**CLAVERLEY IN BLOOM (CIB)**

Meeting Notes 16th Sept 2014

**Present:**  Rod Parr (Chair), Andy Crackle, Jacqui Cooper, Paul Pickerill, Mick Thorrington, Janet Ryan

1. **Apologies:** Peter Barby, Brent Walker-Drew
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** 
   * Minutes of the July meeting agreed
3. **Accounts**

* Account balance £2445.61 (excluding £118.47 ring fenced as contingency for the Aston Land bank shrub planting campaign, the proceeds of the summer quiz and the expenses claim from RP below).
* Cheques
  + RP - £60.53 iro printing and stationery costs iro 2014 portfolio and judging itinerary + tickets iro awards ceremony (£10 each)

1. **Matters Arising**

Aston Lane

* The bank will be strimmed in early October.
* Gill Price had made several approaches to South Shropshire Housing Association about the state of the hedge along the rear gardens of the houses in Boundary Close. Assurances had been given about remedial work being done but, to date, nothing had happened. GP will continue to press SSHA for resolution of the issue.
* Tom Pickerill had managed to water the shrubs and trees on 3 occasions @ £15 per session. It was agreed that a further watering session should be carried out asap in view of the recent prolonged spell of dry weather.
* The overgrown section of footpath from the Wold junction to Griffiths Green had been reported to Gill Price who had in turn notified Graham Downes of Shropshire Highways. GD had promised to inspect the area and liaise with the relevant householders as necessary.
* JR suggested a number of improvements to the Aston Lane bank site including more intensive planting on the Boundary Close junction splays.

**Action: JR – Compile planting list for Boundary Close junction scheme**

**RP – Arrange a site visit by members to explore improvement potential (date to be arranged)**

Tree Planting

* PP stated that he was awaiting confirmation of his order of 400 trees from the Woodland Trust free tree scheme. This year the trust is encouraging local communities to plant trees as part of the WW1 commemorations and the remembrance of “local heroes”. A promotional poster had been displayed on the CIB notice boards during the Claverley Memories exhibition at the Village Hall in July.
* If the approach to Woodland Trust is not successful PP will apply for trees under the Shropshire Free Tree scheme.
* Both Sally Beaman and Caroline Kempsey had expressed an interest in hosting tree planting events involving children from Claverley School.

**Action: PP – Liaise with Woodland Trust as appropriate**

**PP – Continue liaison with SB & CK.**

Clover Heath Planting Project

* Scott Lawrence had contacted RP to pledge renewed support for the project. The meeting agreed that it was worth pursuing and that consideration should be widened beyond the original idea of installing planting troughs on the green space at the end of Clover Heath. Placing troughs, for instance, on the grass verges at the entrance to Clover Heath may be less controversial and may attract greater support.

**Action: RP – Continue liaison with SL in preparation for discussion at the Oct meeting**

Theft of Plants

* Three plants from the summer planting scheme had been stolen from the Heathton trough on 13/14th July but otherwise the summer scheme had not been tampered with

Hanging Basket Competition

* Sally Beaman had judged the competition on 7th August and prizes of David Austin vouchers were awarded to
  + 1st Prize £25 – Dave Harvey, Clover Heath
  + 2nd Prize £20 – Colin Smithyman, Aston Lane
  + 3rd Prize £15 – Richard Hollingshead, Church St
* The 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 – including those who had previously entered and failed to win.
* It was agreed that the competition should probably take a different form in 2015. Alternatives could be a “best garden” or a photo competition featuring CIB themes.

**Action: All – Consider possible comp alternatives in readiness for further discussion at Oct meeting**

Church St “Welcome to Claverley” Planting Bed

* At the July meeting MT had suggested something should be done to enhance the appearance of this area. Since then Steve Atkinson had installed a few shrubs (removed from the winter planting scheme) in the vicinity of the sign. The meeting agreed that the shrub planting theme could be extended with material able to withstand the dry and shady nature of the site. A raised planting bed would provide a better growing environment and display the plants more effectively. JR stated that her husband Brian would be able to help with the construction of the planting bed surround
* The occupants of nearby “Willowbrook” had previously taken some interest in this area but RP understood that the house was now empty.

**Action: RP – Formulate a suitable planting scheme**

**RP – liaise with JR & BR planting bed design**

Summer Quiz

* The quiz had been attended by just over 40 people and although this was less than its winter equivalent the event was a success.
* In all the event generated £254.00 for CIB funds consisting of
  + £100.00 – donated from the proceeds of ticket sales by Keith Horton
  + £154.90 – Raffle proceeds & miscellaneous donations
* The meeting agreed that the winter quiz should be held as usual in late January 2015 with the summer quiz the following August.

