

Meeting Notes, 'ST IVES IN BLOOM'

held at Morrisons Community Room

7.00pm on 23rd January 2024

Present:

Phil Davies

Hattie Grimwade

Sarah Banks

Beccy Chapman

Carole Parker

Kerry Maguire

Karen Jarratt

1. APOLOGIES and MINUTES:

Apologies had been received from Dawne Amato, Eileen Knight and Bunty Rawlings. Eileen and Bunty have decided for personal and health reasons that they can no longer be on the Committee but have promised to continue to help us as volunteers. They were thanked very much for all their helpful contributions. The November minutes were approved.

2. REPORT ON BUDGET MEETING WITH TOWN COUNCIL

Sarah and Phil had presented the budget request to the Town Council, and, while there is a delay on formal agreement, the Councillors agreed that they would like to support St Ives in Bloom.

Sarah said that we had spent more than our grant in the previous year and would like costs for the planned projects. Hattie will consult with project leaders and get estimates to Sarah by mid-February.

HG/SB

Carole and Phil have since been to a meeting with Trevor the Facilities Manager to discuss work on Ramsey Road Cemetery and plans for The Waits (reported in Agenda items 4a) and 4b) below. The tree in the circular planter on Market Hill is being replaced, paid for by the Civic Society, and the design of the Slepe Hall planter in celebration of the 60 years of Britain in Bloom was agreed.

3. TOWN CENTRE PLANNING for 2024

i. Fundraising group and draft letter to businesses

There was a lot of discussion following up on plans to enhance the centre of town. Hattie's draft letter was amended and it was agreed to order 120 decals for the shop windows of sponsors. Flyers with a QR code were suggested and Sarah and Josh will organise this, and agree the best way of receiving online donations with Phil. A publicity group has been arranged, and Carole will hold their first meeting in February to arrange both fundraising and contacting pubs and restaurants.

SB
SB/PD
CP

ii. Other ideas for Town Centre

Phil and Hattie will talk to Cranbrook at their next meeting about the possibility of ready planted up pots for sponsors to buy. Carole has already arranged "yarn bombers" and will get in touch with them with dates and details later in the year. Beccy will try and find out when the re-modelling of parking on The Broadway is going to take place. Hattie will write an article for the Hunts Post once the launch of Britain in Bloom has taken place and our fundraising is underway.

HG/PD

CP
BC
HG

4. MATTERS ARISING from NOVEMBER MEETING

a) Update on Ramsey Road Cemetery

The Town Council is still planning to replace the removed box hedging with English lavender and to improve the tap. The maintenance team have cut back the berberis hedge by the Community Garden and Phil and Kerry are buying additional roses to plant there in February. Phil will mow the new grass and install the bench as soon as the weather is dry enough.

PD/KM

Phil and Carole at their meeting had voiced our disappointment that the maintenance team had done extra cutting back without any consultation but were assured that plans are in place for re-planting the newly cleared area. There are no plans as yet to repair the front fence or add laurels there. Phil is arranging a meeting with Nicola on 9th February to confirm our agreement not to duplicate work such as pruning the roses.

PD

Carole will arrange with Dawne about buying plants for the entrance and the mausoleum beds and will agree a planting plan with Kerry and a budget with Sarah before they make their purchases. Phil will arrange collection of soil improver for the mausoleum garden and one of the raised beds.

CP/DA/
KM/SB
PD

b) Update on The Waits

Cranbrook Nursery has received a renewed contract for planting The Waits and Trevor at Cranbrook is keen to do a presentation about gardening for biodiversity, with their new slogan "Greener plants for a greener planet". Phil, Kerry and Hattie have met with him and are arranging an information day - 'Gardening for Biodiversity' – on 6th April at the Methodist Church, with other community groups including EcoAction. There is another meeting planned for 9th February and Hattie will let Sarah know any costs after that.

HG/KM/
PD/BC

The Riverside corner bed has been tidied and plans are in place to lift the canopy of the shrubs and add stone mulch at the next work party there.

Bunty will continue to oversee the work and budget for the Postbox garden.

c) Update on Herb garden by Norris Museum

The meeting with the Norris Museum has been delayed. Karen and Hattie will report back at the next meeting, and meanwhile prepare a planting plan and a budget and let Sarah know any possible additional costs.

KJ/HG

d) More thoughts on the Park and Ride

After some discussion, it was felt that the Park and Ride should be part of the judges' route after all. The last three beds will have been filled in before the hoardings are taken down and Hattie will arrange work party dates with Robin.

HG

e) More thoughts on Station Road

Pat was thanked for his costings for the Station Road verge. Some volunteers have offered to grow seeds and plant choices were discussed. Carole and Hattie will meet Pat to arrange further and submit a budget request to Sarah.

CP/HG

f) Possible areas for entry to Its Your Neighbourhood

The gardens near the Mosque in Needingworth Road, Tenterleas Community Garden, Meadow Lane Children's Nursery and the community garden at the end of Farthing Lane were discussed. Kerry will follow up with these contacts.

KM

g) Litter picking update

Beccy reported that there had been a successful litter pick, somewhat impeded by the hoardings at the Park and Ride, but that many bags had been collected. The problems remain with the rubbish in Meadow Lane.

5. DRAFT DIARY DATES

The diary dates were discussed and agreed. (The previously agreed March dates for Ramsey Road cemetery are not after all convenient for spreading soil improver, so Phil is arranging this separately.)

PD

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i. Update on Ivo School meeting:

Beccy reported that she has been in contact with the Ivo School, encouraging them to apply for a biodiversity grant from HDC. She and Hattie will follow up on plans for the bank of wildflowers (work party 22nd February). Volunteers are to be asked to provide free plants from their gardens.

BC/HG

ii. Kings Hedges, Elm Drive/Chestnut Rd:

Kerry will give the overgrown central plant to Hattie to plant in The Ivo bank of wildflowers and submit her budget for new succulents for the KH planters to Sarah.

KM

7. DATE and TIME of NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will start at **7pm** in
Morrisons Community Room on Tuesday 27th February