

## Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.45pm.

**Present:** Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), 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), Gemma Alford (Wildflower areas) & Emma Donald (Twyford Together & Wildflowers).

**Minutes:** Mrs Lynn Povey (Deputy Clerk, Twyford Parish Council).

1. **Welcome & introductions.** Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone.
2. **Apologies.** Paul Cassidy (Twyford Together), Ian Butterick (Stanlake Meadow Copse) & Nikki Ochtman (RG10).
3. **Twyford in Bloom 2023** – preparations & proposed route. Mrs B Ditcham reported that preparations continue with registration having been completed to take part in the Thames & Chilterns in Bloom event with the proposed route as follows:
  - Starting from the Duke of Wellington & through the village centre to the Almshouses.
  - Through Polehampton Alley to KGVR – Grass Labyrinth.
  - Finishing at Loddon Hall – Displays & photos of other village projects.

The Working Group discussed entering the RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' event for 2023 – It was decided not to submit an entry this year.

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 reported that membership remains a constant with 50 to 60 members with the group running their own litter picking activities during the year and covering a large proportion of the village. Mr G Wise also reported that WBC are continuing to supply equipment as and when necessary. Confirmation of the 'In Bloom' route requested to enable the group to check the area on or just before the judging day.
  - Annual Litter Pick (BD) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that the event went well and that roughly 25 bags of rubbish were collected. A few people were interested in joining the Adopt-a-Street group - Referred individuals to Mr G Wise.
  - Air Quality (BD) – No update.
  - Bridge Copse (SL) - Mr S Loyd reported that Snowdrops have been planted in the roadside grass verge opposite Waggon & Horse pub. Any more donations of snowdrops in the green would be welcome. A range of woodland wildflowers have been planted and litter picking continues.
  - Cuincy Garden (BD) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that the garden looks good, and some further planting will take place.
  - KGVR (MB) – Mr M Bray provided an overview of the projects taking place within the recreation ground.
  - Loddon Hall/KGVR Wildflower Area (GA) – Mrs G Alford reported that she is hoping to continue and improve this area .
  - Loddon Hall Storage Container (GR) – No update.
  - Millennium Copse (SL) – Mr S Loyd reported that the Willow tree beside the brook has been removed and logged as requested. The log pile will form a valuable habitat. Plenty of snowdrops on left-hand side of copse but not so many on the right-hand side. Volunteer needed to split clumps and transplant more snowdrops to the right-hand side – Mrs G Alford volunteered.
  - Polehampton Charities – No update.
  - Polehampton School – Secret Garden (RH) – Mrs R Howard reported that a working party was held on 10th March to get the garden cleared of weeds, erect small plastic covered greenhouse (donated by parents) and prune overgrown apple

tree. Mr S Loyd provided use of his tools. Seeds have been sown with children and seed potatoes donated by Allotment Association (TRHA) were planted last week. – kids enjoyed it! Children are now using the garden weekly, currently year's 3 & 4. Soon to years 5 & 6 after easter.

- Pond Mapping (GR) – No update.
- Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas (GA/IB/RH)
  - Verey Close (SL) – Mr S Loyd provided the following report:
    - A walk through of the copses has been carried out and it is thought there are good prospects for enhancement (removal of garden species etc). Given permission from WBC, Mr S Loyd would encourage the formation of a "Friends" group (Friends of Broad Hinton Fields) to take on the management and would be happy to help with initial guidance and plans. CRoW have also signalled a willingness to help mentor residents with initial practical work sessions.
    - Report provided by Mrs L Moffatt – Liaisons with WBC going well. Tree project being considered (possible Autumn 2023 project), WBC are liaising with other 'Friends' groups to check how they are organised in terms of insurances and equipment – Mr S Loyd suggested looking into 'Friends of Ruscombe Wood'.
  - Bridge House (GA) – Mrs G Alford to prepare the area & reseed.
- Stanlake Copse (IB) – Mrs L Moffatt advised that Snowdrops for the area have arrived and will be planted.
- Stanlake Meadow Trees (RH) – Mrs R Howard reported:
  - Tree planting was postponed last Sunday due to bad weather.
  - Constant problems with removing of stakes by members of the public – Mr S Loyd to provide longer stakes to see if that will provide a more secure fixing.
  - X2 trees to be replaced this Autumn which have died. A third tree will be added to these and paid for by a member of the public.
- Tesco Alley (BD/PC) – No update.
- Twyford Station – planters (PC). No update.
- Twyford Together (RY/ED/PC) – No update.
- TRHA (GS/MB) – Mr G Starkie reported that they had a very successful spring show and are looking forward to the summer.
- Twyford Growers (RA) – The Deputy Clerk advised that the group have started back up with good attendance. Mrs Hughes Nind has agreed to create a wheelbarrow for the village as part of the wheelbarrow display.
- Village Planter (BD) Sponsorship of garden areas & planter – There are discussions with a potential sponsor.

## **7. New projects for 2023/24:**

- Sponsorship of garden areas and planter – The Council have agreed that areas could be sponsored by businesses. Deputy Clerk to send information to the business forum via Rob Yeadon to gauge interest.
- Coronation Year – 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. Mr G Robinson to investigate and send a proposal to the Deputy Clerk.
- Wildflower Information Board.
  - Project to be restarted.
  - Local children to draw bugs.
  - Mrs R Howard to complete the artwork.
- Coronation Tree – Mr S Loyd asked if the council would consider purchasing a tree. To be referred to Parish Lands for their consideration.
- Daffodils (miniatures) – Mr S Loyd asked if the council would consider purchasing to plant near the verges near the gateways. Deputy Clerk to check feasibility and costings.
- Hurst Road Allotments – Mr M Bray advised the group of a project being undertaken by WBC for the creation of a communal area.

8. **Date of next meeting** – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Meeting Closed at 21:14