

SOUTH MOLTON IN BLOOM (SMIB) MEETING MINUTES

Location: Amory Centre

Date: 22nd September 2026

Welcome & Area Updates

The Coordinator welcomed everyone present, with a special welcome to our three newcomers.

It has been a slightly quieter month, though members have been actively maintaining their respective areas. A huge thank you to Sue Muggleton for doing a brilliant job keeping on top of the Sainsbury's area.

Area maintenance updates:

- **Livarot Walk:** Maintained by Miki.
- **The Hospital:** Maintained by Marie.
- **The Gateway:** Maintained by Sue H.
- **The Stump:** Maintained by Carol.
- **Park Entrance & New Road Bed:** Maintained by Tonia, Marie, and Sue H.
- **New Road & Website:** Maintained by Marcus.
- **East Street & The Enhancement:** Maintained by Marie and Sue H.

Sue H welcomed Bev Watton and thanked her for donating £30 to replant the pot outside Day Lewis following a recent act of vandalism. Bev has kindly agreed to take on the Memorial planters, with the group providing assistance.

Welcome also to Millicent, who was introduced by David Worden. David plans to introduce Millicent to Miki and the Livarot Walk site with a view to her gardening there.

Present:

Sue Harrison, Jane Lucas, Carol Grice, Marie Lodge, Marcus Alexander, Sue Muggleton, Sheila Farrant, David Worden, Millicent.

Guest: Andrew Coates (Town Clerk).

Apologies:

Andy Brookes, Tonia Norton.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and formally agreed via WhatsApp prior to the meeting. Proposed by Carol and seconded by Jane.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Town Displays & Assets

Marie and Sue H have stripped the Day Lewis window display, and the remaining town decorations have now been taken down. Adam has removed the photographs from the display boards, which have been retained. The group agreed to sell the display boards that were purchased but are no longer required.

Anti-Social Behaviour & Volunteer Safety Update

1. The committee noted a recent incident where painted pebbles were taken from Livarot Walk and were then sold or attempted to be sold to nearby residents, which was subsequently reported to the police. A meeting has been scheduled with Sgt Brown to discuss ongoing security concerns regarding Bloom-maintained sites.
2. An incident was reported regarding a member of the public challenging a volunteer and displaying unacceptable behaviour near Church Steps. The committee wishes to remind all members to remain vigilant. The matter has been noted internally and will be raised with local police during our upcoming safety meeting to ensure the protection and well-being of our volunteers.

RHS South West in Bloom Competition

The results of the RHS South West in Bloom competition will be announced on October 23rd. Sue H, Marie, Jane, Sheila, and Carol will be traveling to Newquay for the presentation evening. Attendance confirmations and banking arrangements are currently being finalized with the RHS secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jane confirmed that the current bank balance stands at **£1,707.34**. Recent expenditures include £39.98 on green paint for Livarot Walk and £65.00 for a new green bin. Ticket revenue for upcoming events has started coming into the account.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Country Evening with Lars Pluto

Ticket sales are progressing well, with **37 tickets sold so far, generating £555.00** in revenue. Event costs include £400.00 for the entertainment and £90.00 plus VAT for the hall hire. The committee extended their thanks to Andrew Coates for organizing a reduced rate for the hall hire, meaning the event is successfully moving into profit.

- **Raffle:** Sue requested that members donate any unwanted alcohol, chocolates, or gifts to be used as raffle prizes on the night.
- **Bar:** The bar will be operated by the Real Ale Girls.

Octopus & Teddy Competition

The competition will take place on Saturday 24th October at the front of the market. Entry will be £1.00 per form. Participants will search the town for 12 hidden knitted octopuses and 1 teddy. Correct entry forms will be entered into a prize draw. The group extended their thanks to Janet Pollard, who knitted all of the items and will be joining us for the event.

MEMORIAL SITE

Andrew Coates clarified that Steve has been manually pulling out bindweed rather than using weedkiller. Sue H noted that the lower third of the four evergreen trees appeared damaged, though other members suggested this may be due to recent weather conditions; the group will monitor their progress. It was agreed that now Bev is on board, work will continue at the Memorial site, despite the council indicating they will not be paving the area.

WINTER PLANTING

Orange and white tulip bulbs have been allocated to Sue M for the Sainsbury's site. The remainder of the winter planting will take place at the end of October or early November, as there is still good colour remaining across the town's current displays.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

- **Plaques:** Marie suggested installing promotional plaques around the town—similar to the one at The Gateway Path—acknowledging South Molton In Bloom's maintenance of the areas. The group agreed, and Sue H will take this project forward.
- **Team Wear:** Carol purchased additional logoed T-shirts. Members purchasing these settled the cost (£12.00 per shirt) individually from personal funds.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th November at 2:00pm at The Amory Centre.