



Minutes of a meeting of the Colwyn in Bloom Committee, held remotely, via Zoom, at 2pm on Tuesday 21st September 2021

PRESENT: Chairman: Ingrid Lewis
Cllrs: Hannah Fleet (HF), Chris Hughes (CH), Jeff Pearson (JP), M Worth (MW)
Community Reps: Mags Richardson (MR), Chris Hemmings (CHe)
Conwy CBC: Peter Barton-Price (PBP)

OFFICERS: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk & Treasurer
R Dudley, Assistant Clerk & Secretary

170/21 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- a) Ingrid Lewis welcomed all members. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Abdul Khan, Paul Richards, Sarah Ryder, David Birtwistle, Gwenda Matthews, Tom Gravett and Helen Jackson.
- b) The Chair congratulated the Committee on achieving Gold once again in Wales in Bloom and thanked everyone for their effort. CH expressed concern that the up-the-poles, barrier planters and baskets had little impact and colour compared to neighbouring towns.

Resolved to ask the nursery about the lack of impact/colour and to see if it was a difference in feeding, or the type of plants used.

171/21 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 19th May 2021.

172/21 Matters Arising from Minutes:

- a) **Min. 14/21(a)(i) – Art Installations:**
 - i) HJ had sent apologies for the meeting, but PBP confirmed that the installation of the new sculpture trail had started this week. Members also noted that the art work had started on the underpass walls.
 - ii) The Willow Fisherman had now been finished and photographs had been sent to the Committee. The Committee agreed he looked great. Onward maintenance would be needed to keep him supple and the willow firm had sent instructions. PBP confirmed that the County Council's parks and gardens team could assist with this.
Resolved that RD sent PBP a copy of the brief regarding future maintenance of the sculpture.

b) Min 14/21(b) – Branding & Gateway Signs:

TE gave a brief verbal update. Brand launch materials (window vinyls and website materials) were being prepared. The gateway signs are due to be installed by end of October. Once they have been installed, the Committee were asked to consider which locations may be suitable for additional floral displays/planters. This would be discussed in the next meeting.

173/21 Colwyn in Bloom:

- a) Members were asked to note the date of the Colwyn in Bloom presentation evening and that results will be announced on the evening.
- i) Ruth Cavill Rose Bowl – This is awarded to an organisation, or an individual who has demonstrated a huge contribution to the in-bloom effort. Two nominations had been received this year. One was for a former member of the Committee and one for the Secretary of Colwyn in Bloom, who had been involved for 20 years as a member of the Town Council’s staff. The Secretary requested that her name be withdrawn, but did appreciate the nomination. The Ruth Cavill Rose Bowl will be awarded to the successful nominee at the Colwyn in Bloom Presentation Evening.
- ii) The condition and age of some of the trophies was discussed and it was agreed that there would be an annual renewal programme.
IL, RD and TE to review the condition of the trophies prior to them being awarded this year and agree the priority order for replacement.
- b) Art Competitions:
- i) Members noted that the school’s Art Competition entries were being displayed in the Bay View Centre in Colwyn Bay.
- ii) Members noted that the Adult Art/Photography entries were being displayed in the Bay Gallery and Oriel Gallery, Colwyn Bay.
- iii) Information about badges was circulated to members. These would be given out, in future years, to all the school children who enter the art competition. The design would need to be decided/prepared in good time for next year.
Resolved to add this item to the agenda of the January meeting.
- c) Barrier Planters and Baskets:
The Secretary was asked to arrange for all the Town Planting to be removed as soon as possible.
Resolved that RD contacts DB at the nursery to arrange for their removal.

174/21 Wales in Bloom:

- a) PBP gave a brief verbal report. The Wales in Bloom Awards Ceremony held at Beaumaris had gone very well and he congratulated the Committee on our Gold award. PBP reported that the school’s competition would go through the RHS portal next year, due to ongoing restrictions in visiting schools. Britain in Bloom results were still awaited. The Wales in Bloom judges report was discussed and it was agreed that we should seek to get a heritage representative on the tour or next year (none of those approached had been available on the date this year).

Resolved to report back to next meeting to review the judge's report and prepare for the 2022 campaign, to include seeking a heritage representative for the 2022 Tour.

- b) IL gave a brief report on the awards ceremony she had attended with the Secretary at Beaumaris.
- c) Members noted the Press Release.
- d) Members noted the WIB category winners.

175/21 Britain in Bloom:

Members noted the July 2021 Newsletter.

176/21 Biodiversity:

An email from Kate Surry (KS), Bio-diversity Officer was circulated to members regarding bio-sites. Members supported bio-sites but asked could signage be added at the sites, so the public were aware of the benefits of bio-diversity planting and maintenance regimes.

