

Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 29th February 2024 at 7.45pm.

Present: Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council), Jackie Jagger (Twyford Parish Council), Stephen Loyd (Environmentalist & Stanlake Copse Initiative), Diana Loyd (Hedgehog Initiative), Rebecca Howard (Polehampton School Secret Garden & Stanlake Trees), Gemma Alford (Wildflowers), Graham Starkie (TRHA & Twyford History Society), Gerry Wise (Adopt a Street & Twyford History Society), Gavin Robinson (Gardening Volunteer & Loddon Hall Liaison), Stephen Billington (Gardening Volunteer), Hazel Evans (Twyford Twinning Association), Emma Donald (Wildflowers & Twyford Together) & Ian Butterick (Stanlake Meadow Copse).

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

1. **Welcome.** Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.
2. **Apologies.** Roger Lewis (TATA) & Prabha Lacey (Gardening Volunteer).
3. **Twyford in Bloom 2024:**
 - 3.1 Registration & preliminary thoughts. Mrs B Ditcham provided an overview of the recent seminar hosted by Thames & Chilterns in Bloom to launch the 2024 campaign and outlined the changes including tours to be carried out by two representatives and to provide a presentation at the start of the tour.
Actions:
 - Volunteers to provide a record of projects and works carried out throughout the seasons as evidence to the judges even in the event that the project doesn't form part of the tour (schools will not be visited but evidence to be collated and presented).
 - Deputy Clerk to complete all relevant entry forms.
 - 3.2 Hanging Baskets – To note costings received for Summer & Winter 2024. Communications sent out to businesses and residents. To request pollinator plants. Noted.
4. **Update on ongoing projects:**
 - Adopt-a-Street (GW). Mr G Wise reported:
 - Litter picking throughout the village continues.
 - Support will be given to the annual litter pick.
 - More volunteers needed for the run up and on the day of judging.
 - Action:
 - Deputy Clerk/TPC representative to ask Twyford Together if they would liaise with businesses with the view to keeping shop fronts tidy (points deducted in 2023 for weeds).
 - Air Quality (BD). Mrs B Ditcham reported that the air quality is currently within a normal range. Results will continue to be monitored.
 - Bridge Copse (SL). Mr S Loyd reported:
 - Litter is a recurring issue.
 - Storm Isha brought down a large (possibly dead) tree across the meadow fence line.
 - A nestbox has been erected on a tree.
 - Daffodils and snowdrops planted by volunteers along the verge are flowering.
 - Quincy Garden (BD/HE) – Mrs H Evans reported:
 - Bulbs have been planted.
 - Maintenance continues - weeding to be done.
 - Drought tolerant plants to be considered for the area.
 - Garden Areas (GR). Mr G Robinson reported:
 - Jubilee Corner – This is looking tidy and cared for. Mrs P Lacey is hoping to plant nasturtiums for the summer which will provide some summer flower power.
 - Bell Corner – The Phormium have been removed and some bulbs coming through, and forget-me-nots planted. Plan to replant some phormium cuttings, together with geraniums and lobelia for the summer.
 - Polehampton Corner – This is looking really nice with plenty of spring bulbs and hellebores in flower. Plan to coppice the yellow cornus at the end of March and keep on top of the weeds/watering. Perennial geraniums on order

for the bare area at the front. Would like to have autumn flowering cyclamen around the base of the tree.

- Millennium Garden – This needs a few more purple sage plants. So far seems to have survived the winter. The cemetery bed has been tidied to remove invasive allium triquetrum, but this needs more work. Hedging plants have been put along the back and will need summer watering to ensure survival. Mr S Billington is managing this bed.
- Stanlake tub – This has been planted up with wallflowers and is looking good. An eye will be kept on the hedge and brambles behind. The tub itself is leaning slightly and it would be nice to level it up.
- Hurst Road Allotments (MB/SL)
 - Twyford Growers – Preparations for 2024 have commenced with sowing sessions held.
 - Communal Area – The area is looking good and continues to be used. A friendship garden for Hurst Road Allotment Community.
 - Wildflower Area (outside boundary – Maintained by TATA) – The area has been de-grassed and reseeded.
 - Hazel Copse – Works needed to split up and replant the snowdrops.
- KGVR – Grass Labyrinth/Skatepark (BD/MB):
 - Remarking of the Labyrinth to be done to reaffirm design and in preparation of the new cutting season (Village Ranger to action) – Mrs E Donald has offered assistance.
 - Request from Mrs E Donald for the edging of the Labyrinth to be defined (plants or soil bund) – Referred back to Parish Lands for their consideration.
 - Mr M Bray provided an overview of the plans to redevelop the skatepark. Works to hopefully commence in the autumn.
- Loddon Hall (GR) – Mr G Robinson reported:
 - The patio area is a very large, paved area, that will be difficult to improve without significant expense. Some ideas are hoping to be raised at the next Loddon Hall meeting in April – although there is aware that the management team are currently pre-occupied with updating the constitution and urgent building maintenance issues. A decision on the hazel planting is being awaited.
 - Suggestions made to also add plants to the front of Loddon Hall – Mr G Robinson to talk to the Loddon Hall Committee.
 - Mr S Loyd asked if a replacement tree could be planted near to the location of the one that was removed (car park boundary/youth centre/scout HQ access road) and for the remaining tree stump to be removed. Suggestion made as a possible Polehampton Charities project.
 - Action – Deputy Clerk to investigate.
- Millennium Copse (SL) – Mr S Loyd reported:
 - Further hazel coppicing has continued.
 - Four hazel whips have been planted + 1 oak whip, these will maintain tree cover with the absence of recently removed trees.
 - Snowdrop clumps have been split and spread further on site.
- Polehampton Charities – No update.
- Polehampton School – Secret Garden (RH) – Mrs R Howard reported:
 - 35 children are currently involved and is going from strength to strength! A kind donation was made from Mrs Arkell, Kibblewhite Crescent of a trug to use in the garden and another kind donation from Mr G Starkie, who has donated a huge quantity of seed compost to fill it. Works are taking place to implement a wildflower meadow area of the garden using seeds donated by Mrs G Alford.
- Pond Mapping (GR) – Mr G Robinson reported:
 - No update in terms of the pond mapping however, consideration to be given as to the possibility of incorporating a hedgehog habitat log to the map if applicable (Reference to item 6.1).
- Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas
 - Verrey Close/Broad Hinton Copse (SL)

