

Meeting Notes, 'ST IVES IN BLOOM'
held at Morrisons Community Room
7.30pm on 28th November 2023

Present:

Phil Davies	
Hattie Grimwade	Sarah Banks
Bunty Rawlings	Carole Parker
Beccy Chapman	Karen Jarratt
Eileen Knight	Kerry Maguire

1) APOLOGIES and MINUTES:

Apologies had been received from Margaret King.
The AGM minutes and October minutes were passed with one amendment.

2) MATTERS ARISING from AGM:

- i. **Meetings with Town Council:** Phil reviewed his report on his meetings with the Town Council and Margaret had sent a message that his submission to the Facilities Committee had been just what was needed. He and Sarah will submit the request for a grant at the December meeting.
- ii. **Next year's proposed project list:** It was decided to combine items **2ii)** and item **3)** on the agenda by running through all the projects on the list.

PD/SB

3) OTHER MATTERS ARISING from OCTOBER MEETING:

a) Update on Ramsey Road Cemetery:

The Town Council has said that they will replace the removed box hedging with lavender, improve the tap, and cut back the berberis hedge by the Community Garden. Phil will put in the benches when the weather is suitable and investigate soil improver for the Mausoleum flowerbeds. Bunty is growing sweet peas, and these may be suitable for one of the beds there. Dawne has offered to help buy new plants with Carole to add to the Mausoleum flowerbed, and this will be arranged in the New Year.

PD

BR
DA/CP

- b) Update on Station Road:** Pat is running the work party at Station Road next week, and Hattie will ask volunteers to buy pansies for the tubs.

HG

- c) Park and Ride and Meadow Lane litter picking update:** Hattie was invited to a meeting with Cambridgeshire County Council, and they let her know that there is no guarantee that the hoardings will be down by the spring - she has told Robin. We will not be able to take the judges to the Park and Ride next summer, and re-planting will be planned for autumn 2024. The Litter Pick is arranged for the New Year, together with EcoAction and the Rotary Club.

- d) Update on The Waits, Postbox Garden:** New spring bulbs have been put in, and Bunty has plans for summer bulbs such as agapanthus and camassia, along with day lilies and the dahlias rescued from The Waits. **BR**
- e) Update on The Waits, Riverside corner:** Hattie will arrange a subcommittee of interested volunteers to plan for tidying and re-planting here in the New Year. **HG**
- f) Update on Herb Garden by Norris Museum and planters:** Karen and Hattie had met with Community Education Officer Susan Bate and have agreed a joint project on Friendship with the Museum, in celebration of 60 years of Britain in Bloom. Karen will arrange another meeting in the New Year once Susan has talked to the Spring Common School, Young Carers, and other groups. **KJ/HG**
- g) Update on Kings Hedges:** Kerry has not yet revitalised the planters, as it has been so wet, but will do so soon. **KM**
- h) Update on Elm Drive/ Chestnut Rd:** Kerry reported that Elm Drive has been looking lovely, and the plants will be cut back once they are frosted. **KM**
- i) Update on Houghton Road planter:** Eileen has planted with pansies and wallflowers. She is going to work with Bunty on next summer's planting. **EK/BR**
- j) Update on daffodil planting:** Robin has said he is able to buy daffodils again next year, and his offer was accepted.
- k) Update on Broad Leas:** The work at Broad Leas cemetery is progressing well, and always popular with volunteers, so there are diary dates planned.
- l) Update on Westwood Road:** The wildflower area at Westwood Road cemetery is looking good, and there are two diary dates planned for the New Year.
- m) Update on Free Church planters:** Robin is happy to maintain these planters.
- n) Update on Parish Church planters:** Hattie is willing to keep these going for another year, even though the PCC at the Church did not agree to replace the planters that leak water. SLiB volunteer and churchgoer Leonie waters them once a week. It was agreed that we should meet with the Vicar and the Town Council about this issue and about Westwood Road Cemetery in autumn 2024. **HG**
- o) Update on Bus Station planters:** Volunteer Yvonne has taken over responsibility for these and has planted them up for the winter.
- p) Grove Medical Centre:** Volunteer Peter has taken over responsibility for this garden and Carole will link with him and with the Surgery if anything needs buying. **CP**
- q) Update on Crown Walk and Globe Place car park:** Hattie is in contact with HDC, and they will supply us with some perennials in the spring. She will take

