

Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held via Zoom on Thursday 17th February 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Gemma Alford (Wildflower areas), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council & TATA), Rebecca Howard (Big Tree project), Stephen Loyd (Environmentalism & Stanlake Copse Initiative), Chris Wise (Adopt a Street), Nikki Ochtman (RG10), Emma Donald (Twyford Together & Wildflowers) & Malcolm George (Twyford Snooker Club).

Minutes: Mrs Lynn Povey (Assistant Clerk, Twyford Parish Council) & Mrs Lucy Moffatt (Clerk, Twyford Parish Council).

1. **Welcome & introductions.**
2. **Apologies.** Alexander Barfield (David Brownlow Charitable Foundation), Paul Cassidy (Twyford Together), Gerry Wise (Adopt a Street) & Graham Starkie (TRHA & Twyford Historical Society).
3. **Review of Twyford in Bloom 2021 – Results.** Mrs B Ditcham highlighted areas of recognition within the 2021 results such as liaison between different village groups with Twyford Parish Council as an umbrella organisation, all age groups and needs are considered within the various projects & everyone working with the common goal of enhancing the village.
4. **2022 Entry – To decide on application.** Mrs B Ditcham outlined the entry categories for consideration. To decide what categories to enter at the next meeting.
 - Business Involvement
 - Community Involvement
 - Conservation & Wildlife
 - Heritage
 - Horticulture
 - Involving Children & Young People
 - Pride of Place
5. **Hanging baskets 2022 (Summer & Winter) – offer to businesses & residents.**
 - Hanging Baskets - £72.50 per season.
 - Bracket on building - £27.50
 - Bracket on lamppost - £33.00

The above costs were noted.

6. **Twyford Parish Council – Twyford in Bloom Budget (£2400).** Mrs B Ditcham outlined what the budget covers:
 - In Bloom entrance fees
 - Bell Corner Flower Tower Winter & Summer plants
 - Wildflower seeds
 - Village hanging baskets in addition to those purchased by residents & businesses.

7. Wildflower Initiatives.

7.1 Envelopes for residents – distribution points. Suggested outlets:

- TRHA Store
- Village Florist
- Floor Store
- Library
- Estate Agents

Volunteers needed to fill envelopes. Request for the submission of photos to be included on the envelope. It was suggested to ask the estate agents if they would put some of the photos within their windows to form part of the judging route.

7.2 WBC Support:

- **Supply of seeds for WBC owned land.** 1 kilo of seed requested.
- **Ruscombe Turn (Broad Hinton Roundabout) – suggested area.** WBC to prepare area for the wildflower volunteers to seed.
- **Malvern Way** – WBC will take on the wildflower area project.

8. Update on ongoing projects (volunteers needed):

- **Adopt-a-Street.** Update from Chris Wise.
 - Offer of assistance from the group to support a tidy up before the Bloom tour.

- Gerry Wise to ensure that the Crossroad area is clear & tidy ahead of the Bloom tour.
 - Almshouse bench in need of repair. Assistant Clerk to arrange maintenance.
 - Adopt-a-Street group has a good number of volunteers and is working well.
 - Gerry Wise to advise volunteers of the annual litter pick scheduled for the 2nd April following confirmation from the Assistant Clerk that equipment from Wokingham Borough Council is available.
- **Air Quality.** Update from Bridget Ditcham.
 - No results received from the village monitoring units.
 - Local Schools have monitoring units within the school grounds which is checked monthly.
- **Climate Change Plan.** Update from Bridget Ditcham.
 - Good progress is being made.
- **Fruit Tree planting.**
 - No Report.
- **Millennium Copse.** Update from Stephen Loyd.
 - Hazel coppicing continues.
 - Hedging trimmed.
- **Pond Mapping.**
 - No Report.
 - Advertise how residents can map their ponds.
- **Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas.** Update from Rebecca Howard, Gemma Alford & Lucy Moffatt.
 - Stanlake – 2/3 extra wildflower beds hoping to be created in March.
 - KGVR – Really pleased with the variety of wildlife being attracted to the rewilding areas. The Common Blue was spotted.
 - Maps created to instruct the contractors of areas to leave long.
 - Two information boards are being created:
 - KGVR – Wildflowers & Mini Beast
 - Stanlake – Stag Beetles
- **Small Copse opposite Waggon & Horses.** Update from Lucy Moffatt.
 - Lucy to continue to liaise with Amar Sheikh with the view of gaining contact with the owner & leaseholder of the land.
- **Tree Festival (Stanlake Meadow) 28.11.21.** Update from Rebecca Howard.
 - Monthly Working Party.
 - Tree maintenance continues.
 - Coincides with the Stanlake Copse working party.
 - Provides a meeting place & social interaction.
- **TRHA.** Update from Malcolm Bray.
 - TRHA Shows – 26.03.22 & 11.06.22
- **Twyford Gateways.** Update from Bridget Ditcham.
 - Two of the Three Gateways in place.
 - To liaise with Graham Starkie regarding his Belfast sink. To be located at the gateway opposite the Waggon & Horses.
- **Twyford Growers.** Update from Malcolm Bray.
 - Trying to re-establish a link with Twyford Surgery following a change of personnel.
 - Use of the Allotment to recommence after the Winter Break.
- **Village Planter.**
 - Lovely addition to Bell Corner.
 - Maintained throughout the year.
 - Two planting periods - Summer & Winter.
- **Polehampton School – Secret Garden.** Update from Rebecca Howard.
 - 1st working party & clearing has taken place.
 - In March Freely Fruity will be delivering some apple & pear trees to help create a small orchard.
 - Looking to create a 'No Dig' bed.
 - Creating an outside classroom promoting being outside, learning how to grow things & providing links to a number of subjects such as science.

- **Twyford Station – Planters.** Update from Paul Cassidy via Bridget Ditcham.
 - Two planters have been installed.
 - Volunteers needed.
9. **New projects for 2022:**
- **Queen’s platinum Jubilee tree – Hornbeam – KGVR.**
 - Scheduled to be planted over the next couple of weeks.
 - Plaque to be placed in June.
 - Village Ranger to look after the tree.
 - **Polehampton Charity sponsorship as part of their 300 years anniversary celebrations.**
 - Wellington Square – Planting of new tree (Early Winter 2022).
 - Benches – Area to be confirmed.
 - **Snooker Hall.** Suggested project by Stephen Loyd.
 - Pollinator Garden.
 - Fruit Trees donated by Muille.
 - Poppy mural to be painted on side of the hall by a local artist.
 - **KGVR.** Suggested project by Malcolm Bray.
 - Ornate brick pillars (Historical background linked to King George) – Cleared and maintenance work scheduled. Possible inclusion with the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee projects.
 - **St Swithins Court.** Suggested project by Stephen Loyd.
 - Possible Wildflower area.
 - **Age Concern Garden.** Suggested project by Bridget Ditcham.
 - Offer of assistance.
10. **Date of next meeting – Tuesday 29th March 2022.** Meeting date noted. To be held via Zoom. Details to be sent out nearer the date.

Meeting Closed at 20:17