

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STONEHOUSE IN BLOOM COMMITTEE HELD THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2017

Present: Gary Powell (Chairman), Lin Powell, Mark Wiltshire (Judge - Heart of England in Bloom), Paula Nathan, Debbie Curtis, Chris Gallagher, Sheila Brown, Austen Perkins, Margaret Foxcroft, Pam Swain

1. **Apologies:** Denise Gasan, Rowena Wilks, Mattie Ross, Jennifa Lowe
2. Gary welcomed Mark Wiltshire who gave the following advice for Stonehouse in Bloom 2017
 - ✚ Mark said that SIB 2016 Silver Gilt Award was nearer to a Gold Award than a Silver Award. The Gold Award was only eight marks away. We need to get 85% to get a Gold Award.
 - ✚ He said that the work was being done for the community, the aim being that it should look good for 365 days of the year.
 - ✚ He recommended that when showing the judges around it was a good idea to avoid the 'grot spots'. The judges are aware that most towns have such areas. He said that the APT Centre area was an example here.
 - ✚ He said that the recommended improvements would not cost a lot of money.
 - ✚ Mark suggested that UBICO should be contacted via Stroud District Council to request street sweeping near to the judging day.
 - ✚ If there are any areas that have graffiti, he recommended that a vehicle is parked in front of it. An example of this is the motorcycle guard in the Meadow Road Playing Field.
 - ✚ Pam has arranged for new tree planting.
 - ✚ Community Participation included Leigh's Beavers who worked on the Rest gArden and Hopelands School who planted a hedge.
 - ✚ We need to present the best that we have.

- ✚ He recommended emphasising local heritage including the date on the Park School building, Wycliffe and the History Group Boards.

- ✚ Section A Horticultural 85% - 2016
Section B (i) Conservation Diversity 72% - 2016
Section C Community Participation 82% – 2016
Funding and support 8 points - 2016

- ✚ In the parks section the Rest Garden and Memorial Gardens qualify.

- ✚ The 2017 presentation will be held at Warwick Castle and will be an evening 'do'.

- ✚ Mark suggested that the new planters need some plants with a bit of height.

- ✚ On 26th January 2017 a working party met at 10.30 am at the new plot near to the Railway Station.

- ✚ Fund raising events will include a coffee morning, car boot sales and table top sales.

- ✚ Mark reminded member of the grades of the awards which are:-
 - No award
 - Highly commended
 - Bronze
 - Silver
 - Silver Gilt
 - Gold

- ✚ **AOB**

The date of the AGM will be Tuesday 28th February 2017 in the Town Hall