- this opportunity to again talk to them about improvements to the concrete planters on Broad Leas/North Road. HG
- r) **Update on Trefoil Guild Cabin:** Volunteers Barbara and John are continuing with these displays and will contact us if they need any additional funding for next summer.
- s) **Broad Leas Independent Living:** This is an ongoing project where we tidy the gardens where residents are unable to manage, and Carole will ask in advance whether the residents can contribute some new plants for the spring. CP
- t) **Litter picking:** Beccy is happy to continue with the litter picking as at present and we will link with EcoAction on any special litter picking events. BC
- u) **Planters outside shops and Town centre update:** There was a lot of discussion about possibilities to enhance the centre of town for the judges' visits in summer 2024. Hattie will draft a letter to take round to the shops, and the Committee were asked to come with suggestions for the next meeting. Carole and Hattie will consult with volunteers about a publicity group to go round the shops, cafes and pubs on our behalf, and this will be arranged for February. Volunteer Colin has taken on responsibility for weeding the Town Centre beds unless extra help is needed before the judges come. ALL
- v) **Update on Ivo School meeting:** Beccy and Hattie met with Sue Keen the TA at the Ivo, and a project of planting wildflowers on a bank has been arranged for the Thursday of half term and agreed with the Headteacher. The School then plans to have a regular after school gardening session on Wednesdays. There were other possible projects discussed for the longer term. BC/HG
- w) **Update on Berman Park, Climate café on green spaces:** Beccy, Hattie, Karen, Phil, Kerry and Margaret had all attended the Climate café where green spaces in St Ives were discussed. It was an opportunity to talk with HDC staff and Councillors about Berman Park, which is still not transferred over to Council management. Beccy mentioned that HDC are willing to discuss any local development of the verges, and Kerry said that these small initiatives could be part of a submission to Anglia in Bloom (see Item 5iii) below).
- x) **Update on website:** Phil is intending to transfer the website to a new cheaper hosting site and will work with Hattie on this. PD/HG

4) DRAFT DIARY DATES

The diary dates were discussed and agreed.

5) Anglia in Bloom JUDGES' FEEDBACK, Britain in Bloom 2024

- i. *Judges report:* Kerry reported back from the Judges' feedback day and explained that the criteria for judging Britain in Bloom is very similar to that for Anglia in Bloom. The Anglia in Bloom judges come in July, and the

- Britain in Bloom judges sometime between 29th July and 16th August. It is a celebration year for 60 years of Britain in Bloom and the theme is friendship.
- ii. *Slepe Hall Field*: It was suggested that Cranbrooks Nursery may be able to do something special for Slepe Hall Playing Field flowerbed, if they are appointed as suppliers. Once the Council decision has been made, Cranbrooks has already said that they would be happy to meet with us to discuss their planting scheme for The Waits, and we could include Slepe Hall in this discussion. The Civic Society are also planning a new bench and tree on the field, and the Rotary Club are planting crocuses.
 - iii. *IYN*: Kerry then explained the “It’s Your Neighbourhood” (IYN) scheme, where small initiatives by neighbours or e.g. neighbouring allotment holders could go in for an extra award within Anglia in Bloom. Bunty mentioned the displays at the front of the houses near the Mosque in Needingworth Road and Kerry will look at the details of the criteria in time for our next meeting.
 - iv. *Impact project*: The judges had felt that we should make sure we continue with all our projects as they are, but that there should always be a big impact project each year. It was agreed that this should be Ramsey Road Cemetery for 2024.

KM

6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As it was getting late, the Committee were asked to bring any other ideas, especially about the centre of town, to the next meeting where it will be the main item on the agenda.

ALL

7) DATE and TIME of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will start at **7pm** in
Morrisons Community Room on Tuesday 23rd January.