Judgement Day 15th July & HOIB Awards Ceremony

* + - The judging tour was carried out by Les Goodman and Robin Russell from HOIB. The reception arrangements at the Claverley Memories exhibition in the village hall worked extremely well thanks to the hospitality of Sue and John Burns. The main features of the tour were also well received by the judges.
    - A gold award was confirmed at the Awards Ceremony in Shrewsbury on 11th September. All Shropshire “Bloom” groups had been asked to prepare display material for the ceremony. This was done for CIB by JC & RP using existing material plus additional high quality photographs produced specifically for the occasion by RP.
    - It was also announced at the ceremony that CIB had been nominated to represent the region in the Britain in Bloom finals in 2015 despite the fact that Pembridge in Bloom had come top of the village category.
    - RP had discussed the Britain in Bloom nomination with Les Goodman and Robin Russell at the awards ceremony. RP had expressed concern that the Britain in Bloom judging would be in August when the Flower Festival and the school could not be part of the judging itinerary. Both judges expressed confidence that these problems could be overcome and urged CIB to take up the challenge. LG & RR added that CIB would have to decide on this fairly quickly and offered to visit and discuss further with the committee.
    - After much deliberation the meeting agreed in principal to accept the nomination. This would put additional pressure on CIB resources including the workload of committee members. It would therefore be necessary to generate additional support from the community through a high profile publicity campaign. New initiatives would have to be developed and existing ones “tweaked” to promote the village in the best possible way on judgment day. This may incur additional costs that would require a vigorous drive for sponsorship
    - It was also agreed that further information about the Britain in Bloom process should be obtained and that HOIB judges should be invited to a future CIB meeting, preferably November, to mull over the issues involved.
    - The meeting briefly discussed the markings given by the judges for this year’s entry. Surprisingly the total markings given were 180 (out of 200) for 2014 as against 174 for the previous year. It was agreed that further discussion on the markings and their implications for CIB’s 2015 campaign should be deferred to the October meeting.
    - It was agreed that a visit to Pembridge would be useful to have a look around and, if possible, talk to one or two committee members.

**Action: RP – Confirm acceptance of Britain in Bloom nomination**

**RP – Obtain further information about the Britain in Bloom campaign & fwd to committee member in preparation for discussion at the October meeting.**

**RP – Organise trip to Pembridge**

1. **Forthcoming Events**

Autumn Tidy-Up

* To be carried out at the same time as the winter planting exercise. To include the village centre and the green spaces and hedges around the planters at the village entrance points.

Winter Planting Scheme

* It was agreed that the summer scheme, which had been a great success, should be removed on Saturday 11th October
* In view if the susceptibility of shrubs to theft it was agreed that the majority of the shrubs saved from the 2013/14 winter scheme should be installed in the central village planters. A few could be installed at Winchester Crossroads but the main planting regime at this and other remote locations should consist of pansies or violas. Hopefully these could be sourced from Pavilion Garden Store which had pledged to donate £100 worth of plants to CIB following the spate of thefts earlier in the year.

**Action: RP – Liaise with Pavilion Garden Store as above**

**All – Attend planting session starting in Bull Ring @ 9.00am.**

Daffodil Bulb Planting

* Previous mass plantings on the Aston Lane bank had left only a few small areas to be filled. The meeting agreed that new planting sites were needed and that the area of the churchyard running alongside Church Street should be first priority. The location is highly visible in the historic centre of the village and has high visual impact. RP had already sought the agreement of Garry Ward for the project.
* Members agreed that RP should order 5,000 bulbs of the variety February Gold. The majority would be planted in the churchyard but a few hundred would be reserved for filling the Aston Lane “gaps” and around the seat at Winchester Crossroads. Planting session to be held on Saturday 1st November from 9.00am

**Action: RP – order 5,000 bulbs of February Gold from Gee Tee bulbs**

**RP – Confirm arrangements with GW**

**RP – Prepare posters**

Litter Pick

* Keep Britain Tidy has announced a “Womble” themed litter pick with free tabards, bags, posters etc. for all registered participating groups. Details of the event, which is targeted at younger age groups, had been forwarded to Claverley School

**Action: RP – Liaise with Jo Derrer as appropriate**

1. Newsletter October entry – subjects from

* 2014 HOIB award
* Britain in Bloom nomination
* Summer Quiz
* Daffodil planting

**Action: RP – compile entry**

1. **AOB**

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

* 19.30 on Tuesday 7th October @ Kings Arms