



**Weldon in Bloom Working Party
Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 3rd September 2024**

Present: Cllr Colin Shepard (Chair), Cllr Peter Dowsett, Cllr John Cook, Cllr Jane Clowery, Caroline Lang, Andy Haynes, Fiona Ashby-Clarke

WIB. 1301 **Apologies:** Sharon Hannah, Angela Page – accepted

WIB. 1302 **Declarations of interest** – none

WIB. 1303 **To approve the minutes of the meeting held 11th June 2024.** Approved.

WIB. 1304 **To welcome any new attendees** – none present

WIB. 1305 **Weldon in Bloom 2024 Judging Day**

All present shared their thoughts on the day; comments made by the judges whilst escorting them round; and discussed how best to move forward for 2025. It was agreed to wait until after the RHS presentation event when entry feedback will be received. All agreed entry had been enjoyable and keen to enter again.

Colin informed committee the RHS East Midlands in Bloom Presentation event was confirmed for Wednesday 25th September at 12noon in Melton Mowbray, three tickets were reserved for entrants. Colin, John and Andy confirmed attendance on behalf of committee. Additional tickets could be requested, all members of committee and WPC were invited to attend, requests for tickets to be made to Colin. Tickets are £10 each, John and Peter felt it reasonable to ask WPC to reimburse the ticket cost as attendees were representing WPC. Colin to submit claim to WPC Finance Committee.

Watering of village planters discussed as judges' comments were 'ineffective watering'. Current WPC schedule is Nigel Cox, once per week, bowser with spray attachment. All agreed the equipment available to Nigel was not effective due to low water pressure. All agreed an electric pump, approximately £109 in cost, would improve the water delivery and therefore be more time efficient. Colin to check current water delivery capacity with a view to application to WPC Finance Committee for purchase of a pump in March 2025.

The Judges' brochure was discussed; a suggestion had been made that this should be done by the publishers of Weldon Wide. The cost for this would be £300-£400. All agreed not value for money as only two copies needed, the brochure is purely to assist the judges after their visit so they don't need to make their own notes.

Jane confirmed she had the photographs that had been used for the display.

All agreed the first entry was a learning curve, improvements for 2025 were noted.

WIB. 1306 **Weldon in Bloom 2025**

Committee discussed areas to include; judges' comments on heritage sites and identity of Weldon were main considerations. All agreed to include Roundhouse, village green and High Street as three areas committee wish to improve. All agreed Gandy Field, the Triangle, The Leys and Hills & Hollows not presently to be a part of 2025 entry but to await 2024 feedback before commit to areas to focus on.

Planter outside Londis was discussed, all agreed this area of the village needed a revamp. Colin presented costings for the planter and to seek further advice on build

design/drainage before proceeding; anticipate a 2m x 4.2m oak sleeper planter with soil to cost approximately £500 plus cost of soil to fill.

Installation of bird boxes and bat boxes around the village was discussed, using recycled wood from allotments and asking Rock Solid Youth Group and Community Payback Team to be involved in the making of these.

WIB. 1307

Cricket Club D-Day Flower Bed

All agreed the planting hadn't matched the vision and a sign would have been helpful to explain what it was meant to represent. However, all agreed it is currently looking very floral.

All agreed to clear flower bed to soil over winter and plant up in Spring.

Andy to ask Cricket Club Committee what they would like to have planted in the flower bed. Committee discussed spring bulbs planted in the Cricket Club logo, Andy to purchase the bulbs with Cricket Club funds.

WIB. 1308

Gardening Competition

Jane presented photographs of all entries and confirmed judging was done by Colin, Jane and Caroline and explained how winning judgements had been reached.

Sponsorship for prizes was from Corby Indoor Markets, £250 - two first prizes of £75 and two runner up prizes of £50, given as National Garden Centre gift cards. Winners announced at village fete, no winners present at fete, their prizes were hand delivered. Photos of winners obtained for social media and Weldon Wide publications.

Angela Page, Chair of WPC, requested an article on the competition for next publication of Weldon Wide; 350 words with photographs. Colin to produce this, deadline to submit is 30th September.

It was agreed the publicity had not included the sponsors details or the prize amounts, this needed to be included in future competitions. It was agreed the competition ran well alongside Weldon in Bloom entry and should run again in 2025.

WIB. 1309

Gandy Field Ongoing Grounds Maintenance

All agreed that the focus of the Weldon in Bloom Working Party was for the entry into RHS East Midlands in Bloom competitions and not grounds maintenance of the village. All agreed Gandy Field was not to be included in the 2025 entry so beyond the remit of this committee.

WIB. 1310

Planting and Planters Expenditure/Purchases

Peter confirmed three planters had been ordered with funds from sponsors and the sponsors names to be displayed on them. To be sited outside Weldon Primary School, Hillside Crescent WPC noticeboard and Woodlands Road WPC noticeboard.

Committee discussed the success of growing on plug plants as a more effective purchase for planters. Andy offered use of his polytunnel, all agreed staging was needed and Colin to cost this into budget.

All agreed signage on planters to show maintained by WPC + volunteers.

Clay for Pocket Park Dam to be delivered 6th September; working party to repair dam arranged with Sunday 15th September, as a possible date subject to availability of Nigel, all help appreciated.

Discussed need to repair planters on the Triangle and East Crescent, Andy to check what wood supplies were available and to arrange Community Pay Back Team to carry out repairs.

Committee discussed the concrete planters on the High Street, all felt improvements could be made but agreed logistics in moving them would hinder replacement options.

- WIB. 1311 **Community Payback Team**
Andy and Colin confirmed the team regularly attend Mondays and are making good improvements in the village. Recent tasks have included painting of railings and benches and clearing shrubbery. The team are to replace the fencing around the cricket field perimeter over the coming weeks. Other tasks to include the church yard and clearing of Russian Comfrey in Pocket Park.
- WIB. 1312 **Gardening Tasks for September/October**
Colin to email out task list to committee, includes:
- General weeding
 - Lavender trimming
 - Wildflower cutting on Triangle and around the Tank
 - Planting of bulbs
 - Tidying in Pocket Park and The Leys
- Meeting on Fridays at 10am to weed, etc, to continue while weather allows
- WIB. 1313 **Any other Business** - none
- WIB. 1314 **Future Agenda items for next meeting**
- tidying of High Street
 - review of judges feedback from presentation event
 - sponsorship
- WIB. 1315 **Date of next Meeting**
Monday 14th October 2024 @ 6.30pm, Weldon Cricket Club
Open meeting, all welcome

Cllr Colin Shepard
Chair of Weldon in Bloom Working Party
Weldon Parish Council