

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
WESTON IN BLOOM WORKING PARTY
HELD ON TUESDAY 07th AUGUST 2018
AT GROVE HOUSE**

Meeting commenced: 11.00 am

Meeting concluded: 12.02 pm

PRESENT/IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Roger Bailey (Chairman), Councillor Ray Armstrong, Councillor Jos Holder, Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Administrator) Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager) Jenny Gosden, Bev Tucker (Town Centre Partnership) Karen Williams, Jim Sellars, Sandra Sellars and Pauline Priestman.

1.	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Willis, Cllr Peak, Roger Brown and Sue Thomas.</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none received.</p>
3.	<p>To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th June 2018</p> <p>Under Item 7 “Speck” should read “Speak”</p> <p>PROPOSED: Bev Tucker SECONDED: Jenny Gosden</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
3a.	<p>Review of actions from minutes of the previous meeting:</p> <p>The Chairman had spoke to the Lions and been in touch with Chris Nelson. Although the Chairman was worried about the state of the clock up to a week before judging, on the day it was good.</p> <p>Action: Community and Grounds Administrator (CGA) to send letter of thanks to the Lions.</p> <p>Sandra Sellars had taken in a box of chocolates to the Railway Station to thank them for their help with watering.</p>
4.	<p>Monthly Finance Report:</p> <p>There was currently £670.03p left in the budget.</p> <p>The Chairman wanted to review the watering for Weston in Bloom however the CGA explained this contract is still in place for another year. The discussion ensued and it was agreed that all measures had been taken to ensure value for money.</p>

5.	<p>Maintenance of Features:</p> <p>It was brought to the Working Party's attention that the boat at the Railway Station may need replacing over the next few years.</p> <p>Cllr Holder made reference to a recent discussion had at Tourism and Leisure about this year being an exceptionally hot year, wondering if drought resistant plants could be used in future years. The Grounds Manager said there is a balance to be had as there is still an expectation of good displays. Whilst drought proof plants can be used it does limit the colour scheme available. Appropriate planting would be something the judges are looking for. Drought resistant plants are not necessarily more expensive.</p> <p>It was thought perhaps the existing wave project would be a good site for a trial of drought resistant plants. It was asked whether the plants would be sustainable. Succulents would need to be replaced each year.</p> <p>The Grounds Manager pointed out it is very rare to have a year as hot and dry as we have done. The spring bedding has now been ordered and the next lot of plants will be ordered in October.</p> <p>The Town Clerk thought perhaps instead of replacing the boat at the station like for like, that some sturdy planters might be better suited.</p>
6.	<p>Judging Day Catch Up:</p> <p>On the whole the Chairman thought all the features looked good however the main areas of improvement he wanted to look at was the link between the volunteers and the grounds team. Sandra Sellars highlighted how the Grounds Team work incredibly hard and help all the volunteers. It is a pressured time for them as well. The Grounds Manager wanted to reiterate how the team have a number of pressures happening around the time of the plant delivery such as grass cutting at the cemetery. The team really do go that extra mile however have limited capacity.</p> <p>The Chairman asked what the issues were in the slight delay of the delivery of the plants. The Grounds Manager said that Westhaven had been let down by their supplier which had a knock on effect.</p> <p>Bev mentioned how at the Business Improvement District Judging Day it was discussed about sustainable planting. The Grounds Manager said that currently the Dot plants are kept and grown on at Westhaven School which supports one aspect of sustainable planting.</p> <p>The judges had been impressed with how the station and volunteers had worked together, it showed good community involvement.</p> <p>Action: The CGA to add sustainable planting to next agenda.</p> <p>The Grounds Manager explained how this year due to the drought conditions there is a possibility of not all towns achieving Gold.</p>

7.	<p>VANS:</p> <p>A planting volunteer role description will be sent to Voluntary Action North Somerset to help recruit further volunteers.</p>
8.	<p>Volunteer Day:</p> <p>The Chairman was going to try and get some Councillors to volunteer for the next planting in October. The CGA will set up a date to go through all the health and safety aspects with any new volunteers.</p> <p>The chairman decided to discuss item 9 under agenda item 8. Recruitment of volunteers will also be happening at the Flower show on Saturday 11th August and wondered if anyone was available to help. Jenny Gosden and Karen Williams will both be available to help on the day.</p> <p>Bev left the meeting at 11.45am.</p>
9.	<p>Flowershow Volunteers:</p> <p>This item had already been discussed under Item 8.</p>
10.	<p>Sponsorship</p> <p>The report of the CGA was tabled for the Working Party to view.</p> <p>If Weston in Bloom sought “sponsors” for a feature this would attract VAT. Whereas finding a “supporter” for a feature would not. It is therefore suggested by the Deputy Town Clerk/ RFO that the working party consider using the wording ‘to support’ rather than ‘sponsor’.</p> <p>Since the most recent discussions as above held in May 2018 the Museum had asked if there is a possibility of advertising on the Floral displays outside of the Railway Station. The Museum is one of the councils run services and signage to it from the station is very limited. With the ongoing town centre regeneration they are not yet able to have road signs for the Museum replaced. It was thought this was a good opportunity for partnership working within the council to support both WIB and the Museum respectively.</p> <p>The quote from AP Signs and Print for advertising material is £240 Net which is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wrap around board display for the Hanging Basket Tree. • Stickers for the silver planter tubs. <p>The Grounds Manager has calculated the cost of flowers / watering and installation for these displays and as such a contribution cost of £51 is suggested in addition to the cost of advertisement. Therefore the total cost proposed for Weston Museum is £291.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Councillor Bailey SECONDED: Councillor Armstrong</p> <p>RECOMMENDED:</p>

	<p>1. Not seek “supporters” for features not “sponsors”</p> <p>2. The total cost to Weston Museum be £291 for supporting the Weston in Bloom features at the Railway Station with an annual contribution cost of £51.</p> <p>3. Approve the ability to gain support from the rates agreed in May 2018 with the additional ability to charge cost of advertisement and contribution costs of floral display (annual) if more appropriate.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Sue and Rod Thomas, two long standing volunteers for Weston In Bloom will not be hosting the judges in future years. They have done this for the past 3 years and the Chairman thought it would be a nice idea to get them a token gift of thanks. It was thought an amount of up to £50 would be suitable.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Councillor Bailey SECONDED: Councillor Armstrong</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That a gift be purchased for an amount of no more than £50.</p> <p>Zoe had received an email from somebody wanting to plant in the Princess Diana Flowerbed outside Grove House. It was agreed this is looking extremely good at the moment and it would not be a suitable area. It was thought another location could be Grove House Garden or out the front of Grove Lodge.</p> <p>Action: CGA to send Cllr Holder the details of those wanting to plant.</p> <p>The It’s Your Neighbourhood Awards will be on the next Agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed the working party about the Heritage Opening Days which are taking place in September and said if people wanted some more information to take a look on the website.</p> <p>Sandra Sellars said the judges really enjoyed their visit and one even sat on the donkey for a picture.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 11.00am</p>

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at: 12.02 pm

Signed:

Dated: