

Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 3rd November 2022 at 7.45pm.

Present: Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Gemma Alford (Wildflower areas), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council & TATA), Rebecca Howard (Big Tree project), Stephen Loyd (Environmentalist & Stanlake Copse Initiative), Graham Starkie (TRHA & Twyford History Society), Gerry Wise (Adopt a Street & Twyford History Society) & Emma Donald (Twyford Together & Wildflowers).

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

1. **Welcome & introductions.** Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone & introductions were made.
2. **Apologies.** Ian Butterick (Stanlake Meadow Copse), Prabha Lacey (Gardening Volunteer), Nikki Ochtman (RG10), Rohana Abeywardana (Twyford Parish Council Chairman) & Paul Cassidy (Twyford Together).
3. **Review of Twyford in Bloom 2022**
 - Results – Provided by Mrs B Ditcham:
 - Silver Gilt for the Small-Town category
 - Level 4 – Thriving for the RHS It's your Neighbourhood award
 - Winners of the regional award for Heritage.
 - Judges feedback & areas to improve – the feedback was reviewed and suggestions for improvement were noted.
 - Schools – Mrs Ditcham suggested both schools enter the Mark Mattock Schools challenge award.
4. **Twyford in Bloom 2023** – preparations. Carried forward.
5. **Hanging baskets Winter 2022 and summer & winter 2023** – Carried forward.
6. **Update on ongoing projects** (volunteers needed):
 - Adopt-a-Street (GW) – Mr G Wise reported the bench outside the Almshouses. He reported a replacement could be a King Charles bench. There is a dedication on the existing bench however the bench is in a state of disrepair. Two students are doing Duke of Edinburgh award and will be helping the adopt a street scheme.
 - Air quality (BD) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that two monitors have been installed outside the schools in Colleton Drive & Kibblewhite Crescent in addition to the existing village monitors.
 - Bridge Copse (SL) – Mr S Loyd reported the next plan is to poison the laurel stumps to stop regrowth. At the end of the month there will be another CROW working group. How do we create a boundary that is safe? A hedge would mask the views beyond. Metal fencing would be ideal. Fencing further up also needs to be replaced where an accident has occurred – barriers currently in situ. Agreed to highlight with WBC highways.
 - Millennium Copse (SL) – Mr S Loyd reported that the area is looking good however dead branches have come down in the winds.
 - Polehampton School – Secret Garden (RH) – Mrs R Howard reported that leaf mulch is being used and the caretaker has been helping. Children are experiencing gardens, some for the first time. Forest School sessions will be held there in the garden next year. Plants are required for two beds – raspberry canes, strawberries, and surplus vegetable plants. Suggestion of a social media, in the Spring, post to ask for donated plants. Mr Loyd offered bean poles.
 - Pond Mapping (GR) – No update.
 - Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas (GA/IB/RH) – Mrs G Alford reported. Seeds have been sown including yellow rattle. Removing the turf worked well and this will be repeated.
 - Judges' suggestion for yellow rattle at Stanlake Meadow – Mr I Butterick will sow some seeds.
 - Stanlake Copse (IB) – Ian Butterick had submitted a written report – The majority of the path around the perimeter of the copse has now been laid with bark chippings. Three patches have been sown with woodland wildflower seeds & some germination has already happened. The brambles and nettles at the front of the copse are reducing due to our continued weeding. We have noticed a reduction in the amount of litter in the copse, as I think it is

getting the appearance of being looked after now. The group will continue to coordinate their work sessions with the tree working group.

- Stanlake Meadow Trees (RH) – Mrs R Howard reported that the trees are recovering from the dry summer. 4 Rowan trees had suffered fireblight and were removed. They will be replaced with 3 Birch & 1 Rowen in a location near the NHS bench. A wildflower bed will also be created under the trees along with the addition of bulbs.
- Tesco Alley (BD/PC) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that plans previously discussed are on hold due to funds and that WBC are continuing to work on the drainage problems.
- Twyford Station (PC) – Mr P Cassidy had provided a written report. Planters have been filled with winter plants donated from Dobbies.
- TRHA (GS/MB) – Mr G Starkie reported that TRHA are planning to run 3 full shows in Loddon Hall. Non-members will be invited to enter the shows, the aim is for more entries and participation. Mrs E Donald suggested a business competition.
- Twyford Growers – there are a number of clients that benefit from this scheme.
- Village Planter – there are discussions with a sponsor.

7. New projects for 2022/23:

- Queen's platinum Jubilee tree – Hornbeam – KGVR. Mrs L Moffatt reported that the tree is doing well.
- Polehampton Charity sponsorship as part of their 300 years anniversary celebrations:
 - Wellington Square – planting of new tree – needs permission from Waitrose.
 - Benches – two to be located at King George Recreation ground and Stanlake Meadow.
- Sponsorship of garden areas and planter – the Council have agreed that areas could be sponsored by businesses.
- Coronation year – Coronation tree (to be considered by the Parish Lands Committee), yellow tulips & grass maze.
- Loddon Hall/KGVR - Mr G Robinson asked, through Mr S Loyd, if hazels could be planted around the theatre group container. They would provide wands etc for the container.
- Twyford Together (ED) – Mrs E Donald reported that Twyford Together will be making a donation towards the Stanlake Tree project from the Fun Run funds – Those who entered were able to opt for a donation to be made rather than receive a medal.
- Verey Close – Mr S Loyd suggestion of long grasses in the park area of Verey Close – contact WBC.

8. Date of next meeting – February 2nd 2023.

Meeting Closed at 21:14