

## **MINUTES :THE SMIB MEETING AMORY CENTRE 10.30 am TUESDAY 7TH JUNE 22**

### **AGENDA**

**Welcome**

**Apologies**

**Approval of minutes**

**Coordinator's Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**SM Wombles**

**Helen . graphics for the bus stop, map and photos**

**Garden Competition**

**Judging Day**

**AOB**

### **MINUTES**

**Sue H** welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Glenys Laws has now left the group

**Present** : Sue Harrison, Jane Lucas, Mary McMonnies, Sue Sewell, Elaine Symons, Kim Maxted, Gail McLeod, Julie Vaughan, David Worden

**Apologies** accepted from Helen Waller, Christine Goddard, Sue Backhouse, Kirstie Halls, Anne and David Beagley, Sally Bourne, Bridget Simmons, Will Locke, Lady Arran, Kirstie Halls, Debbie Thrower

**Last month's minutes were unanimously approved.**

**Matters arising from that meeting :**

**Julie V and Jane Lucas** are still in the progress of installing a new butt at a property near North Rd beds

**Sue B** has done two composters .. more to come

**Bus Stop .. HW** has designed what was needed for Wrap It and he has agreed to do for free as a sponsor

**Kacper** ..is building two bee hotels for us

### **Coordinator's Report**

Sue H went through all the areas saying what was yet to be done in readiness for judging, the emphasis being on watering and plant infills.

The Community Gardens and Sheep Fair Field are to be judged in the afternoon of 11th July after lunch. **Action: D Worden and F Sendell**

**Matthew Tapp** is to continue to improve our website and be considered for the RHS Website Developer award.

The Town Arms and The Coaching Inn, plus Eastleigh Care Homes and Squires Court as far as Sue H knows have put in for the business award, but we are yet to be informed when these are to be judged.

It was agreed we would inform the judges about Livarot Walk ie the car driving over the beds and SW Water works there .. but not actually include on the tour or plant any more there for the moment. It will be at least 22 weeks before the works are finished and such a shame as Keith ( Julie's husband) has built four planters for there and Julie had planted some bulbs..**SH** to ask Ronnie if she would water them.

Library Gardens is not to be included on the tour as still managed by Glenys but it was discussed as to whether we should show them the Mural Gardens bearing in mind the proximity to the Library Gardens. Again at present it was agreed not to walk the judges up there to the Amory Centre unless things change in the next month in which case we will need to review.

David Sewell has offered to drive the judging group and Lady Arran has offered to accompany us but cannot walk very far. Bearing in mind this and the time constraints, it was agreed to drive around the route.

Condate have agreed to the photo shoot for 11am in front of the hospital tomorrow Wednesday for all to come.

Big thanks to Anne Beagley and Debbie Thrower for organising both plant stalls which raised £182.50 and £259 respectively.

Sue explained that NDDC have agreed to clear and trim the land/bushes around Central Car Park before judging and they have also agreed that they will lay bark to make it look neater. There are lots of weeds between the wall and the pavement on Mill Rd side of the car park and it is very weedy going up to Sheep Fair Field, discussion then ensued as to whether the SMTC could look at weeding some areas in the town. **Action: David Worden to ask**

Big thanks to Elaine and Bridget Smith for arranging all the artwork in The Pannier Market, including the fantastic tea party on top of The Coffee Stall. Round of applause ensued!

Thanks to Margaret and Elaine for finishing all the painting of the Mens' Shed signs. Most are in the beds or fences/raised beds now.. Sue will complete in the next couple of weeks. Jane L asked to move the signs in the North Rd beds to be more visible but not so as to distract from the planting .. it was agreed.

Cllr Henderson has three RHS winner signs to put up under the town entrance signs. Could only get council to agree to three despite there being seven possibilities. SH was told by Cllr Henderson that we were unable to help erect them or wash the existing signs because of health and safety, so Paul Henderson agreed to erect and do the washing. **Action: David Worden to chase both the erection and the washing**

Birthday cards made by David Beagley .. unable to sell on Jubilee Stall as due to the changing of dates and arrangements, SH was unable to get cover for the stall. Sue H bought cellophane covers as agreed at the last meeting. It was muted that we sell the cards in Charity Shops around town and the Country Markets. Kim offered to insert into cellophane pockets that Sue has bought. **Action : Sue H Elaine S and Kim M**

East Street Lime Trees were discussed as so overgrown. Sue S said the County Council deals with them every three years but they need urgent attention as a hazard to pedestrians. Agreed Sue H to write to Jeremy Yabsley as two years are up but they will be dire after another year has passed. **Action: Sue H**

### **Treasurer's Report... attached**

Margaret Chester said she was amazed at the amount of money that had been raised by Sue H and thanked her for all the hard work she does behind the scenes. Julie Vaughan questioned the amount that had been spent on planting and as to whether it was justified. Margaret C stated that as it was agreed to enter The RHS Champions of Champions Cup 2022, in order to meet the judging criteria, the demands were such that they necessitated large expenditure. Sue S said there was no point sitting on the money in the account and the sponsors give money expecting it to be spent on areas that can be seen. Elaine expressed how great all the areas were and that it was obvious that the money was well spent. Sue H explained that considering the areas that we had expanded into, it was inevitable that we had spent a lot of money ie Raleigh Mead, The Memorial, Sainsburys, Bloomers' Corner, The Hospital and the extension of planting at The Gateway Pathway. Furthermore we had paid for the wooden edges around Raleigh Mead and The Gateway Pathway and lots more compost. Plus this year we have had to pay for wood chippings. Sue expressed that she worked hard at raising sponsorship and it was as far as she was concerned mainly to make South Molton look great and therefore the money should be spent on planting and improving all the areas. Also the main focus has been sustainable planting and therefore everything we have done will be here for years to come. It was unanimously agreed to continue and Julie said she was merely being devil's advocate.

**Will Locke** : Will could not attend today but has been asked to organise a big town clean on Sunday 10th July and also it was agreed we would do an early morning check on 11th July.  
**Action : Will Locke**

**Helen Waller** : Helen unable to attend but Sue said how she has worked very hard and is an amazing asset to the group. She has completed the graphics for the bus stop and Wrap It have agreed to produce and install as sponsor and therefore for free. Helen has also completed the banner with a map and info about Bloomers' Corner and it is going to Printworkx for production. This will go to the back of Bloomers' Corner by the gate. Lastly she is working on four pop up banners to go in Day Lewis window as the window is far too hot to work in and the gorilla tape does not hold and it all falls down. Day Lewis are very appreciative of what we are doing in the window and we agreed we are very lucky to have such a space to advertise us. The question was asked if we can justify the expense of the banners and it was agreed we should proceed. Concerns were raised about the amount of work that we ask Helen to do and Sue reassured that Helen appeared happy to proceed but that she would double check. Further concerns were expressed about the possibility of

colours fading on the banners and Sue H and Helen W will try and find out. One of the banners will have the same map as on the banner. **Action: Sue H and Helen W**

**Julie V and Margaret C The Garden and Window Competition:** So far we have about 8 /10 entries and about five for shop windows. Julie said how confusing it had been for the shop windows with the jubilee celebrations as well but that she would go around the shops again now with clear instructions for the judging. Julie has acquired prizes from the Lamp Man in the market and Melchior and also two prints from where she declined to comment. It was agreed we would credit all the prize donors (from this year and last) on our website and with a poster in the display cabinets in the Pannier Market. Judging is starting week commencing July 18th.

The idea of a childrens' competition was discussed and agreed to consider next year.

**Judging Day** was discussed at length. Agreed car to transport and lunch at 3 Hazel Mews. Sue H to inform Andrew Coates. Further detailed discussion at the next meeting one week before judging.

## **AOB**

Julie V raised the issue about travelling expenses and said that mileage should be paid. A big discussion ensued with fors and against. Sue H expressed that she did not want to claim travelling expenses but it was unanimously agreed that the system should be put in place, as Sue Sewell said that others may come into the group who could not afford not to claim but who wanted to do the trips to buy plants or may not even come into the group for fear they could not claim the mileage. Elaine agreed that she had spent a lot travelling to all the schools to organise the art work. After much discussion, it was proposed by Jane Lucas and seconded by Julie Vaughan that mileage should be claimed on necessary trips for in bloom work at 40p a mile and that there should be a back payment of £50 each to Elaine and Sue H. All agreed but Sue H and Elaine abstained. Dawn W clarified and it was agreed by all that the claims would not be for trips around South Molton but only for trips to Ashmoor, Barnstaple or that sort of distance. A system will be put in place and confirmed at the next meeting but it was proposed that trips should be authorised monthly at the meetings by the secretary and treasurer. Sue reiterated that she really did not want the money but was outvoted. **Action: Sue H Jane L Mary McM**

Elaine Symons said she had a message from Nick Locke who helps at The Pip Centre to ask SMIB if they could help with the gardening as they were short of money. The group unanimously agreed that we could not take on any more at the moment so Sue H to contact them and discuss. **Action: Sue H**

Elaine said Malcolm had offered to put a bird bath and a bird table in Bloomers Corner  
**Action: Elaine S**

Dawn W asked if there were going to be more hanging baskets but it was reiterated that sadly the buildings and walls and narrowness of the walkways made it impossible.

Jane L offered a chestnut tree for the scrubland by Julie. **Action: Jane L and Julie V**  
**NEXT MEETING : MONDAY JULY 4th 10.30 am AMORY CENTRE**

