

# Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7.45pm.

**Present:** Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council & TATA), Stephen Loyd (Environmentalist & Stanlake Copse Initiative), Graham Starkie (TRHA & Twyford History Society), Gerry Wise (Adopt a Street & Twyford History Society), Gavin Robinson (Gardening Volunteer & Loddon Hall Storage Container), Julie Cotton (Bridge House), Helen Winder (Twyford Parish Councillor), Emma Donald (Twyford Together & Wildflowers) & Ian Butterick (Stanlake Meadow Copse).

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

1. **Welcome & introductions.** Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone & introductions were made.
2. **Apologies.** Gemma Alford (Wildflower areas) & Rebecca Howard (Big Tree project)
3. **Twyford in Bloom 2023** – preparation update.
  - Date of Judging – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10.30am.
  - Tour – Mrs B Ditcham, Mr M Bray & Mrs L Povey to commence the tour. Further participants to be invited to join along the route.
  - Wheelbarrow Displays – 10 participants registered. Further interest expressed by Bridge House, the Theatre Group, Dobbies, the History Society & Colleton School.
  - Route:
    - Starting from Bridge House & through the village centre to the Almshouses.
    - Through Polehampton Alley to KGVR – Grass Labyrinth.
    - Finishing at Loddon Hall – Displays & photos of other village projects.
4. **Hanging baskets Summer & Winter 2023** – To note that the summer baskets have been installed. Noted.
5. **Update on ongoing projects:**
  - Adopt-a-Street (GW) – Mr G Wise reported that the team will be out to ensure the route is looking its best and raised the following areas as that in need of attention:
    - Wellington Square – Deputy Clerk to liaise with Waitrose to ensure area is tidied up.
    - Grass verge on the corner of London Road and The Grove outside the Almshouses – Deputy Clerk to ensure this is covered within WBC's support.
  - Air Quality (BD) – No update.
  - Bridge Copse (SL) - Mr S Loyd reported that a work party is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> July and that litter picking continues but is improving.
  - Cuincy Garden (BD) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that the garden looks messy (access is difficult due to building works) but the Twinning Association will be organising a tidy up.
  - Garden Areas
    - Jubilee Corner – Session held by volunteer.
    - Bell Corner – No update.
    - Polehampton Corner – Contractors to weed area.
    - Millennium Garden – No update.
    - Stanlake tub – No update.
  - Hurst Road Allotments (MB). Mr M Bray reported on the following:
    - Twyford Growers – Still going strong.
    - Communal Area – WBC are making good progress.
    - Bi-Annual Inspections have taken place.
  - KGVR – Grass Labyrinth (MB) – Mr M Bray reported that the Grass Labyrinth works have been completed and that the area is currently being mown on a weekly basis by the Village Ranger.
    - Volunteers needed to assist with the mowing – Mrs E Donald to promote.
    - Plant plugs – Mrs H Winder to look into the possibility of providing these to improve the Labyrinth.
    - Judging day display – Mrs E Donald to ask local schools to provide drawings of the Wildflowers in the area to go around the Labyrinth for the judges to look at.

- Mowing of the Wildflower area – Mrs E Donald to liaise with Mrs L Moffatt.
- Youth Shelter – Agreed for the shelter to be repainted.
- Loddon Hall/KGVR Wildflower Area (GA) – Mrs G Alford had provided the following written report – On KGVR, I managed to sow another patch of wildflowers. The two patches that were sown last year are looking good. There is also a lot of yellow rattle this year which is encouraging to see. The gravel area also has more wildflowers this year, including primroses, red campion, and yellow rattle.

The wildflower bed between the youth centre and Loddon Hall is flowering well but has suffered from some damage - the railings that have been vandalised have been placed on the flowers squashing them.

- Loddon Hall Storage Container (GR) – Mr G Robinson reported – Planting 10 x 2ft of barefooted plants at 5-6ft spacings.

Each plant to be supported by a short stake and surrounded by 1ft diameter of weed suppressing fabric.

Planting to be undertaken by drama group members in November 2023. Aftercare also provided by members in summer 2024.

Plants and materials to be supplied by the drama group. Any plants that do not survive will be replaced in autumn 2024.

We are using bare rooted stock as these will quickly establish. I have a similar area planted in my back garden about 20 years ago if anyone wants to see the expected results. Next spring, I could supply some native bluebells for planting around the Hazel.

Details to be passed to the Parish Lands Committee for their consideration.

- Millennium Copse (SL) – No update.
- Polehampton Charities – No update.
- Polehampton School – Secret Garden (RH) – Mrs R Howard had provided the following written report – We are continuing to use the school garden regularly now. We have been growing tomato and cucumber seedlings, some of which have now been sent home with the children to grow. I have asked them to send me pictures of their tomatoes as they grow.. we shall see how this goes!

We are also growing potatoes, onions, strawberries, raspberries, and sunflowers. We have lost a number of plants to slugs as it has been so wet, but the little greenhouse donated by parents has been perfect to start new plants off. we just need a bigger one now!!

I have put forward a request for funds through the school, but I am waiting to hear if anything comes of it.

