

## Winterton In Bloom

### Minutes from meeting: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

#### 52 West Street, Winterton at 10.00 am

**Present:** Cllr Don Johnson (DJ), Cllr Roger Kimberley-Scott (RKS), Ms Kerry Hewson (KH), Mr Gordon Leitch (GL), Miss Lisa Newstead (LN), Mrs Ann Root (AR)

**Apologies:** Cllr Bob Bridge, Mr Roj Moody, Mrs Pam Moody, Ms Julie Ellison

**Welcome:** LN welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that Winterton has been awarded £3000 as part of a fund set up by Andrew Percy. No other details had been received to date. RKS said that North Lincs Council has established a recruitment initiative for more areas to get involved with the In-Bloom scheme.

LN presented a report on her attendance at this year's awards ceremony which was held in the church at Boston Stump. LN, KH and SF attended. Following the Ceremony, LN had emailed Rob Waltham, Leader of North Lincs Council, to suggest that he could offer to host the Awards ceremony at The Baths in Scunthorpe next year. She had also offered support from WTC with hosting the event if required.

LN reported that we beat Brigg who only received a Certificate of Achievement despite having received a large grant from North Lincs Council. We achieved a Silver Award again but have increased our points every year so far and this year attained 144, which is a large increase and only 5 off the Silver Gilt Award level. LN reported that she is aware that this year we have had a lot more people in the town wanting to become involved and looks forward to this increasing again next year.

From the judges' report, it was noted that they had recognised that the Winterton entry is a team effort which continues all the year round. They had noticed that the decals on planters on the entry and exit points around the town had been changed to 'Welcome to Winterton' which they thought pleasing. They had also noticed our efforts with composting and water recycling and suggested that this needs to be expanded. They advised collecting water off more large rooves for recycling. RKS said that he has started a composting area near to the rockery at the entrance to the industrial estate and requested that PP be asked to build a box on site for this.

LN said that in the future, the group need to look more in depth at Simon's Wood. According to the judges' report, we need to work with the Woodland Trust to make more of this area. LN said that we have a copy of the Woodland Trust's forward management plan and we could work with them to encourage visitors to get to know more about the history of the site and be able to identify trees and birds using the wood. In the past there was a lectern containing this type of information but it appears to have been removed. Perhaps we could suggest the siting of a new lectern at the entry point containing information.

From the Judge's report it is clear that we need to increase our work with schools in future. Other areas have gardening clubs and are heavily involved with their local schools which gained them extra points. DJ & LN will devise a plan to make more contact with our schools.

We also need to decide on either a colour scheme or theme to work towards for future years. DJ suggested that we could probably link in with the 2022 Tractor scheme or widen the scope to farming.

From the report, the Judges appeared to want the presentation to take place before the tour of the town but in past year's when this has been done, the Judge's have criticised us and suggested the tour before the presentation so it is probably just individual choice. KH suggested that we ask the judges on the day which they prefer, and just have 2 separate timetables in readiness for whichever they choose.

### **Report on key areas:**

#### a) Planting (Horticultural Development)

A resident has kindly offered WTC the use of her large greenhouse. The cost is a donation to All Saints Church. LN proposed that we use it to house geraniums etc over the winter and grow our own bedding plants in the early spring as it would be difficult to insure to hold all our hanging baskets due to their huge combined value. KH offered the use of her business polytunnel but stressed that they do suffer from intruders on the premises at times.

LN suggested that we may be able to access funding from 2022 for planters to be placed on the Grangefield estate. There could also be some beds laid at the side of the park and areas for planting around the pensioners' bungalows and on Teanby Drive. It was agreed for this group to have a walk around Grangefield on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00 am and then LN will contact 2022 and Ongo to invite them to walk around with her and look at the suggestions made from our group. LN said that we could work together with the Grangefield Estate Committee to encourage volunteers to help look after our plantings.

LN suggested that more work needs to be done with the schools and childrens' groups such as PandaPlay and The Brownies to encourage interest in growing seeds and any type of horticulture. KH suggested that a 'bug hunt' could be a starter.

#### b) Community (Community Participation)

There was no update for this meeting.

#### c) Environment (Environmental Responsibility)

Following this year's report, LN said that discussions with PM and RM who are currently on holiday, need to take place with regard to expansion and progression for next year.

### **Sponsorship**

There was no update of sponsorship for this meeting however, LN requested thoughts on what the £3000 grant could be spent on:

- DJ suggested that more wooden boxes could be produced by PP. KH said that the new Men In Sheds project could probably work with PP on this too.
- RKS said that hedge cutting tools are urgently required. He said it must be battery or petrol operated due to the areas where it will be used.
- LN said that Winterton cannot plant on railings and roundabouts as we don't have them so perhaps more hanging baskets could be purchased for use in the High Street. DJ said that they could be hung from the existing brackets used for the

Christmas trees. RKS agreed that something is needed in the High Street as this has been commented on previously by judges as being left bare. LN said that we could also purchase hanging basket trees (with up to 8 arms) which could be sited at intervals along Earlsgate. They might also entice sponsorship from businesses based on Earlsgate who currently do not participate in our scheme. LN said we could write to residents and businesses on Earlsgate to ask if they would take a bracket to fill in the gaps where Christmas trees are not hung.

- The hanging basket trees would only be used in the summer months and would not be replanted for autumn. AR suggested that a hanging basket tree sited in the cemetery could raise sponsorship if marketed as a 'memory tree'.
- LN reminded the group that we had previously agreed to purchase some bushes and shrubs for use in the centre of large beds which will subsequently cut costs on the amount of bedding plants required each year.

### **Volunteers**

As we have compiled a small list of volunteers who already help out around the town, it was thought that they could be approached next year to ask if they would adopt a basket/flower bed/planter near to their home and keep it maintained and watered. They could also be asked if they know of anyone else to join as a volunteer.

### **CPRE – Best Kept Village:**

There was no update from CPRE for this meeting. The presentation of this year's award will be at Elsham Village Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm.

### **Any Other Business:**

1. RKS – Thank you to Brian Maguire or whoever it was who has cut the hedge at the back of the rockery. A big job, very well done.
2. RKS – Could the area on Top Road where the BT Fast Connect Boxes are situated be surrounded by a footpath as their Engineers always drive their vans on to the grass whilst they are working. LN agreed to ask NLC if this could be a possibility.
3. RKS – 2022's Incredible Edible scheme is a waste of time. All the boxes sited on Teanby Drive, De Lacy Way and on the grassed area next to the police station have not received any attention. No thought has been given to the sitings, some of which are highly unsuitable.
4. RKS – suggested that we clear and take over the small piece of land on Boston Close as the Stroke Association don't appear to be clearing it.
5. RKS – the Enterprise Way situation is unchanged and getting worse. From the email received from our contact at Dean Property services it indicates that they are going to send a company to cut back the hedges. This will not be sufficient as it is a huge area which also needs to be cleared of all the rubbish which has built up too. It would be better if we could work with them to clear the area.
6. DJ – The bare area of land in front of the Pavilion looks messy. It was agreed that this will be turfed as soon as possible.
7. AR – Can consideration be given to either a colour scheme or theme for next year which commemorates WW1 with it being the centenary year.

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 10.00 am at 52 West Street