**CLAVERLEY IN BLOOM (CIB)**

Meeting Notes 2nd June 2015

1. **Present:**  Rod Parr (Chair), Brent Walker-Drew, Andy Crackle, Paul Pickerill, Janet Ryan, Jacqui Cooper.
2. **Apologies:** PB, MT
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

* Agreed

1. **Accounts**

* Account balance £4295.19 (excluding expenses & donations below but i*ncluding* £118.47 ring fenced as contingency for the Aston Land bank shrub planting campaign)
* Cheques
  + RP - Purchase of plants for Clover Heath planting bed £113.47
  + PP –Soft drinks and chocolates for Proms concert + bottle of gin for Colin Smithyman £86.65
  + JC – Bar snacks + laminating pouches £27.64
* Donations
  + N Glass - £60
  + Anonymous - £100

1. **Matters Arising**

Berkeley Salon Ensemble Concert

* The concert had been well received by the 120 people who attended.
* The mystery sponsor paid the entire performance fee of £2400 which meant that CIB had benefitted from the entire proceeds of ticket sales etc.
* Income from the event was:
  + Advanced Ticket Sales Cash 875.00
  + Advanced Ticket Sales Cheques 150.00
  + Door Ticket Sales Cash 375.00
  + Bar Sales 278.00
  + Raffle 250.00

1928.00

Concert expenses 743.99 -

**Proceeds £1379.04**

* Garry Ward had generously waived the agreed £100 contribution for the use of the church as well as the £10 charge for printing the programmes. GW also offered to take and pay for any left-over drink as this could be used for future church events. The meeting agreed that some of the drink should be donated to the church as a gesture of thanks. Accordingly 6 bottles of wine and all of the remaining soft drinks would be excluded from the church invoice.
* One couple, Lyn & Bernard Lee from the Wold, enjoyed the performance so much that they offered £2,000 towards the cost of a similar concert next year

Clover Heath Planting Project

* RP reported that Shropshire Council had formally approved the planting licence application.
* MY, AC, PP and RP had carried out further pre-planting preparation on 12th May following the application of weed killer by Brian Ryan a few days earlier. A subsequent inspection by RP showed minimal weed re-growth. BWD had cut the surrounding grass on 31st May.
* RP had obtained enough small shrubs to fill the bed. These would need to be planted within the next week or so. It was still hoped that Claverley Youth Club could participate in the planting.

**Action: RP – Liaise with Scott Lawrence re Youth Club planting session**

Aston Lane Bank

* The bank would be cut by the PC contractor when the daffodils had died down sufficiently. Gill Price had asked the contractor to quote for strimming **plus** removal of the arising’s
* The meeting noted that the contractor who had cut the bank alongside the school had left the area untidy. Some areas had been “scalped” whilst other parts had been missed..

Farquharson Bank

* BR had strimmed the area.

Artwork for the Pound

* RP & JC reported back on their visit to the Crowsmill Craft Centre earlier the same afternoon.
* The centre had already part-formed a lambs head in metal which looked very effective. Mark Chiswell and Dickon Pitt of the centre thought that a full sculpture would cost in the region of £500 if built as a stand-alone commission. . However if constructed as part of a classroom project the cost would be restricted to materials only and would be substantially less.
* Having started the sculpture the centre will finish it off as and when time allows. CIB will then be given the option to purchase or refuse it. MC suggested that CIB make contact in about a months’ time to review progress
* The meeting agreed that the project appeared to be potentially viable given the likely modest cost involved.

**Action: RP – Seek PC views on the project at its June meeting**

**RP/JC – Obtain progress report from Crowsmill Centre in about 1 month as above**

CIB Notice Board.

* BR had investigated the cost of building a new notice board but had discovered that the cost of materials would be in the region of £170.00. This was considerably more expensive than first thought but the meeting agreed that the expenditure was justified – particularly given the very high cost of an “off the shelf” equivalent.
* BR had assured RP that the notice board would be an exact copy of the existing PC version.

**Action: RP – Liaise with BR and CIB members re installation**

Church Wildflower Project

* A planting session in the churchyard by a small group of schoolchildren took place on 6th May. 64 plants were installed with a further 25 donated for use in the school planting beds etc.
* A site meeting involving Jo Derrer, Garry Ward, AC and Ellie Larkham from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) took place on 19th May. The meeting was organised to explore the options for school fieldwork studies in the churchyard which SWT would return to implement on 22nd June. CIB had already agreed to fund half of the £200 per day charge levied by SWT.

