



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STONEHOUSE IN BLOOM COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6 PM**

**Present:** Debbie Curtis, Chris Gallagher, Jennifa Lowe, Paula Nathan, Theresa Watt, Becky Amor, Rowena Wilks, Mattie Ross, Denise Gasan, Sheila Brown, Pam Swain, Ian Coward, Sally Fouracre, Gary and Lin Powell

**Apologies:** Liz Lawrence

1. Chairman, Gary Powell, welcomed all new members and thanked GWR for all their hard work and help at the station to contribute to our silver award.

2. The Minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January were signed by the Chairman

3. **Election of Officers:**

Chair	Gary Powell
Vice-Chair	Becky Amor
Treasurer	Debbie Curtis
Minutes Secretary	Sheila Brown
Secretary	Debbie Curtis
	Liz Lawrence

4. **Railway Station**

Ian and Sally confirmed that money available will be the same as last year's budget but maybe more. The judge last year said that the baskets on the railings were good, the best that he had seen all summer. There will be a secured water butt behind the fence with a locked top. Enquiries were made as to who the padlock key holder would be or would it be a combination lock? Ian Coward stated that the baskets have a reservoir under them.

Wildflower seeds have been offered. It was suggested the community across all age ranges should be involved including children. Insect nests, bug houses etc were suggested. Schools are to be contacted. Stonehouse staffs are hoping for Station of the Year but that would probably be in 2017 as nominations have to be in shortly. It was suggested that Mark Hopwood, MD of GWR should be approached to offer thanks for the work in 2015.

5. **On the Standish and Stonehouse borders**

Starting at the end of April, Rowena and Denise have offered to plant up tubs and pots near Standish at the entrance to Stonehouse. They plan to repeat the planting of last year but perhaps with the addition of some wild flowers.

6. **The High Street Medical Centre**

Anna Buckland from the Stonehouse Partnership was involved in the planting outside the High Street Medical Centre last year which included the edible garden.

7. **Funding from Dairy Crest (Muller)**

Becky informed the Committee members that Dairy Crest has now been taken over by Muller. She said that this is a fairly recent event so it is early days. She is unsure about funding at the moment. She will ask her colleagues who were involved last year if they would be willing to be involved this year as well.

8. **SDC Volunteer Day**

Mattie has approached SDC about the above.

9. **Sponsorship**

Mattie asked for a list of who has been approached so that duplication is not made.

10. **FGWR**

Sally is to approach FGWR to request them to sponsor a basket, hopefully in the centre of the town. It was agreed that the FGWR crest on a sign should be acceptable. Mattie highlighted the fact that Gloucestershire Highways are very fussy about signs, even laminated ones as they class them as fly tipping.

11. **The Green near the War Memorial**

Lin and Marlene will be working on this again as last year. Lin stated that the majority of plants are sustainable of which were donations. The judges last year expressed a preference for sustainable planting.

12. **Rest Gardens**

The Groundsmen will cut back the branches. Cultivated and wild flowers will be sown. The right hand border needs widening.

13. **Home Farm Trust**

Possible help offered from the residents. The Home Farm Trust will be going to be moving into the building to the left of the Globe Inn.

14. **Co-op Community Fund**

The above are to be approached for funding

15. **The Stationmaster's Garden**

Chris Gallagher offered to work on the above which will probably involve the Stonehouse Town Council Groundsmen.

16. **Fund Raising**

Gary asked for suggestions for fundraising which included a possible plant sale, beetle drive and coffee morning.

17. The route that the judges are to be taken on is to be planned about one week before to make sure that it is weeded.

18. Lin asked for some notice for ordered plants so that Barn Nursery can prepare.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 6 PM**