The children seem to be getting a lot of enjoyment from the garden so far... we just need to upgrade a few things... small gardening gloves for kids... a potting table would be useful. a log circle would be lovely ... It can happen slowly, I think.

- Pond Mapping (GR) – No update. Mr G Robinson to promote via social media.
- Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas
  - Verey Close/Broad Hinton Copse
    - Report provided by TPC – Liaisons with WBC continue to go well. Replacement of the fallen Oak is scheduled for Autumn 2023 and the tree project is also still being considered as a possible Autumn 2023 project. WBC to report back on discussions held with other 'Friends' groups regarding how they are organised in terms of insurances and equipment – carried forward.
  - Bridge House (GA) – No update. Mrs J Cotton to arrange for regular watering to take place.

- Ruscombe Turn (TPC) – Two areas have been prepared. Awaiting response from WBC as to if seed has been sown.
- Malvern Way (TPC) – Request from residents passed to WBC for area to be repeated. Awaiting response.
- Stanlake Copse (IB) – Mr I Butterick reported – Stanlake Copse is a diverse and ecologically valuable local natural habitat. The volunteer group meet on a monthly basis working on projects to enhance the copse's biodiversity and promote the growth of wildflowers, support wildlife, and improve people's access to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment.

There is an ongoing assessment of the woodland to identify invasive species infestation, and to identify and promote the native species.

The assessment is driving the habitat restoration plan that focuses on removing invasive species and reintroducing and promoting native fauna and flora.

In order to protect and enhance existing wildlife habitat areas, nettles and brambles are cleared, the tree canopy along the edge of the woodland has been raised to allow more light to the woodland floor and promote woodland edge flower species. The trimming from such work is used to create more habitat in the log pile used to form deadwood hedge along the copse edge.

The pond is another habitat that is being developed to attract a diverse variety of wildlife and native plants.

The wildflower populations of Bluebells, Acconites, Wild Garlic, Cuckoo Flower and Cowslips, have been added to with the planting of Flag Iris and Bugleweed in and around the pond, the planting of Snowdrop bulbs, and the sowing of mixed woodland edge wildflower seeds under the raised canopy along the edge of the copse.

The paths around and through the copse have been laid with bark chippings to improve people's access. The overhanging branches and encroaching ground plants are pruned back each month to keep access open.

Mr I Butterick to note species found within the area and continue with the Elm log and reported to the Parish Council as a register.

- Stanlake Meadow Trees (RH) – Mrs R Howard provided the following written report – I met with Ian Butterick and his group last Sunday to do some work on the trees at Stanlake. We added canes in to support the fast-growing Silver Birches. Some had bent right over under the weight of all the new leaves. On the whole though the trees are doing really well. I have spoken to Lucy about replacing several of the ones which have died this autumn. There looks to be five or 6 in need of replacing. Having spoken to Stephen regarding the species we should replace with, he suggests Birch. I think it is also a good idea, although we also want to maintain a variety of trees on the field so perhaps, we could consider a couple more Wild Cherry? Will need to order these late summer/early autumn.

I sowed some wildflowers on the bare earth where some trees had died so there will be colour on those areas anyway. I also sowed some wildflower seed in the new bed at the top of the field. We shall see how that goes!

- Tesco Alley (BD/PC) – Mrs B Ditcham reported that a bin has replaced one of the concrete bollards and a new bollard has been placed the other end with a reflective band. Request has been made via WBC's land management team to have the ceiling repainted – Possible 2023 project.
- Twyford Station – planters (PC). Mrs H Winder confirmed that Dobbies provided the plants, and it was planted up last week. Mr P Cassidy will be ensuring that regular watering takes place.
- Twyford Together (RY/ED/PC) – No update.
- TRHA (GS/MB) – Mr G Starkie reported on the following:
  - The Store – This has been very busy.

- Quiz Night – This was very successful.
- Twyford Village Fete – Attendance confirmed.
- TRHA Summer Show – To be held at Loddon Hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> June.
- Newsletter printing – Waingels are no longer able to support therefore discussions are being had with Piggott.

**6. New projects for 2023/24:**

- Sponsorship of garden areas and planter – The Council have agreed that areas could be sponsored by businesses. Options are being explored.
- Coronation Year – Wild Daffodils. Mrs H Winder to make enquiries through Dobbies and report back.
- Loddon Hall/KGVR – Hazel wants to be planted around the storage container. Refer to item 5 for proposal. Details to be passed to the Parish Lands Committee for consideration.
- Wildflower Information Board (Parish Lands Project).
  - Project to be restarted.
  - Local children to draw bugs.
  - Mrs R Howard to complete the artwork.
- Daffodils (miniatures) – To plant near the verges near the gateways. Deputy Clerk to check feasibility and Mrs H Winder to make enquiries through Dobbies and report back.
- Chatty Benches – Installation has taken/is taking place at KGVR & Stanlake. Noted.
- Piggott School – Mr S Loyd reported that CRoW will be assisting the school with remedial works and that the old pond is being reinstated. Noted.

**7. Date of next meeting – September 2023**

Meeting Closed at 21:10