

Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 12th March 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Gerry Wise (Twyas & Twyford Historical Society), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council & TATA), Rebecca Howard (Twyford Forest Project Leader), Gemma Alford (Wildflower & Bee Friendly Project Leader), Graham Starkie (TRHA & Twyford Historical Society) & Stephen Loyd (Environmentalist & Stanlake Copse Initiative).

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

1. Welcome & introductions – Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if anyone has any amendments, they would like made to the minutes distributed in February. Mr Malcolm Bray asked for TRHA to be removed from his linked organisation as although he is a member, he is not on the committee. Mrs Ditcham noted Mr Bray's requested, amended the document, signed and dated it.

2. Apologies – Paul Cassidy (Twyford Together), Nikki Ochtman (RG10), Malcolm George (Twyford Snooker Hall).

3. Update on ongoing projects:

- Adopt-a-Street – Chris & Gerry Wise. Mr G Wise said that he will be sending out another email to encourage members to attend the Annual Spring Clean. Mrs B Ditcham also spoke of a meeting she had attended with members of Wokingham Borough Councils localities team where they agreed to help as normal with the tidy up at Polehampton Close & confirmed that the shops in the village are responsible for any tidy up outside their shops. Noted.
- Colleton School – Request for trees (rear of Colleton near Verey Close) Bridget Ditcham & WBC. Mrs B Ditcham stated that WBC would prefer prickly hedges to border Colleton and the green space rather than trees due to safeguarding. Mrs Ditcham also confirmed that the school have also been involved in the local bulb planting project run by a local resident. Noted.
- Fruit Tree planting – Muelle & TPC. Mr S Loyd advised that some of the fruit trees recently planted at Stanlake are leaning due to the recent winds. Mrs L Moffatt to ask the Ranger to stake the trees. Mr Loyd also suggested contacting Mr A Cardy from the Egg Box to see if he could supply some compost to improve the soil quality. Clerks to investigate.
- Green Taskforce / Green Prescription initiative – Rohana Abeywardana. Mr Abeywardana is applying for funding to support the project & has requested a meeting with the Social Prescriber linked with Twyford Surgery. Noted.
- Kids Photographer Competition – Emma Donald. Carried forward.
- Millennium Garden – Stephen Loyd & TPC. Mr Loyd confirmed that good progress is being made & that the tree surgeon is due to deal with any dangerous trees. Mr Loyd also informed the group that a local resident has composed a short story called 'Dead Hedge' which was inspired and written in the garden. It was also noted that it would be nice for bulbs to be planted within the new bed for next spring.
- Bee Friendly Open Gardens – Emma Donald. Carried forward.
- Stanlake Copse – Stephen Loyd & TPC. Mr Loyd confirmed that the tree surgeon was due to deal with the trees highlighted within the recent tree report and will ask if the log waste could be saved & used for a bug hotel. Mr Loyd also reported that the CROW volunteers will be holding another session in April. Mrs B Ditcham also confirmed that TPC are now in receipt of a list of all trees with Tree Protection Orders.
- Twyford Gateways – TPC. Mrs B Ditcham confirmed that TPC are still awaiting a quotation for the new gateways. Mr G Starkie again confirmed that he is happy for the Belfast Sink on his allotment plot to be used as a planter. Clerks to look at it with the view of it being placed under the heritage 'Twyford' sign near the Waggon & Horses.
- Twyford Forest – Rebecca Howard & TPC. Mrs R Howard confirmed that residents, businesses, clubs & organisations have raised £3200. In addition, she has received two donations: one for £500 & the other for £200. A few extra donations/dedications may trickle in, but it currently allows for 60 trees, 25 of which will be dedicated. The crew from Wargrave Fire Station have confirmed their attendance at the planting event on November

28th – A call for volunteers to go out nearer the time. Mr Loyd suggested to notify both the Tree Council & The Woodlands Trust so they can also advertise the event – Mrs Howard to action. Mr Loyd to see if he can get a guest speaker for the event & the Clerk to obtain a quote for the installation of a water connection near the copse.

- Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas – Gemma Alford & TPC. Mrs Alford confirmed that the seed mix to be used will be 'Colour Explosion'. Clerk to provide Mrs Alford with a spray to mark the area for the bed. Mrs Alford stated that she would like an information board erected in the King George wildflower area. The Clerk reported that TPC have a company who have produced boards for the village previously – Mrs Alford to think about what she would like included. Broad Hinton is another area that Mrs Alford would like to see purpose built re-wilding areas. Mrs B Ditcham said that Emma Pilgrim of WBC is very keen on such ideas. Clerks to see if Emma Pilgrim will visit the suggested re-wilding sites.