- Report provided by TPC – Liaisons with WBC continue to go well. Replacement of the fallen Oak is scheduled for January/February 2024 along with an additional 6 trees within the vicinity (species to include Crab Apple, Wild Cherry and Field Maple). Small longer grass sections will also be left around the trees.
- Mr S Loyd is keen to start the Broad Hinton Copse project and advised that CRoW are happy to support (£60 per session). Mr Loyd was advised that this is a challenging situation due to a tight budget and lack of volunteers however, a new poster asking for gardening volunteers has been put on the noticeboards and social media – to date no interested parties. Mr I Butterick advised that there are individuals on the existing volunteer groups that can't help at weekends.
 - Actions:
 - Deputy Clerk to provide introductions between WBC & the Friends of Broad Hinton Copse group with the view of gaining permission from WBC to carry out works - 'Friends of Broad Hinton Copse Group' to liaise/advise/update WBC of plans.
 - Deputy Clerk to send out message to existing volunteer groups to gauge interest and volunteer availability.
 - Mrs B Ditcham to liaise with Colleton School to include a request for volunteers within their newsletter.
- Bridge House (GA)
 - Mrs G Alford reported – No plans for this area currently. Help will be required to weed and re-sow if to continue. Suggested made to change planting to drought loving plants.
 - Action:
 - Mrs G Alford to revisit and produce a plan.
- Loddon Hall/KGVR Wildflower Area (GA)
 - Mrs G Alford reported – The Loddon flower bed to continue to be maintained by weeding and adding more plants / seed as required. One new wildflower bed within the long grass area of KGVR to be created.
- Ruscombe Turn – Managed by WBC.
- Malvern Way – Managed by WBC.
- Stanlake Copse (IB). Mr I Butterick reported:
 - More bark chips needed.
 - Very wet currently.
 - Volunteer Group has grown.
 - Living willow hedge installed.
 - Bluebells are coming up.
 - No signs of the snowdrops.
 - Better fencing to be considered following damage caused by fly-tippers.
- Stanlake Meadow Trees (RH). Mrs R Howard reported:
 - Slow progress – Session attendee numbers have reduced.
 - Liaising with Mr I Butterick about creating a hazel border around the new flower bed made last year. Hazel to be used from the copse.
 - New bed to be created surrounding news trees parallel to the trainline.

Mr S Loyd suggested the use of a carbon capture area calculator – To be investigated.

General comment – Lots of litter on the railway land. Deputy Clerk to investigate getting this cleared.

- Twyford Station – planters (PC) – No report provided. Mr G Robinson to liaise with Mr P Cassidy.
- Twyford Together (RY/ED/PC) – No update.
- TRHA (GS). Mr G Starkie reported:
 - The store is doing well.
 - Lots of activities/events including the TRHA Spring Show which will be taking place on the 23rd March.

5. New projects for 2023/24:

- Sponsorship of garden areas and planter – Ongoing.
- Wildflower Information Board (Parish Land Project). Mrs R Howard reported that the board has been completed and is currently with the printers.
- Daffodils (Gateways).
 - Old Bath Road – Planted by CRow.
 - London Road – Planted by the London Road Allotment Holders.
 - Hurst Road – Planted by members of TATA.
 - Broad Hinton Roundabout – Planted by Councillors & a Village Volunteer.
- Labyrinth Information Board (JJ). Item carried forward.
- Shop windows – To consider inviting local artists to display suitable paintings along the route. Item carried forward for the group to bring further ideas to the next meeting.
- Annual Litter Pick – 23rd March 2024 (BD). Mrs B Ditcham advised that plans for this year's litter pick continue and that everyone is welcome. Mr G Wise confirmed that both he and his wife will be in attendance as did Mr & Mrs Loyd. Posters handed out for circulation.

6. Correspondence:

- 6.1 Residents Correspondence – Some Hedgehog thoughts (circulated). Mrs D Loyd reiterated the details outlined in her correspondence. The group were supportive of this initiative – Mrs E Donald, Mrs G Alford & Mrs R Howard to support Mrs Loyd with writing an article and social media. Deputy Clerk to allocate a stall to Mrs Loyd at the Twyford Village Fete and share the article via the TPC's social media platform and website (News/In Bloom page).

- 8. Date of next meeting – 21st March 2024.** Due to the close proximity of the meeting dates, the next meeting was agreed to be held on Thursday 18th April 2024.

Meeting Closed at 21:33