

MINUTES OF THE YATE AND WEST DODINGTON IN BLOOM GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2011 FROM 4PM TO 5PM AT DODINGTON PARISH HALL

PRESENT: Pat Cotterell – Friends of the Common
Craig Denney – Local resident
Sylvia Eastwood – Yate Heritage Centre
Bill Flook – Yate Community Plan
Cindy Garrett – Friends of Kingsgate Park
Julie Holbrook – Local resident
Cllr Christine Howard – Dodington Parish Council
Lin Kendall – Friends of the Common
Cllr Sue Walker (Chair) – Yate Town Council
Robin Wardrope (Vice Chair) – Local resident
Mark Williams – Yate Town Council
Sylvia Young – Frome Valley Action Group and Merlin Housing
Wendy Mayo – Clerk to Dodington Parish Council

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Josette Bailey, Kevin Brown (Sodbury and Yate Business Association), Mike Garrett (Friends of Kingsgate Park), Don Gee, Carolyn Jacques, Claire Jaggard, Nicholas Reed, Neil Weston (Yate Library) and David Hardill (Yate Heritage Centre)

Cllr Sue Walker was not feeling well and asked that Cllr Christine Howard Chair the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2011

The minutes of the Yate and West Dodington in Bloom meeting held on 13 June 2011 were received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

3 JUDGING

Members of the group **NOTED** a letter regarding judging and that the judging date would be 2pm on Thursday 14 July.

It was **NOTED** that Sean Crogan, a South West in Bloom judge had visited Yate on 18 June when he had carried out a pre-judging tour with Cllr Christine Howard. Mr Crogan gave advice on improvements that could be made prior to the judging day.

Members **NOTED** a timetable for the judging route which had been compiled by Cllr Christine Howard and forms Appendix 1 to these minutes. It was emphasised that timing during the tour is of the utmost importance it is imperative that nothing negative is said otherwise points would be lost.

Following discussion of the timetable it was **RESOLVED** that:

- Cllr Christine Howard would inform Abbotswood School of the visit times
- Mark Williams would arrange for one of the regular parks staff to be available at Kingsgate Park to answer any questions
- A member of the Fire and Rescue Station would be asked to be present during the visit to the station
- At Ridgewood Community Centre Avonvale Nursery would be involved; that there was a possibility of eating tea outside; that crockery and cutlery would be taken to the Community Centre on the day before judging; that three leaflets would be available for the judges perusal (Heritage Centre, Abbotswood School and Yate Town Guide)
- Dave Bruten would make up the display boards at home and transport them to Ridgewood Community Centre the day before judging
- It was imperative that any display material was provided for Dave in good time
- One representative on each group would be invited to the reception at the end of judging. Members asked that Julie Clay (Yate Town Council) issue the invitations and also enquire who would be representing South Gloucestershire Council since the departure of Jim Mathison.
- Cllr Sue Walker would arrange for the portfolio to be sent to the judges as soon as possible.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

- Cllr Christine Howard would ask for the pound banner in the shop window at Yate Shopping Centre to be removed at the Yate Town Strategy Group Meeting on 22 June.
- Sylvia Eastwood reported that planting at St Mary's Green was in hand. She had the roses at home. Cllr Sue Walker said that she had possible help. Craig Denny offered to help with the planting.
- Cllr Christine Howard said that she had asked for the hanging baskets at Ridgewood Community Centre to be well watered. Mark Williams said that he would organise watering from Monday to Friday.
- Sylvia Eastwood reported that the plants had been purchased for Yate Fire and Rescue Station and that White Watch would be planting them on Thursday afternoon.

- In relation to sponsorship and PR, Cllr Christine Howard said that captions should be added to any photographs to name the sponsors. Cllr Sue Walker requested that there should not be a blanket mailshot as these were more often than not binned. She suggested that a named person should be contacted and that key businesses should be targeted.
- Cindy Garrett took orders for high vies waistcoats.
- Rob Wardrope said that all members of the group should ensure that they are putting in claims for plants and petrol expenses. No one should be left out of pocket.
- The group must ensure that funds retained are kept to a minimum in order to apply for future funding.
- An acknowledgement of Organic Blooms of St Alden's should be sent.
- Sue Bruten suggested that a painting competition for children should be run with winning entries featuring in a 2012 calendar. She would find out more.

It was **RESOLVED** that the next meeting would be held on Monday 4 July, 10.00am at Councillor Sue Walker's house.