**Action: RP – Maintain liaison with all parties involved**

**Any – Represent CIB at the SWT session on 22nd June**

Aston Lane Memorial Bench

* RP had not ordered the bench but would do so once a provisional installation date had been agreed.
* PB, AC, MT, PP and RP had carried out a site survey of the proposed installation area on 12th May. It was agreed that the bench would be best situated on the school side of the bank somewhere between the “Plough end” and the PC notice board. However installation would have to wait pending confirmation of the exact location of the broadband fibre cabinets that BT intends to install in the same area.
* Clerk to Council Gill Price had recently been told by BT that two cabinets would be installed in about 5 months’ time. BT had promised to confirm their intended location shortly.
* The bench would need a memorial plaque the wording of which would have to be agreed with Joe Higham. JR had discovered that Timpson’s would be able to supply a plaque for around £20.00

**Action: RP – Provide progress report to Joe Higham**

**RP – Maintain liaison with GP re fibre cabinets**

Spring Clean

* PP had purchased 1ltr bottle of gin to be presented to Colin Smithyman for providing a free skip for green waste.

**Action: PP – Present to CS as above**

School Field Footpath

* The sides of the footpath had been cut by a (SC?) contractor. Further strimming by CIB would be required to tidy up the area prior to the HOIB judging tour and to clear the undergrowth from around the base of the fruit trees.
* The uneven surface at the “Plough end” of the path also needed to be dealt with. It may be possible to do this using the excavated material from the memorial bench installation.

Summer Planting

* RP, SA and PB had cleared out all of the outlying planting troughs on 27th May and had refilled with fresh compost. The Bull Ring troughs and planters would be dealt with on 3rd June to be followed by installation of summer bedding material on Saturday 6th.
* RP had offered spare plants to Chris Williams of the Kings Arms for use in the pub window boxes etc. The offer was declined as CW will not be carrying out any planting this year.
* MT & RP had re-installed the automatic watering system on 30th May in readiness for the summer planting. They found that a few replacement parts were required. These would be ordered by MT.

**Action: ALL – Attend Bull Ring @ 9.00am on 6th June for planting session**

Church St Planting Bed

* JR had weeded the bed on 30th May.
* The bed needed additional plants that would be able to tolerate dry and shady conditions. It would be possible to utilise some of the larger evergreens from the winter planting scheme but otherwise CIB would have to purchase a few suitable specimens.

**Action: RP/JR – Liaise re plant selection and installation**

School Planting Beds

• At the meeting that PB & RP had with Jo Derrer, the school head, in January it was agreed that CIB would be willing to provide support for the planting beds via the provision of plants and/or seeds.

• JD had since informed RP that a small group of parents from the PTA had volunteered to look after the beds. They had already prepared the beds for planting and had purchased £50 worth of plants. AC had issued a cheque accordingly.

• RP had inspected the 4 planting beds on 30th May. 3 of the beds had been planted with colourful herbaceous material with the existing herbs being retained in the 4th. The beds looked attractive but the extent of pupil involvement in planting and maintenance was unknown. RP would make contact with JD establish further details including plans for maintaining the beds during the school holidays. All of this would determine the role of the school in the forthcoming HOIB and Britain in Bloom judging tours.

**Action: RP – Arrange meeting with JD**

CIB Facebook Page

* TP had set up a CIB Facebook page and had begun to populate it with photographs etc. TP had volunteered to update the page on a regular basis using photographs and information supplied by RP. The meeting welcomed the initiative which would help widen the support base for CIB.

**Action: RP – Fwd link to committee members**

Nasturtium Seeds

* RP reported that the free nasturtium seeds supplied by the RHS (intended to “Turn a Grey Corner Green”) had been sown and had produced about 28 plants. Suitable planting sites would have to be found and the meeting suggested
  + Rear bank of Plough car park
  + Doctors surgery area - bed in front of the hedge at the mouth of Spicers Close
  + Phone box bed in Aston Lane
  + Village Hall – oil tank area
  + Hairdressers drive/yard
  + The Crown
  + Village Hall corner bed
* RP asked the meeting to give the matter further consideration as none of the suggested sites seemed particularly suitable

Garden Competition

* The 2014 hanging basket competition had attracted very little interest. Although the overall quality of the baskets throughout the village remained high it appeared that support for the competition had waned – particularly amongst those who had previously entered and failed to win.
* It was agreed that the competition should take a different form in 2015 by widening the criteria to “Best Planting Display”. This would capture a much greater range of horticultural achievement whilst also promoting improvement in the local street scene. All types of horticultural displays would be eligible and would include commercial premises
* The meeting felt that the competition should not require formal entry. A CIB assessment team would tour the village and produce a short list of finalists which would then be judged using criteria such as impact, design and maintenance.
* When the subject was discussed at the September 2014 meeting PB had offered £50 towards the prize fund. The meeting agreed that 3 prizes of £50, £25 and £15 should be awarded.
* It was agreed that judging should take place in late July. This would provide a timely stimulus ahead of the visits by HOIB and Britain in Bloom judges
* The event would be advertised on posters and in the July edition of the parish magazine. The meeting agreed that ideally, a leaflet promoting the competition and linking it to the forthcoming judging tours should be delivered to every household.