JP offered to invite KS onto Bayside Radio to do a podcast to raise awareness, plus issue a press release and use social media coverage to link to the information on the Conwy CBC website.

177/21 Incredible Edible Raised Beds:

CHe gave an update on the progress of the Edible Colwyn project. Watering had been a concern, but this had been helped by CIB organising additional watering and a water supply being made available from the train station. In answer to a question about using the internal reservoirs, CHe said he had looked at them but the pipes were buried under compost and it would be a laborious task to empty/clear the pipes. PR/MW said they would make enquiries at the station about the large bowser that used to be stored there as CHe said it wasn't there. CHe said a noticeboard was needed nearby to give members of the public information about the plants. He also said the Edible Colwyn project was a good opportunity to promote the Dig for Victory/Grow your Own campaign. CHe asked for out of pocket expenses to be reimbursed from the support previously approved by the Committee and it was agreed that he would send TE a summary of the costs for reimbursement. The Chair thanked CHe and all the volunteers for their hard work.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk/Chair to reimburse the cost of any out of pocket expenses on receipt of a detailed summary of expenses.

178/21 Civic Centre Flowerbeds:

An email was circulated regarding the circular flower beds at the former Civic Centre. PBP informed the Committee that carpet bedding was too expensive to be

sustainable in the future (costing £000s per bed). Suggestions were made for art/mosaic/pebble type picture or a natural bedding scheme, as a replacement. Another suggestion was to remove the beds altogether and grass over. It was noted that the former Civic Centre site is currently for sale and it was queried whether the land where the formal beds are located may be included in the sale.

Resolved to defer this item to the next meeting so ownership of the site can be checked.

179/21 Butterfly Display West End :

A request from the Christmas Lights Committee that the Butterfly Display in the West End be either removed, or planted with winter bedding during the Christmas Period, as the empty tray looked too obvious next to the Christmas Tree, was submitted for consideration. PBP said that removing it would shorten its lifespan and he would prefer it to be left in place.

PB-P agreed to arrange for it to be planted with winter bedding for future years.

180/21 Community Garden:

It was noted that Cllr S Ryder had submitted apologies, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Resolved to defer this item to the next meeting.

181/21 Green Pledge Re-Launch:

Information was submitted regarding the Green pledge re-Launch and members were asked to share with their relevant contacts.

RD was asked to share the information on the Colwyn in Bloom Facebook page. Resolved to revisit the action plan at the January meeting.

182/21 Community Woodland Grant:

Transport for Wales had sent an email regarding the Community Woodland Grant Scheme. Members were asked to look for/highlight any potential sites. CH said their organisation had plans to extend the orchard in Eirias park as a Jurassic Arboretum, but there were difficulties with ongoing management costs when applying for capital grant funding. JP said more planting was needed at the Rhos on Sea site but PBP responded that this needs to be left to develop for a while, before any additional planting is considered.

183/21 Local Places for Nature:

- a) Members noted information about the new local places for Nature One Voice Wales Officer, Rachel Carter.
- b) Members noted the information about the free garden package scheme.
- c) It was noted that no Committee Member present had been able to attend the OVW Local Places Webinar, so no report was available.

Resolved to invite Rachel Carter to give a presentation to a future meeting so the

Committee can get a better understanding of what support is available and ask questions about commitment, e.g. any requirement for a 10 year maintenance programme.

PBP left at this juncture.

184/21 Finance Report:

TE submitted the report and updated the Committee. The invoice for the traders free baskets had not yet been received from Conwy CBC. There would also be the expenses for the CIB Presentation evening and watering costs for August/Sept, but there will still be a small underspend which could go towards future art installations and/or replacing the flower beds at the Civic Centre.

185/21 News:

Committee Members were reminded to continue to submit any news/press items or to report on any activities which they have been involved in since the last meeting to the Secretary, for compilation for the Facebook page and the next portfolio.

186/21 A.O.B:

- a) RD was asked to send a letter of thanks to TG for all his hard work for Colwyn in Bloom as he was leaving the authority in early October.
- b) HF asked if there was any funding available for bulb planting at a local school.
Resolved to delegate to Chair/Clerk to authorise so planting can go ahead.
- c) CH reported to the Committee that Eirias Park had achieved a Green Flag. RD asked for the information so it can be included in the 2022 portfolio.
- d) CH reminded the Committee that Mulberry Tree Planting Day would take place on 2nd October at 12noon in Eirias Park. There would be a litter pick first at 10am

187/21 Date of next meeting: Members will be informed as soon as the January meeting date is agreed and an outlook diary entry will be sent.

The meeting closed at 3.25 p.m.

..... Chairman