

## **SMIB MEETING AT AMORY CENTRE 15/11/22 10.30 am**

**WELCOME to those present:**

**Sue Harrison, David Beagley, Jane Lucas, Sheila Farrant, Gloria Beeching, Margaret Chester, Sue Sewell, Kim Maxted, Vonn Bourne**

### **APOLOGIES**

Kirsty Halls  
Elaine Symons  
Bridget Simmons  
Brenda Savery  
David Worden  
Christine Goddard  
Becca Brewer  
Anne Beagley  
Tina Trevena

### **Members**

We have lost Mary Mc Monnies as you all know, so she will not be attending today but we have now gained two more members:

Nicola Roberts  
Lynne Hunt

We are so pleased that they have joined us and already they have so proved themselves by tidying up three of the East Street beds and are happy to take responsibility for these, leaving in all the Spring and Summer bulbs and decorating the tops. Well done and thanks!

Plus as many of you know we now have Poppy Almond, nine years old, in our group too and her Dad Chris is the one who is also in our group doing the mowing of the grass on the Gateway Path.

As we have a lot of new people joining now, including Sheila, Vonn and Gloria who are helping so much and so welcome, please can I just remind everyone following a bad experience earlier in the year, that should anyone wish to buy plants, they must get prior approval for not only the money but the colour scheme, type etc ( and also if they are to claim travelling expenses or any other goods for that too) from both me and the new treasurer. Also do bear in mind that I am happy to drive people **without** claiming travelling expenses. As I have stated previously I feel most uncomfortable claiming and do not wish to do so.

**Minutes of the last meeting and actions..**minutes agreed. Actions .. David Worden has investigated the possibility of an Asset of Community and does not hold out much hope and there will be no protection therefore from it being taken away from us. The manager dealing with the back garden at the hospital has suddenly become impossible to contact. Andrew

Coates has agreed to help us with the water butt near Mint Vintage and will look into the idea of a bowser next year.

## Chair's Report

Firstly I would like to say how sorry we were to hear of Keith Vaughan's passing and I am sure you all agree that we would like to pass our condolences to Julie and thank them both for being such valuable members of the group. Although Keith was not officially a member, he did some amazing work installing butts around town and making the planters at Liverot Walk. I would like to propose we plant up those planters with some special plants and get a small plaque made up in his honour? *This was altered by the group to a tree but then it was outvoted as there was a danger if we did something for one, we could risk offending others in the group by not doing anything. However it was agreed to plant up the planters.*

My next proposal is that we cancel the December meeting and move to January ... This will be a very brief meeting and apart from the results of The Fat Stock Show, there will be little else to report. *This was seconded by Sue Sewell and unanimously agreed by those present.*

Is there anyone who could help on Saturday afternoon November 26th please from 2pm at Bloomers' Corner as the police and the two lads who vandalised there, plus their parents, are coming to clear up the glass and the broken mannequin and I thought it was a good opportunity to sweep up there and tidy up some of the pots? ***Everyone has put this on the calendar and all agreed to make as much effort as possible to come.***

We also need to arrange a day at some point to do the circular planters and the rest of East St and the hospital beds..if anyone has any preferences as to days and times? We now have some money for winter planting so should progress asap and I already have loads of bulbs ready to plant. ***Tomorrow at 10am on the enhancement was agreed.***

Jane, Sheila, Andy, Poppy and I have done opposite me. We just have a load more bark to lay there asap and Andy has agreed to help this week on Thursday or Friday. The Queens Garden looks amazing now that all the plants from Squires Court bank have been planted and Andy has repositioned the wood from there to surround the bed. The new trees given by Lady Arran have established themselves well and all in all that area looks amazing. I have bought a sign too which Andy is going to assemble and plant in the bed. **Action: Gloria is to get us some stakes for the trees and Sue Sewell and I are to search out some old tights. Thursday and Friday this week are put by for working opposite if anyone is available.**

We also have a new banner being made by Paul Henderson to go above Church Walk but we will keep the old one too.

The Memorial Service was held on Friday and the gardens looked brilliant, having been spruced up by Sue. I have to put on record though that I was personally disappointed that there were five councillors there and only David Worden has ever thanked the Bloomers for making that area look so good but The RBL members were very grateful and commented, as did Andrew Coates. Lady Arran will be writing to the Town Council.

Great news about Stephen Huxtable .. picked him up yesterday after his cardioversion at the hospital and it worked, so fingers crossed for the future now.

Elaine has sent me a grant form to fill in for The Voice FM group for max £500 and so I will complete that and also Andrew says I could apply for a small amount from the council. This could help with summer planting and more compost that is needed to top up all of the raised beds.

