

# Twyford Parish Council & Twyford Together

Minutes of a meeting of the Twyford in Bloom Working Group held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 7.45pm.

**Present:** Bridget Ditcham (Twyford Parish Council), Jackie Jagger (Twyford Parish Council), Stephen Loyd (Environmentalist & Volunteer), Diana Loyd (Hedgehog Initiative), 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), Ian Butterick (Stanlake Meadow Copse), April Magrath (Resident – Biodiversity Interests) & James Baggley (Resident – Biodiversity Interests).

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

1. **Welcome.** Mrs B Ditcham welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.
2. **Apologies.** Malcolm Bray (Twyford Parish Council), Prabha Lacey (Gardening Volunteer), Rebecca Howard (Polehampton School Secret Garden & Stanlake Trees), Gemma Alford (Wildflowers) & Mr P Cassidy (Twyford Together).
3. **Twyford in Bloom 2024:**
  - 3.1 Preparations, portfolios & proposed route.
    - Preparations – Mrs B Ditcham reported that preparations continue with registration having been completed to take part in the Thames & Chilterns in Bloom event.
    - Portfolios – Groups/Individuals to continue to compile these.
    - Proposed route
      - **Meet at Stanlake (Presentation in the Pavilion & tour of Stanlake Meadows)**
        - By car – Stanlake Lane, New Road, Northbury Avenue, London Road, Loddon Hall Road to:
      - **TRHA**
        - By foot – Across Loddon Hall Car Park to:
      - **KGVR**
        - By foot – Across Hermitage Drive into Wensley Close, through the alley to the London Road and along to:
      - **Jubilee Corner**
        - By foot – through the village passed the:
      - **London Road Shops**
        - By foot - through the village to:
      - **Bell Corner**
        - By foot – Church Street, Station Road to the:
      - **Burial Ground/Millennium Garden**
        - By car – Station Road, Waltham Road, Hurst Road to the:
      - **Hurst Road Allotments**
        - By car – Hurst Road, Waltham Road, Stanlake Lane to:
      - **Stanlake Pavilion (Refreshments and debrief)**
    - 3.2 Hanging Baskets – To note the colours for 2024 as purple, pink & white with pollinator plants added. Noted.
    - 3.3 Hanging Baskets – To note 73 summer baskets ordered. Deputy Clerk advised of an increase in orders taking the total up to 93. Noted.
    - 3.4 Wheelbarrow Displays – To note there are currently 3 entrants. Noted.
4. **Update on ongoing projects:**
  - Adopt-a-Street (GW). Mr G Wise reported:
    - Members of the Adopt-A-Street team are continuing with their rounds.
    - 3 or 4 new members gained as a result of the Annual Litter Pick.
    - Members will be looking to support the 'In Bloom' efforts.
    - Almshouse Bench – Further repairs and staining needed. Deputy Clerk & Mrs B Ditcham to liaise with WBC.
    - Waitrose – Area remains unkept. Deputy Clerk & Mrs B Ditcham to liaise with both WBC as landlords and Waitrose.

- Shop fronts – Areas remain unkept. Deputy Clerk to again ask Rob Yeadon (Twyford Together) to liaise with businesses with the view to keeping shop fronts tidy and to also encourage future hanging basket orders.
- Air Quality (BD). Mrs B Ditcham advised that details of the published air quality results can be found on the TPC Website.
- Bridge Copse (SL). Mr S Loyd provided the following written report:
  - Spring wildflower survey records - Arum, Hedge garlic, Herb Robert, Wild garlic, Lesser celandine, Buttercup, Primrose, Forget me not, Dandelion, Cow parsley. Welcome patches of grass are becoming established.
  - The copse is still not secure for livestock entering from the meadows.
- Cuincy Garden (BD/HE). Mrs B Ditcham advised that the area has been taken over by builders making access difficult – works to be carried out as soon as possible.
- Garden Areas (GR). Mr G Robinson provided the following written reports:
  - Bell Corner
    - Trailing Geraniums and Lobelia planted and starting to get established. I think it needs some evergreen height, so suggested three small conifers that would cost £12, but tall grasses might be an alternative? Hare Hatch nursery are happy to donate some plants.
  - Cemetery Garden
    - Three cornered leeks removed in great quantity with assistance from Chris the Ranger. Expecting to remove more next spring. It is hoped to undertake a general weeding session in the near future.
  - Jubilee Corner
    - Continues to collect rubbish. Prabha Lacey has planted Nasturtium seeds, plus Thyme. If the seeds don't germinate, a possibility of adding rainbow chard for added colour.
  - Polehampton Corner
    - Weeding session completed. Perennial geraniums now planted. There is space for some ground cover/small perennials if wanted.
  - Millennium Garden
    - Weeding and tidying completed. Ideally would add five more purple sage when funds allow.
  - Stanlake tub – Mr S Loyd advised the tub was looking tired.
- Gateways (BD)
  - Daffodils. Mrs B Ditcham advised more daffodils are needed. Mrs J Jagger to investigate costs and report back.
- Hurst Road Allotments (MB)
  - Twyford Growers. Ms C Hughes Nind provided the following written report:
    - We are planning to grow pollinator-friendly flowers in a barrow at the front of our plot. If the weather would warm up, we would be able to sow the seeds we have waiting!
  - Communal Area – No report.
  - Wildflower Area – Mr S Loyd advised that weeding is needed. Ms A Magrath & Mr J Bagglely volunteered.
  - Hazel Copse – Mr S Loyd advised that the Snowdrops have been split and replanted and that poles/sticks have been harvested.
- KGVR (BD/MB/ED)
  - Grass Labyrinth. Mrs B Ditcham confirmed that the remarking works have been carried out and that regular mowing has commenced.
    - Seasonal Bulbs – Approval of bulbs gained in March's Parish Lands Meeting. Mrs J Jagger to investigate costs and report back.
  - Hedge Laying – No report.
  - Pillar renovations – Wargrave Road entrance. Works have been completed. Request to consider tidying up the surrounding area to enhance the pillars – refer to Parish Lands. GR & SL expressed an interest to lay the Hawthorn between the car park and the main recreation grounds.
- Loddon Hall (GR) – No report.

