one to house in North Street .. Jane to introduce. **Action: JV JL**

2 x Composting bins in Bloomers Corner done ..two more to do **Action: Sue B**

Sue S and Sue H toured the town with County Councillor Jeremy Yabsley and The Highways Officer Richard Sables. Bollards will no longer be replaced but removed if unsightly and no use. Weed clearance budget was removed in 2014. If we are to clear weeds in the street Chapter Eight training is needed. Sue S suggested that the beds by the car park done by NDDC are cleared and then weed mat and bark put down. The only bus stop we can work on, with the permission of Andrew, is opposite The Kings Arms. The one by Mill on The Mole is the responsibility of Bishops Nympton. We have now been given permission to clear and work on the area opposite and to the right of Market Vets for 2022.

Justaberries sold on plant stall and Karolina too busy

Coordinators report SH:

Art work..Elaine has started to collect and we need to help her install in the Pannier Market the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning before the Jubilee Weekend **Action: whole group**

Bus stops ..can only do the one in town on lower half. To contact Wrap it to cover lower half **Action: SH**

Water butts ..Julie and Keith to continue installations
Action: JV

Day Lewis window: Gail kindly did it in Ukraine colours, some has fallen off and Margaret has mended it since. Bridget and Elaine to do in purple and silver for judging.

Wellies are now in Bloomers' Corner..some will be hung and some will be in old Skittle Alley..SB to organise

Southley Rd: Sue H thanked Sue B for all her ideas and help .. Sue B clearing Southley Rd but warned the group that if anyone helped there, there were some big holes to watch out for

Art Work at Bloomers Corner all done by local Graffiti artists and we have paid £250 towards the paint.

Sue H proposed about Amory Centre pots ie to leave all the big ones at the front of The Amory and to move the smaller ones up to the hospital to go outside the staff room, Will seconded, all agreed. This is due to the fact that the dementia group are no longer meeting at The Amory Centre.

Liverot ..Bridget has been weeding. Yet to plant up planters that Keith made to go near seats. Bridget to make an insect hotel. Group agreed that we may take it off the judging route due to the car going through the barriers and due to SW Water doing work there.

Sainsburys bed, North Rd beds, Raleigh Mead, The Memorial, Sheep Pen Car Park are all done, just need one more bag of chippings at Squires.

Yet to do summer planting at East St, Enhancement, Lorry Wash, Pannier Mkt, Mural Gardens and Church Walk. Medical Centre done but needs tweaking.

Unanimous agreement to withdraw from Library Gardens due to vandalism. Glenys was asked in writing if, in view of that, she would like to withdraw from the group (*and she has since confirmed in writing that she will withdraw.*)

After Wednesday we will have more beds at the hospital, as we are pulling out of the park again due to vandalism, so those two raised beds are going to the hospital and Marc is building another raised bed there too. Henry has asked for his bed to stay as it is so we will leave that. Stephen and Marc are doing the heavy work so we just need to empty and do the replanting.

The hospital will have a Ukraine flag and Noah's bed and then two others ie one grasses bed and one other.

The photo shoot with Condate and our group has been deferred to June 8th.

Maritime Motifs have given us high vis vests in purple and silver with our logo on the back.

Judging is on July 11th.

Spoke to judge Jane Pagano and we are also to have Richard Budge judging us. Weeds in the gutters were discussed and Jane said.' Weeds in the gutter are a complete no no, as far as I am concerned. '

Sue said to the judge that we may need to withdraw, explaining that County had told us that they have no budget to deal with highway weeds and also it is dangerous for us and not allowed unless we have Chapter Eight Training. Sue asked the group if she should write to The RHS querying the logic in judging and the group agreed on account of the danger, how physically hard it is to clear the weeds and how it really does not seem to be strictly part of In Bloom.

(Since the meeting, Sue H has written to the judges and The RHS and the reply has confirmed that we will not be marked on street weeds).

We are continuing to work on The Mens Shed signs but still loads to do and we will not be attaching them to any of the brick or concrete planters this year. It was muted as to whether to attach them to a wall in George Arcade but it was agreed that would present the same problems.

Amberol planters do not seem to be working and one is crooked, Sue H to complain. *(Since the meeting,*

Amberol have agreed to visit and look at the planters on June 10th).

Treasurer's Report : MM

As of 8th May:

Cash Balance is £341.67

£150 of that will be paid to Mark to move the planters from Central Park and do other jobs that day.

Bank Balance is £3,197.35

We have to keep back £300 for the shed.

There is ample money to do the rest of the planting & chippings.

The napkins & takeaway boxes that were bought last year for Picnic in the Park are going to be used for scones to be made by Sue & Elaine to be given to the sponsors.

Sue has worked really hard to raise sponsorship & will continue to do so.

Gateway Pathway: Helen W.

Pretty much done, but needs chippings, some more compost and filler plants. Chris Almond at No 2 has agreed to help Sue H with mowing the grass to prepare for judging. Sue H has raised money to specifically get a lawn mower, all agreed to the proposal. A suggestion was made to go to Hays Machinery by the roundabout.

Photographs from Squires Court plants were also passed around by Helen. Discussion ensued as to whether we could use these photos to add to Day

Lewis window and also use the window for an information board like in the town.

Bloomers' Corner: SB

SB announced a plan for Bloomers' Corner and produced a diagram and explained how the theme was full circle Nature..Farming...Urban..Nature.

Area to be tidied, key entry into town fo bringing local flavour with farming as nod to the past and jubilee as nod to the present.

Leave eg valerian in place allowing nature to break through.

Youth involvement with wall painting. Community therefore part of it.

Lots of colour in different areas. 2 composters done, another 2 to go in.

Sheds and skittle alley to have wellies on them. Wellies will be hung and attached wherever possible.

Farm implements e.g. Plough to be covered in flowers.

? quick grown veggies to give to food bank..community involvement

Shed: ?Green roof. Climbers around the fence.

Working area to be 1 2 and 3

Henry to do succulent bed.

Sandpit to have a buddleia.

Need to do a bird survey ..? ask Fran Sendell.

Gail and Julie to form a tiara around the pyramid.

A suggestion that a bee hive be put in there, contact Honey Farm. **Action: SH**

SB asked for foam for putting in the bottom of pots.

Need to get wires disconnected. Trip hazard. **Action: SH**

SH thanked Sue B for joining our group and making such an impact. Sue B said she was amazed at how much we had done in the short time that we had existed.

Garden Competition: JV Thanks to David B, we have leaflets for door drops and leaflets given out to members to be distributed around SM. Also David B has given A5 posters to announce that people are in the competition to put in their front windows.

Plant Sale: AB Sat May 28th . Sue S.will bring float, offers to help please.

Birthday Cards: David B. Sell on Jubilee day stall, need cellophane pockets. **Action: SH**

NEED HELP FOR JUBILEE STALL ON FRIDAY PLEASE.

AOB.

Julie V. Request for games in Bloomers to be given to YMCA. Agreed to give Amy (YMCA) the Chess pieces but to sell Boules to raise funds.

Scrubland /Parsonage Lane docks to be dealt with but thanks to John May for the compost.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 7th JUNE 10.30 Amory Centre

