

Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held via Zoom on Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: Bridget Ditcham (Twyford in Bloom Working Group Chair, Twyford Parish Council), Rohana Abeywardana (Vice Chairman, Twyford Parish Council), Gemma Alford (Wildflower areas), Rebecca Howard (Big Tree project), Stephen Loyd (Environmentalism & Stanlake Copse Initiative), Gerry Wise (Adopt a Street) & Nikki Ochtman (RG10).

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

1. Welcome & introductions.

2. **Apologies.** Malcolm George (Twyford Snooker Club), Prabha Lacey (Gardening volunteer) & Gavin Robinson (Pond mapping).

3. **2022 Entry** – To decide on application. Agreed for Mrs Ditcham and the Clerks to decide on applications and report back to the group. The application deadline is 30th April 2022. Information of the Thames and Chiltern application categories to be passed on to the schools.

4. 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 Assistant Clerk has visited the businesses, residents will be invited to apply from Thursday and a social media post will also be published.

5. **Twyford Parish Council – Twyford in Bloom Budget (£2400)** Noted.

6. Wildflower Initiatives.

6.1 **Envelopes for residents – distribution points.** The envelopes will contain a variety of wildflower seeds and some sunflowers in support of Ukraine donated by TRHA. They will be distributed by the estate agents and scouts with the premise that photos of the displays will be sent for inclusion on the Instagram page. Mrs Ditcham volunteered to help prepare the envelopes of seeds. The estate agents are happy to show flower photos in their windows on the day of the tour by the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom judges.

6.2 WBC Support:

- **Supply of seeds for WBC owned land.** WBC will leave rewilded areas as last year on Hermitage Drive and Jarvis Drive. Malvern Way will have a rewilded corner which has been agreed with local residents. The Clerk continues to try to get approval for works on Orchard Estate.
- **Ruscombe Turn (Broad Hinton Roundabout) – suggested area.** WBC have confirmed that they will prepare Ruscombe Turn for seeding in early April. They will supply the Council with a kilo of seed for the project.

Rebecca Howard reported on the wildflower bed at Stanlake Meadow. An experimental shape was seeded with a special pollinator mixture designed to create habitats for bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects. The mix promises to contain a wide range of species to create a diverse environment and a range of food to support local wildlife. Volunteers have marked off the area with sticks and labels.

Gemma Alford has a working group scheduled for Sunday and promoted by Twyford Together. The group will create a bed in the south westerly corner of King George V recreation ground. A native 'Meadow Mix' will be used containing 21 wildflower and 7 grass species. It is a mixture of 80% grass and 20% wildflowers.

A Duke of Edinburgh volunteer has offered to help weed the Polehampton corner flower bed and help prepare the wildflower area outside Bridge House.

7. Update on ongoing projects (volunteers needed):

- **Adopt-a-Street** - Gerry Wise confirmed that volunteers are ready to pay particular attention to the judging route once decided. This will also include weeding of the pavements. He has welcomed a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer who has taken on a route for 6 months. Mr Loyd asked if the route from Bridge House to the village gateways could be included. WBC street cleaners will be asked to attend prior to the judging and the Polehampton hedges will also be trimmed in preparation.
- **Air Quality & Climate Change Plan** – Rohana Abeywardana reported on the climate change plan which can form part of the portfolio for submission to the judges. Actions

are helping combat the pollution at the crossroads and projects are ongoing with the schools.

- Fruit Tree planting – both Mullie and Freely Fruity have helped in the past. No planting planned at present.
- Millennium Copse – Stephen Loyd reported that the ground flowers look lovely. He has coppiced some hazel and will continue later in the year.
- Pond Mapping – no report.
- Small Copse opposite Waggon & Horses. Meeting to be held 31.03.22 (BD, SL, LM). Stephen reported that the landowners have given their permission for the project subject to the farmers approval. Initial plans will be to book a session with CROW to clear the waste and laurel. Stephen Loyd suggested that a chipper may be borrowed to help with the waste.
- Tree Festival (Stanlake Meadow) 28.11.21 – there are no plans for a Tree Festival in 2022 however there was a suggestion that a tree pruning working party might be arranged for the date of the Fete. Rohana Abeywardana suggested promoting the WBC project to encourage residents to plant a WBC supplied tree in their garden. Photos could be uploaded to the Instagram page.
- TRHA – no report.
- Twyford Gateways – 1 yet to be installed.
- Twyford Growers – the project will restart with 1 client. Leaflets will be delivered to Twyford houses promoting the project.
- Village Planter – there was positive feedback.
- Polehampton School – Secret Garden – Rebecca Howard reported. 8 fruit trees were supplied by Freely Fruity and were planted and are cared for by children who have also made an upcycled bird bath and are working on vegetable beds. The project has no budget and is running on donations of time. Polehampton schools have become a forest school. They are planning a trip to Hampton Court where they have entered a bug house which will be on display.
- Twyford Station – planters. Suggestion to contact Paul Cassidy for an update. The planters are currently empty. Suggestion to advertise for commuters to care for the planters. Wildflower seeds could be sown for a summer display with pansies for the winter. Dwarf sunflower seeds could be added in keeping with a possible Ukraine / sunflower theme.
- Belfast sink - The Assistant Clerk will contact Karl from the Golden Cross to ask if he is able to move the sink to the Old Bath Road Gateway ready for planting.
- Snooker club – Terri Jones mural may not be ready in time for the judging. Stephen Loyd is working on a wildlife garden.

Rohana Abeywardana suggested a Ukraine theme and a discussion took place on engaging the schools with a sunflower competition. Which is the tallest sunflower? Entries could be uploaded directly onto the TPC website.

Gerry Wise reported a broken plank of wood on the Almshouses bench – ranger to repair.

8. New projects for 2022:

- Queen's platinum Jubilee tree – Hornbeam – KGVR. This has been planted and is being watered weekly.
- Polehampton Charity sponsorship as part of their 300 years anniversary celebrations:
 - Wellington Square – planting of new tree. This will be carried out in the Autumn. Suggestion to check the brickwork around the beds.
 - Benches – area to be confirmed.
- Tesco Alley Project – Working with WBC. Meeting to be arranged (BD, RY, LP).

9. Date of next meeting – Monday 25th April.

Meeting Closed at 20:25