NB. Update of the below request set at last meeting:

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.

This request is with Wokingham Borough Council for their consideration.

- Millennium Copse (SL). Mr S Loyd provided the following written report:
  - Spring wildflower survey records – Forget me not, Primrose, snowdrop, Lesser celandine, Wood anemone, Arum, Ground ivy.
  - A dead hedge has been built within the old hawthorn hedge line dividing the PC burial ground from the church graveyard. A tentative start on laying the old hedge to prevent further windblown loss and this will continue next winter.
- Polehampton Charities – No report.
- Polehampton School – Secret Garden (RH) - No report.
- Pond Mapping / Hedgehog Sightings (GR/DL)
  - Deputy Clerk suggested that a designated email address is created which can be put on social media for the purpose of pond mapping and hedgehog sightings. Deputy Clerk/Mr G Robinson to create an email address for Mr G Robinson/Mrs D Loyd to manage, monitor and act accordingly.
  - Hedgehog article received from Mrs D Loyd – To be uploaded to the TPC News page upon receipt of a 'report it' email address.
- Rewilding/Wildflower & Bee Friendly areas
  - Verey Close/Broad Hinton Copse (SL). Mr S Loyd provided the following written report:
    - I have secured a tentative agreement from a local resident to lead a volunteer group on this site.

Mr S Loyd to liaise directly with WBC regarding this project and work collaboratively with them. Project updates to be supplied to the Twyford in Bloom Working Group on an as and when basis.

- Bridge House (GA). Mr G Robinson provided the following written report on behalf of Mrs G Alford:
  - We held a maintenance session on Saturday 27th April. Lacked manpower so focussed on clearing an area at the front of the bed and Emma will sow seeds that she has in the exposed soil. The rest of the bed is largely things that will flower over the summer. Would be good to keep the area around the milestone clear of tall growth and I suggested a small area of mulching around this?

Mrs B Ditcham advised that Bridge House maybe able to support works in the area by way of providing drought tolerant plants and assist with the upkeep. Mr G Robinson to liaise with Mrs G Alford and produce a planting plan with associated costs.

- Loddon Hall/KGVR Wildflower Area (GA) – No report.
- Ruscombe Turn – Managed by WBC. No report.
- Malvern Way – Managed by WBC. No report.
- Stanlake Copse (IB). Mr I Butterick provided the following written report:
  - Not much to report on Stanlake Copse as we have not been able to meet up as much as we would like due to the inclement weather. We have planted a living willow hedge, and flag iris and gypsywort in the seasonal pond. And continue to cut back bramble to encourage other plant species. We have also spread bark chippings along all the paths.

Request for more bark chippings. Deputy Clerk to action.

- Stanlake Meadow Trees (RH) – Mrs B Ditcham advised that herself and Mr M Bray have carried out a tree survey within Stanlake Meadow however have not included

the trees within hedges nor the copse area. A report along with the suggested actions to follow in due course.

NB. The below actions set at last meeting are to be carried forward:

*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) – Being planted after the Easter Weekend. No further report received.
- Twyford Together (RY/ED/PC) – No report.
- TRHA (GS/MB). Mr G Starkie reported:
  - The store is doing well.
  - The TRHA Spring Show was a great success.

**5. New projects for 2024/25:**

- Sponsorship of garden areas and planter. Carried forward.
- Wildflower Information Board (Parish Land Project) – Board received. To be sited next to the NHS Bench in KGVR. Noted.
- Labyrinth Information Board (JJ). Carried forward.
- Shop windows – To consider inviting local artists to display suitable paintings along the route. Mrs H Evans to ask the Charvil Arts Group to see if they are able to support.
- Annual Litter Pick – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 (BD). Mrs B Ditcham reported that the event was very successful.
- Utility Boxes – To consider getting a local artist to paint the boxes to deter from being graffitied. Carried forward.

Mrs J Jagger gave an overview of the redevelopment plans for the skate park – An open meeting has been scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> May from 7.45pm at Loddon Hall.

**6. Correspondence:**

6.1 Residents Correspondence - Proposal to Enhance Local Biodiversity and Community Engagement through Pollinator-Friendly Spaces (circulated).

Ms A Magrath reiterated the details outlined in her correspondence. The group were supportive of the proposal to foster a richer, pollinator-friendly community space (works already demonstrating this within item 4).

**7. Future of 'In Bloom'.** Mrs B Ditcham suggested having a break from partaking in the Thames & Chilterns in Bloom event but continuing with our own 'Twyford in Bloom' works and initiatives. It was suggested having a two-year break from the main judging event allowing time to focus and improve on the existing projects. The group were happy with the suggestion.

**8. Date of next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

Meeting Closed at 21:01