Lastly Mary McMonnies has asked me to read out this email and decide what to do:

*Hi Sue*

*I will not be attending the meeting on 15 November 2022.*

*I would like the issue of the water butt I have to be brought up so that it can be minuted. From the minutes of the meeting on 11 October 2021 it was stated that 2 water butts, stands and kits were bought from Mole Valley and one was installed on my premises. There were also watering cans bought and one was given to me.*

*You pointed out that I had watered all summer out of my own money and that I am metered. The water butt at the medical centre was only installed at the end of the summer. I agreed that if I left the group it would be returned or I would pay for it.*

*The current prices at Mole Valley are £49.99 for a butt, £14.99 for a stand and £10 for a connecting kit which totals £74.98. I cannot afford to reimburse SMIB, so the water butt will need to be returned. Somebody will have to disconnect it because I am not able to do that. I will return the watering can and also a plastic shopping trolley used to transport water bottles belonging to Elaine. I will leave these at your house.*

*Best wishes  
Mary*

The group discussed the above and it was unanimously voted that Mary should keep the water butt to compensate for the cost of water that she had paid for to water East Street for over a year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**As you know Mary is not here, so I have updated all the accounts and as I have explained to Gloria, throughout all the time Mary has been a treasurer, I have kept all the accounts on excel sheets in Drive. Mary kept handwritten books. Currently we have £232.27 IN CASH and £891.81 in the bank. Mary has apparently handed in her card into Barnstaple but did not get a receipt for it and when I asked, both the Branch and Customer Services on the phone, they had no record, so I have now cancelled Mary's card over the phone and therefore we need to appoint a treasurer asap and I**

personally would like to propose Gloria Beeching, as she has experience in accounts and knows her way around Google Drive to keep up the same system. This way we can both keep records, bearing in mind our ages , I personally think it is always a good idea for two of us to have records for backup in case one of us becomes suddenly ill or not available. Sue Harrison proposed Gloria Beeching as Treasurer and it was seconded by Margaret Chester and the vote was unanimous plus all those absent, who had apologised, voted in favour by email.

## VOTE

Also Christine Goddard is the third signatory and has suggested as she was put on as an emergency whether it would be better to reappoint someone else or stay as she is if everyone is happy? The group agreed unanimously to keep Christine Goddard in situ as a third signatory.

## NEW ROLES and VOTES

As the group appears to be undergoing a wave of change, I would like to reiterate some of the roles and discuss some changes

Coordinator Me

Treasurer now unanimously agreed Gloria Beeching.

Minutes Secretary is currently Jane but we have been discussing after our recent success at talking at a gardening club if Jane should be nominated as our Engagements Coordinator and Horticultural Expert ? Sue Sewell has offered to take on the Minutes secretary, so I would like to propose a vote

Minutes Secretary? Sue Sewell

Engagements Coordinator and Horticultural Expert? Jane Lucas

Also Julie was in charge of the Gardening Competition but Margaret actually took over the reins this year anyway, so I would like to propose that Margaret Chester is in charge of The Gardening Competition ?

It was accepted that Elaine Symons is in charge of arts and crafts, as is soooo clever and amazing.

Proposed Sue Harrison

Seconded Sheila Farrant

Accepted unanimously

Sue Sewell stated that meetings on a Tuesday would need to start at 10.45 due to prior work commitments.

## **FAT STOCK SHOW**

We will have crackers, wreaths, trees, xmas decs, fabric wreaths and birthday cards to sell at this show.

Elaine has bravely completed all the crackers and should be congratulated on yet another inventive idea. However we do need to sell as many as we can, as the receipts for materials amount to £106.49 plus there is about a £15 donation for the stall.

A rota was assembled for the day ..can anyone who was not at the meeting help out on Sunday 4th December?

Plus I have another money raising idea...Posted by Santa letters ..please see the website [www.postedbysanta.co.uk](http://www.postedbysanta.co.uk)..and my son, the MD, has given us a special code for South Molton in Bloom and so customers will get 25% off and we will get a proportion of the profit. So we as a group need to push these as much as we can please with the code **59CPKA** for anyone that books online.

## **CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Our next big event is our Christmas get together at Stumbles on Sunday November 27th at 6.30pm. I am pleased to say Nicola and Lynne are also coming so we now have 27 booked. Please can you all remember to bring a Secret Santa present worth about £5 and if any of you would like to dress up in fancy dress or a Christmassy outfit, please feel free. This will again be an evening of celebration.

## **AOB**

**The sponsor signs have all been removed and garaged for the winter by Sue Sewell and David Sewell so that we do not have to repaint this summer.**

**Margaret Chester asked for leylandii branches to help with decorating wreaths if anyone has any? The planters at the Dr's surgery need mending... Action: Sue H to chase with the caretaker and Andy.**

**David B needs ticket and poster info for Steve Parr.**

**NEXT MEETING TUES 10th JAN 1045 am**