4. Update on actions:

- TPC – Set up an Instagram Account (#twyfordinbloom). The Clerk has set up an account and photos have been added. If you have any photos you wish to be uploaded, these can be emailed to clerk@twyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk or when uploading to your own Instagram account use #twyfordinbloom. Noted.
- TPC – Keep a diary of all the In-Bloom events & initiatives. The Clerk is keeping this updated. Noted.
- TPC – To create 'Blog' entries for Bloom 2021. To commence in August 2020 until the day of the judging in July 2021. Carried forward for In Bloom 2021. Noted.
- TRIP – Gather material to showcase at the presentation. Carried forward. Noted.
- Emma Donald – To provide TPC with the past In-Bloom literature. Carried forward. Noted.
- Clerk & Emma Donald to arrange a meeting to discuss the promotion of the event. Carried forward. Noted.
- TPC to liaise with Twyford Station (GWR) to see how they can assist in the event. Carried forward.
- TPC to investigate the possibility of extended Ruscombe's Bee Highway into Twyford. Carried forward. Noted.
- TPC to ask WBC to replace the tree near Waitrose. Ideally same sized Amelanchier tree to replace the one that had died to match the remaining two. Watering would be needed – consider a contract with a tree company to plant and water it. Mrs R Howard to speak to The Big Plant Nursery to see if they would consider sponsoring & watering the tree.
- TPC to ask WBC about keeping areas of any greens unmown to promote wildflowers & bees. Mrs L Povey to arrange a meeting with Emma Pilgrim of WBC. Noted.
- Rohan Abeywardana – To liaise with Twyford Together on the Green Prescription initiative. Carried forward. Noted.
- Malcolm Bray – To liaise with TATA about the possibility of cooking up some produce for the judges to try during the tour. Mr M Bray confirmed that it is on the next TATA agenda for discussion. Carried forward. Noted.
- Emma Donald (Twyford Together) – To organise the children's photography competition and calendar. Carried forward. Noted.
- TPC – To set up a drop box for the photo entries. Carried forward. Noted.
- TPC – To provide Nikki (RG10) with wording for residents to sign up and allow entry into their gardens (Bee Friendly Garden Tours). Wording agreed. Noted.
- TPC – To provide Nikki (RG10) with wording informing residents how they can purchase hanging baskets. Wording agreed. Noted.
- TPC – To provide Nikki (RG10) with wording regarding the 'In Bloom' event. Wording agreed. Noted.

5. Participation at events:

- Litter pick 28.03.20
- TRHA show 28.03.20
- Easter Egg hunt 28.03.20
- Twyford Annual Parish Meeting 29.04.20 – Talk by Fiona Hewer – Maidenhead Wild
- Donkey Derby 07.06.20
- Twyford Village Fete 22.08.20

All events have been noted.

6. Other updates:

- Hanging Baskets – bee friendly plants. Mrs B Ditcham reported on a productive meeting with Window Flowers. Along with pollinating plants, the main colour will be yellow.
- Village planters. Honeycomb planter to be built in the fenced garden at Stanlake. Mr M Bray to grow bee friendly plants & the children who attend The Colleton School after school club have agreed to plant it. To consider other planters to be placed throughout the village.
- Living Lamposts. Confirmation received that we will hopefully be receiving 4 more living posts.
- Website page. The Clerk confirmed that this is being worked on. Noted.
- Wish List. Items within the list stated in the February meeting are either being worked on or considered. Carried forward. Noted.

7. AOB:

- TPC to come up with the route for this year's tour ahead of the meeting in May. To consider showcasing Twyford Forest, the Millennium Garden (Main agenda item for May – to be discussed & confirmed).
- Mr G Starkie stated that Christine Brewster (Willow Making Teacher) is keen to do some basket making out of the Osier Bed produce. The Group asked Mr Starkie to ask Christine Brewster if she would consider making a bee out of willow. Mr Starkie also confirmed that another allotment holder has also made a tepee out of the produce and the hope is to have a willow making activity at this year's village fete.
- To consider asking Schools, Pre-Schools, Clubs, Organisations etc to make bees out of various items to display throughout the village.

8. Date of next meeting – 14th May 2020, 7.30pm at Loddon Hall

Meeting Closed at 20:52