

Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 7.45pm.

Present: Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), 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.
2. **Apologies.** Paul Cassidy (Twyford Together), Gemma Alford (Wildflower areas), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council & TATA) Ian Butterick (Stanlake Meadow Copse) & Nikki Ochtman (RG10).
3. **Twyford in Bloom 2023** – preparations. Registration is open until 31st March. Entry fee for a small town is £60.
4. **Hanging baskets Summer & Winter 2023** – To note – 2023 costings received. Colour of plants: Red, White & Sky Blue. Communications to be sent out to businesses and residents. Noted.
5. **Update on ongoing projects** (volunteers needed):
 - Adopt-a-Street (GW) – Mr G Wise provided a report and confirmed two students are doing Duke of Edinburgh award and will be helping the adopt a street scheme.
 - Annual Litter Pick (BD) – Date confirmed as 25th March 2023 and will commence at 10am outside Loddon Hall.
 - 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 confirmed that CROW held two work parties last year with the next being on the 19th July 2023. The area is being checked for litter and some of the metal work has been removed.
 - Mrs B Ditcham confirmed ownership of the fencing was raised with WBC who are investigating this query.
 - Suggestion for bulbs to be planted on the verge outside the copse – Clerks to liaise with both Dobbies & WBC.
 - Cuincy Garden (BD) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that the Twinning Society has tidied the garden and done some planting. Further planting to take place.
 - KGVR (MB) – No update.
 - Loddon Hall/KGVR Wildflower Area (GA) – No update.
 - Loddon Hall Storage Container (GR) – No update.
 - Millennium Copse (SL) – Mr S Loyd reported that the area is looking good. Mrs L Moffatt confirmed tree work are also scheduled to take place on the 7th. Mr S Loyd offered a field maple to replace the tree that is being removed.
 - Polehampton Charities – Mrs B Ditcham outlined items outlined within item 7. Deputy Clerk to liaise with Waitrose on the repair works needed to the brickwork surrounding the trees in Wellington Square.
 - Polehampton School – Secret Garden (RH) – Mrs R Howard reported that spring works to commence. Mr S Loyd offered bean poles. A propagator/mini greenhouse would benefit the project - Mrs R Howard to approach Polehampton Charities to see if they are able to assist.
 - Pond Mapping (GR) – No update.
 - Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas (GA/IB/RH)
 - Verey Close – Mrs L Moffatt to liaise with Wokingham Borough Council regarding feasibility.
 - Stanlake Copse (IB) – Mrs L Moffatt advised that Snowdrops for the area have been ordered.

- Stanlake Meadow Trees (RH) – Mrs R Howard reported:
 - 5 new trees were planted in November 2022
 - Bed dug & bulbs courtesy of Dobbies planted.
 - Weeding round the existing trees to be done.
 - Mulch needed for the spring.
- Mr S Loyd advised some fruit trees need pruning – Mrs R Howard to hold a works party on the 19th February.
- Tesco Alley (BD/PC) – No update.
- Twyford Station – planters (PC). Mr P Cassidy had provided the following written report – The station is my project this year, hopefully refreshing the rose beds on platform 3 and summer planting the five planters on platform 4. Mr Cassidy to also liaise with the station manager regarding hanging baskets for this year.
- Twyford Together (RY/ED/PC) – No update.
- TRHA (GS/MB) – Mr G Starkie reported on the new show schedule & entry process. Flyer to be sent to the Deputy Clerk for the noticeboards and Mr G Starkie to liaise with the TRHA Committee regarding having a stall at the Village Fete.
- Twyford Growers (RA) – No update.
- Village Planter (BD) Sponsorship of garden areas & planter – There are discussions with a potential sponsor.

7. New projects for 2023/24:

- Polehampton Charity sponsorship as part of their 300 years anniversary celebrations:
 - Wellington Square – New tree (Flowering Cherry) planted 27.01.23.
 - King George – New tree (Hornbeam) planted 27.01.23.
 - Stanlake Meadow – New tree (Hornbeam) planted 27.01.23.
 - Benches – Two to be located at King George Recreation Ground & Stanlake Meadow.

Noted.

- Sponsorship of garden areas and planter – The Council have agreed that areas could be sponsored by businesses.
- Coronation Year – Yellow tulips/Wild Daffodils & Grass Maze with a monolith. Other community events – live screening of the Coronation at Stanlake Meadow and mugs to all school children. Noted.
- Loddon Hall/KGVR – Hazel wands to be planted around the storage container.
- Wildflower Information Board.
 - Project to be restarted.
 - Local children to draw bugs.
 - Mrs R Howard to complete the artwork.

8. Date of next meeting – 30th March 2023.

Meeting Closed at 21:04