

Minutes of a Meeting of the Beccles in Bloom Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at 6pm, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Nathalie Chidley (NC) (Chair)
Cllr Barry Darch (BD) (Mayor)
Cllr Gillian Birrell
Mark Ross (ESDC)

IN ATTENDANCE: Candi Turner (Deputy Town Clerk)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 0

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lever, plus Sub Committee members Janet Gandy, Mu Gurbutt and Stephen Malster

2. To receive Declarations of Interest or any requests for the granting of dispensations in relation to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda

There were none.

3. To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the Pride in Beccles Sub-Committee meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2022

RESOLVED: To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the Pride in Beccles Sub-committee meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2022.

4. *To receive work update from the Community Gardeners and actions arising from this*

Chair reported that she is in regular contact with Camillia (head of Community Gardeners) and is happy with what she is doing. Chair asked the committee if they had anything to add. Cllr Birrell added that Camillia had expressed a need for more volunteers and wondered if that was something the committee could help with. Chair thought it would be a good idea to put a message out on the Town Council website and Facebook page. Cllr Birrell referred to a recruitment day that had been discussed which would be held at Blyburgate Hall in

March 2023 and thought this would be a good opportunity for promotion of the Community Gardeners.

Chair commented on the planters at the Church Tower and reported that the volunteers that look after those planters want more freedom to work under their own initiative. Chair asked the committee what their thoughts were. The committee agreed that the volunteers do a good job in this area and were happy to let them take care of the maintenance as they wish.

A discussion took place about Exchange Square Gardens regarding ASB. It was concluded that little could be done about this.

Chair reported that there had been a request to refresh the gravel at the War Memorial. A quote was provided from Betts. The committee agreed the work and Chair offered to help with laying the gravel.

Chair asked the Deputy Clerk for an update on Hi-Vis jackets. The Deputy Clerk reported there had been a donation of jackets by Jen Clarke at the Co-Op. Jen's budget only covered the cost of the jackets without printing. The Deputy Clerk was researching the most cost-effective way of getting the jackets printed but had been unsuccessful.

Chair reported that Camilla had found a volunteer to maintain the planters at Queens Road and asked for extra funding for the planting. The committee agreed.

Chair wanted to acknowledge the work that Michael (Mr Tidy) had done through the extreme temperatures in maintaining the planters through watering. The committee passed on their thanks.

5. To discuss ideas to publicise the work of the Community Gardeners more widely to attract volunteers

Chair suggested posting updates from the Community Gardeners Facebook page onto the council's Facebook page. Cllr Birrell asked for some text to be published in the next edition of the Town Council Charter. Chair thought it would be a good idea to ask Camilla for some photographs to post on the Town Council website. Cllr Darch said it might be possible to publish something in the Community News and offered to write something.

6. To discuss a solution to the gold banding on the planters

Chair noted that this is a frequent item of discussion. The committee questioned if gold banding was necessary. Cllr McGregor thought that this was not a necessary requirement, and the council should be looking to reduce plastic. The committee agreed and Chair invited committee members to remove any gold banding from existing planters.

7. To discuss future management of the Beccles in Bloom budget change

Chair was unsure how the committee were managing budget control and didn't know who was overseeing it. Chair would like to have a discussion with Stephen Malster regarding this.

Chair reported that she had had a discussion with the Deputy Clerk regarding the best way forward and it was suggested that all spends are reported to the Deputy Clerk and documented on a spreadsheet. Cllr Birrell thought there was an agreement in place where a budget was set for Spring and Autumn spending which was reported to the committee in advance.

The Deputy Clerk reported that £1,500 was allocated to each planting season and this had been exceeded by almost £200 for spring planting leaving a shortfall for Autumn.

Chair recommended that the budget is increased and that she speaks to Stephen and requests regular financial updates to be reported to the Deputy Clerk and documented on a spreadsheet.

A discussion took place regarding the budget and how much extra would be needed for Autumn planting. The committee agreed an extra £500 would be sufficient and it was therefore agreed to

RECOMMEND To ask the Assets Committee for an extra £500 on this year's spending and to increase the BiB budget to £3,500 for 2023/24

8. To put forward items for the next agenda

To discuss spending of next year's budget

Thank you party for Community Gardeners/tour for Councillors

Questions for East Suffolk Norse

9. Date of next meeting

31st January 2023 at 6pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall