

**Beverley Town Council**  
**Beverley in Bloom Working Group Minutes for**  
**its General Meeting on**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Present Councillor Jim Whitfield (Chairman); Wendy Usher-Bacon; Chris. Upton; Jill Yorke; Mary Hutchinson; Tony Ashby; Peter Dack; Sally Knapp; Jack Quigg; Sue Dack;

Peter Tomkys (Coordinator and on this occasion Minute Taker); Councillor Harold Bottomley.

**744 Apologies** Penny Lynch (Membership Secretary); David Ryley (Vice Chairman); Margaret Martin; Liz Jones.

**745 To approve the Minutes of the last BiB General Meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.**

These were read. Peter Dack proposed they be accepted as a true record and Peter Tomkys seconded his proposal. The Chairman thanked Chris Upton for her Minute taking and subsequent typing up.

**746 Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Re: Minute 740 BiB Fund Raising event planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.** (Penny Lynch had written some notes to be read out in her absence by Mary Hutchinson.) It was reported that an initial meeting had taken place between Penny and other BiB members who either had specific knowledge of previous fund raising events or who felt they would like to help.

**Re: Minute 741 Plant Choosing Committee - Minster Manger Baskets** Peter T. reported the baskets had recently been taken down from the railings and transferred to BiB's Spark Mill Allotment to await planting up by Jack Quigg. He had removed the black plastic lining from the front of the baskets and replaced it with moss. This had been done because last season the black plastic was extremely visible which prompted criticism from visitors and members of the Minster congregation. Jack intended to commence planting in the next few days. Unfortunately, the plug plants obtained earlier, and grown-on by Jack in the polytunnel, had not developed as had been hoped due, it was thought, to their late ordering and planting in colder conditions than they required. Therefore, because Jack was worried those plants would not be big enough, or in flower, until mid to late January Peter T. had decided to make a special purchase of plants to replace all those not yet big enough to plant in the baskets. Many of them had been purchased at a specially arranged discount of 10% through a new supplier (Cherry Lane Nurseries, Hull Bridge Road, Beverley) who, after negotiations with the Town Clerk, had agreed to supply any of BiB's on-going needs at discounted prices.

**747 Statement of accounts**

The Statement of BiB's account was perused by the Chairman who told the committee it appeared to show BiB had a healthy balance of £3,166.91. Peter T. queried this figure because he thought it was giving a false picture, unless the Council had recently paid in money, which was unusual at this time of the year. He thought it more likely that recent bills paid in by him and other members of BiB had not been deducted and he queried whether Earley's bill for their supply of the winter bedding had been submitted, or paid, yet. He expressed thoughts that the real figure would be closer to approximately £2,400.00 at this time.

**748. To receive reports**

**Membership** In Penny's absence Mary read from a report submitted by Penny. "No new members to report on. Had one enquiry but turned them away as they were only interested in the admin side and not the physical side."

**Fundraising** Again, Mary read from Penny's submitted report. "BiB's Tesco event on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 - Help is required from 11am until 4.00pm at this event which is publicity for the December 3<sup>rd</sup> fundraiser, as well as an advertisement for new members. Regarding the fund raising event on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014, more general assistance would be welcome for the night itself, please get in touch with (Penny) if you can help. A second meeting of the Fund Raising Committee is due to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November to finalise arrangements. The media, as yet, has not given us any coverage so we are relying on all members to give it a good push to get it into people's minds. We have a few

posters dotted around which is good but if you can think of a place where you can display one, or even two, please contact (Penny).”

Penny had sent a form, she had received from Tesco, to the meeting. This had to be completed and returned by BiB before the Tesco event. Jim Whitfield completed all the required details on the form as the discussion progressed and Chris Upton agreed to return it to Tesco. It was noted, with dismay that one of the conditions imposed by Tesco was that tickets could not be sold in their store. Members expressed their disappointment with this ruling. Four members agreed times when they would attend Tesco to assist Penny set up the stall and display board as well as staff the event. Chris Upton had prepared posters for the display board, which was being loaned to BiB by the Town Council.

**Coordinator’s report** Peter T. opened his report by expressing his deep sorrow and regret that Chris Upton had felt it necessary to resign from her role as BiB Acting Secretary. When he had first asked Chris to take on the role he had recognised she had the qualities and skills for the varying tasks the role would entail. It was therefore unfortunate it is merely a clash of personalities that has brought her resignation. He acknowledged the excellent hard work and enthusiasm she had put into her new role, all of which had greatly benefited BiB. In addition, he said he, personally, would miss the assistance she had so willingly and ably given him, especially through her outstanding computer skills. Her contribution to the efficient running of BiB would be greatly missed. Jim Whitfield expressed his regret that Chris had decided to resign. Chris responded to all those remarks by describing the problem between P/T and herself as “chalk and cheese”.

Peter T. asked those BiB members present at the meeting if there was anyone amongst them who would take over the now vacant role of Acting Secretary but there was a nil response.

Continuing his report, Peter T. said planting all the BiB sites in the town with the new winter bedding originally ordered from Earley Ornamentals was becoming difficult, owing to a scarcity of some plants caused by the non-appearance of plants promised by a lapsed member for the manger baskets and three tier planters at the Minster north door. In addition, 100 corms of cyclamen plants bought by BiB failed to grow. These two last minute voids had meant winter bedding intended for other sites had had to be used. Moreover, there had been a problem caused by a lack of compost during the planting operations due to an unforeseen calculating error between the new supplier and the Town Council. He added there would be more perennial plants to buy but he was hopeful of eventually recouping much of the cost for those from Northern Rail. He made further mention of the already proposed and agreed combining of BiB sites in Beverley to create eleven groups eventually managed by dedicated members. He reported that before her resignation, Chris Upton and he had met to refine previous planning on this proposal and a next step is to enlist the help of BiB Publicity Officer Matt Snowden in an effort to encourage local residents to join specific dedicated BiB groups near to their homes. The committee agreed that the Coordinator should go ahead and purchase plants necessary to complete the winter planting.

#### **749 Graham Stuart**

Mary H. read a report from Penny in her absence. “In September I had a meeting with Graham Stuart MP re BiB work around town. He was very impressed with how nice the (railway) station was looking and the surrounding area. He asked if we had considered a BiB planting event involving the community in conjunction with, say, a cancer charity where people might like to donate bulb(s) in memory of someone or get the local garden centres involved or even a BiB weekend to take place over a Bank Holiday. Graham said he only wanted to help where requested.” Mary H. amplified Penny’s report giving her views on what she knew about the matter and suggested it be deferred to a BiB discussion in approximately July 2015. This was agreed by members present at the meeting..

#### **750 To consider the possibility of BiB becoming the Northern Rail Level 2 Adopter for Beverley Railway Station.**

Sally Knapp spoke first on this item. She gave her wholehearted support to the possibility of BiB becoming a Level 2 Adopter of the Station. This was a direction she had hoped for several years BiB would move towards as the funding Northern Rail provides within the package could lead to greater opportunities to brighten the Railway Station up.

Peter T. (the originator of this agenda item).said over a number of years Beverley Railway Station had become a rather bland, functional place and whilst updating it to modern needs, as well as trying their best to maintain the historic atmosphere of the site, Northern Rail had not made much effort to beautify the inside, or outside, of the environs. Over a period of about five years BiB members Sally Knapp, Sue Dack and Peter Dack, to mention three of several, had successfully resurrected overgrown and uncared-for platform gardens. The subsequent membership of himself plus BiB present members Luke, Tony and Chris Washbrook and past member Mark Watson, has meant neglected overgrown garden areas in the car park have been resurrected and are now colourful beds of flowering plants. These improvements greatly impressed the recent Station Manager who endeavoured to give as much support

as his limited funds could provide. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October this year Peter T., Sally Knapp, Sue Dack and Luke Goulder attended a meeting of the Yorkshire Coast Community Rail Partnership and Peter T. made a point of speaking with Peter Myers the Northern Rail District Manager about BiB wishing to become a Level 2 Station Adopter. Mr Myers was extremely enthusiastic about this suggestion and when Peter T. asked what being an Adopter entailed he replied that BiB would determine what it was prepared to do within, and outside, the Station and that would form the agreement between BiB and Northern Rail. As well as supporting our endeavours both financially and physically, in return, as a token of their thanks, Northern Rail would provide a small quantity of free rail passes for BiB members to use at any time, as frequently as required, on all parts of the Northern Rail network across the country. Mr Myers suggested he attended a meeting of BiB to discuss the project in more detail. Peter T. therefore recommended to the meeting that Mr Myers should be invited to attend the BiB meeting, which will be held in January 2015. BiB members unanimously supported Peter T's suggestion and agreed he should contact Peter Myers to invite him to attend BiB's meeting in January.

#### **751 An update on the Tesco triangle of land in New Walkergate..**

Peter T. reported to the meeting that his proposal for this piece of land to be developed into a garden to celebrate the long years of Beverley's association with R.A.F. Leconfield and the R.A.F. in general, had been rejected. Subsequently, David Ryley (Tesco's Community Champion) had informed him that Tesco would honour their earlier agreement to maintain the land in a tidy state through their contractors but would not develop in any way. Therefore, Peter T. suggested to the meeting that BiB's Plant Choosing Sub-committee should research and devise a planting scheme, which could be presented to Tesco, with the suggestion they paid for the plants. BiB members could plant them as David R. had made it clear Tesco would not employ their workers on the land, due to the proximity of the main road. Peter Dack amended Peter T's suggestion to read, "The plants could be planted by Tesco's contractors". The meeting agreed BiB's Plant Choosing Sub-committee should research plants for this land at some stage in 2015 and present their ideas to Tesco with the suggestion Tesco purchased them and their contractors planted them.

#### **752 North Bar Within boxes**

Peter T. explained that the plan of action devised between himself (as the BiB representative) and the Georgian Quarter to jointly apply for a grant from The High Street Fund had seemingly come to a halt. The Georgian Quarter had, reportedly, been successful in applying on their own for a grant from the fund to add further to their successful art market unveiled earlier this year. However, Peter T. had been in conversation with Marie-Louise, Yorkshire in Bloom's Publicity Manager, who is also employed in Beverley Town Council's office, and as a result she had informed him of a grant the Royal Horticultural Society give to improve Street environments, this includes the flower containers BiB are seeking to purchase. She has offered to help Peter T. to write a bid with a view to obtaining funding to purchase the containers Peter T. already has researched details of through Plantscape. The meeting agreed Peter T. should proceed with this new development in this long running saga.

#### **753 The 'Do-it' Site**

Peter T. reported to the meeting that both he and Chris Upton had been unable to open the documents sent in relation to the national revamp of the 'Do-it' volunteers web site. Therefore, he had asked the Town Clerk to complete the necessary forms to ensure the new BiB advertisement only shows vacancies for 'Practical Hands-on Gardeners' for BiB, ensuring all previous BiB job vacancies are removed.

#### **754 To consider making a Grow Wild Application**

Jim Whitfield brought this item to the meeting and, after a brief discussion involving he and Jack Quigg, it was agreed to defer it to the next BiB meeting in January 2015.

#### **755 A.O.B. / Date of the next meeting.**

A) Peter T. reported to the meeting he had that morning received a personal letter in the post from BiB member Margaret Martin part of which referred to the item he wanted to raise here. He said that the bulb planting event carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014 had taken place in Admiral Walker Road having previously been advertised only in that locality as a Beverley in Bloom event. Notification of the event, details of day, time and place had not been circulated beforehand to all members of BiB. Subsequently, upon his enquiry, he had been told by one BiB member involved that the event had only ever been intended for children, rather than BiB members, to take part in bulb planting. He told the meeting that having been born in that area and subsequently lived there for 26years he totally supported the idea of bulbs being planted beneath the trees, especially by children but he firmly believed on a point of principle all activities advertised in the name of Beverley in Bloom should be circulated to all BiB members a minimum of 7 days before the event takes place. This would ensure every member is kept fully informed even if, as in this case, the presence of only

a few dedicated BiB members is required. The meeting discussed this point during which Jill Yorke and Mary Hutchinson said they supported the proposal as a matter of principle. Peter T. therefore proposed a vote be taken in support of the principle that "From this date all details of any event organised in the name of Beverley in Bloom should be circulated to every member of BiB not less than 7 days before the event." Harold Bottomley seconded it. Nine BiB members voted. The proposal was won; six members voted for it and three members voted against it. There were two abstentions, Sally Knapp having left the meeting earlier.

B) A discussion took place about the fact BiB had been guaranteed, in its agreement with the Beverley Town Council, that four meetings a year would be minuted by the Town Clerk. In view of BiB moving towards fewer General Meetings in 2015, in its proposed new structure, the meeting agreed Jim Whitfield would discuss with the Town Clerk the wishes of this meeting that the agreement be honoured and she attends the next meeting in January 2015 to take the Minutes.

**The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 2.00pm in the Beverley Town Council Meeting Room..**

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**AN IMPORTANT CHANGE TO THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Peter T. and Jim Whitfield were in discussion with Helen Watson Beverley Town Council Town Clerk about BiB issues when it was seen that the January meeting of BiB could not take place on the agreed date of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Instead, **the January 2015 meeting date and time was changed to;**

**FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015 AT 10.30 A.M.**