**Action: RP/JC – Devise wording for promotional material**

**RP – Compile HALO mag entry as above**

Summer Quiz

* It was agreed that a fundraising quiz should be held at the Plough Pub towards the end of August – possibly Wednesday 26th. The landlord, Keith Horton, had announced his support for a summer event at the winter quiz in January

**Action: PP – Agree date for quiz with KH**

1. **Campaign Issues/Projects**

HOIB Judging Date

* The HOIB judging date had been confirmed as Monday 13th July - the last day of the Flower Festival. Judging would be carried out by Les Goodman and Robin Russell. RP had invited the judges to a light lunch when the opportunity would be taken to discuss the forthcoming Britain in Bloom judging tour. It was agreed that the Plough would be the best venue.
* A pre-judging/flower festival tidy up would be held on Thursday 9th July from 6.00pm onwards
* As in the previous 2 years the judging tour would begin at the village hall with a reception by the Claverley Memories group. The display boards used as part of the presentation to the judges would need to be accommodated in the “Ludstone Room”. The boards would be left there for the duration of the exhibition to promote awareness of CIB.
* Given the time of the judges arrival (likely to be before the opening of the official flower festival car park) car parking for the judges would have to be at the Crown (subject to availability)
* The judging tour would be launched from the village hall and proceed to:
  + Outdoor classroom
  + School field footpath/joint use field/community orchard
  + School planting beds etc (prov)
  + Aston Lane bank
  + Griffiths Green & Aston Lane gardens
  + Clover Heath
  + Winchester Crossroads
  + Cornerways
  + Plough Inn
  + High St
  + Bull Ring
  + Churchyard wildflowers
  + Flower Festival
* PB had offered to provide the judges transport

**Action: RP – Contact Sue Burns re detailed reception arrangements including notice boards & display of awards & trophies**

**RP – Prepare itinerary**

**JC/RP – Liaise re compilation of display boards**

**RP – Liaise with school re judging tour issues**

**ALL – Meet on Plough car park @ 6.00pm on Thursday 9th July for tidy up**

**RP – Check with GP re road sweeping arrangements**

**PP – Book table at Plough for 12.30 on judgement day**

Britain in Bloom

* RP did not have any further information beyond the fact that judging would take place on Saturday 8th August between 9.15 and 12.00. At some point in the near future the judges would be making contact to confirm transport arrangements to and from Claverley.
* The meeting agreed that the judging itinerary should follow a similar route to the HOIB tour. However the tour would begin at the church and may or may not include a visit to the school planting beds. Instead it may be preferable to focus on the churchyard eco project. Much would depend on the availability of children at the school and/or churchyard. (see above)
* The Britain in Bloom tour arrangements would be discussed in more detail at the July meeting

HOIB & Britain in Bloom Portfolios

* The two portfolios would be virtually the same. However the Britain in Bloom portfolio would have to be submitted to the RHS electronically at the end of June unlike the HOIB portfolio a hard copy of which would be given to the judges on judgement day. This would enable last minute alterations/updating for the HOIB tour
* RP had been making good progress with portfolio construction which would be ready to meet the end of June deadline

**Action: RP – Issue draft portfolio to CIB members for scrutiny prior to release**

Awards Ceremonies

* The HOIB ceremony would be held in Rugby on 10th September and the Britain in Bloom ceremony in Sunderland on 16th October. The awards for the latter would be announced on the evening of the 16th with a contestant’s surgery the following morning.
* JC thought it would be useful to agree who would attend the ceremonies as soon as possible

**Action: All – for discussion at July meeting**

1. **Halo Magazine**

July Entry

From

* Berkeley Salon concert - money raised/spending plans
* HOIB judging date/tidy up session
* Churchyard wildflower planting
* Best Planting Display event
* Summer planting scheme

**Action: RP – Prepare entry**

1. **AOB**

* None

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

* 19.30 on Tuesday 30th June @ Kings Arms