

Beverley Town Council  
Beverley in Bloom Minutes

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 at 5.15 p.m.

**Present.**

Councillor Jim Whitfield, Sue Dack, Peter Dack, Penny Lynch, Peter Tomkys, Margaret Martin, Tony Ashby, David Ryley, Councillor Harold Bottomley, Matt Snowden, Chrissie Blades, Sally Knapp, Luke Goulden, Chris Washbrook, Chris Upton (minutes)

**671 Apologies.**

Margaret Cunnington, Liz Jones, Wendy Usher- Bacon, Jack Quigg, Ivan Del-Llano

**672 To approve the minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013.**

The minutes were approved and accepted.

**673 Matters arising from the minutes.**

**Min 670**

Questions about the Tesco triangle had been raised and it was discovered that it is the responsibility of Tesco as it is part of their lease. David Riley had spoken to their management and it had been agreed that they would include it in their maintenance with their contractors but that there was no timescale set at this time.

**674 Statement of accounts**

These remain the same as at the last meeting. Balance. £1,979.81

There is a sum of £2000 from the Town Council to for the next financial year 2014/15. This will be paid in two tranches, £1000 in May or June 2014 and £1000 in September/October 2014. If more than that was needed then the Town Clerk would be contacted.

Peter Tomkys said that £433.84 had been spent at Earleys and around £100 would be spent on shrubs at Myers Beck.

**675 Reports**

Co-ordinator's report.

A printout of the report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting so this was taken as read with no further questions.

Councillor Jim Whitfield expressed his gratitude to Peter Tomkys for the work he had done.

Fundraising Committee

The committee had sat just before this meeting and was attended by Helen Watson (Town Clerk), Councillor Jim Whitfield, Penny Lynch, Peter Tomkys and Mark.

It was felt that the aim should be to have a long term strategy rather than just working from year to year. The Town Clerk thought that future meetings could include post it notes with any ideas for the future of Beverley in Bloom could be used and any common themes considered.

The question of charity status was raised but there were things for and against this as Matt Snowden pointed out that there were a lot of criteria and legal requirements to meet which could be somewhat restrictive.

The Town Clerk said that there were other avenues to apply for funding such as ERVAS, an East Riding Voluntary group that was holding a Fair next month also 'Finding Funding' that Peter Tomkys hoped to attend. David Riley suggested that we contact other In Bloom groups to see how they raised their funds and Peter Tomkys agreed to do this.

There were some concerns that the funding from the Town Council might be reduced but Councillor Jim Whitfield assured the meeting that this had already been passed and it was guaranteed for the coming year. With any change in the make-up of Councillors after an election this may have to be looked at again.

## **676. Town Competition.**

Matt Snowden had sent out before the meeting, a paper he had worked on regarding the re-organisation of the Beverley Town Competition and had produced a revised agenda that had been trimmed down and simplified, putting together some categories and having fewer judging criteria.

The new simpler format would be easier to administer leaving the judges to give marks out of twenty rather than the old format covering ten different criteria.

It was hoped that previous judges such as Dorothy Bayldon and Chris Dawson would agree to be judges as they have useful experience from the past.

The area that the competition would cover would include all districts that were attached to Beverley, such as Molescroft but not outlying villages like Woodmansey.

Entry forms could be distributed from the Town Council office, the Tourist Information Centre, the Library and Garden Centres.

The press release could emphasise that marks would be given for ingenuity as well as skill and would include vegetable gardens as well as flowers. The fact that entries were produced by the entrants themselves rather than professional, bought in displays, would be looked at favourably too.

There was an 'Other' category that would include displays that did not fall into the other categories such as the Racecourse.

Awards night could possibly be held at St. Mary's Parish Hall, maybe with the Allotment Prize Giving creating a bigger event. This could give an opportunity to get new volunteers from people interested in gardening.

Liaising with the press would also be a chance to explain why the competition had not been held for the last two years pointing out the extra work involved in the Olympics, Jubilee and Yorkshire in Bloom that had meant that it was difficult to cover all of these. The press release could also include a recruitment drive asking for volunteers to adopt a planted area near them where they could keep an eye on the displays and keep them tidy. This could include a social element.

Councillor Jim Whitfield thought that we should endorse Matt Snowden's plan and this was agreed unanimously.

Peter Tomkys asked if Matt Snowden would be organising this himself or if a sub-committee should be set up but Matt Snowden was happy to go ahead with it alone with maybe impromptu help if needed. Margaret passed on the names of two new volunteers to Matt Snowden.

## **677 Yorkshire in Bloom.**

The Town Council was keen to enter again this year and the Town Clerk had put forward the application. It was thought that Beverley in Bloom should do what they felt and hopes that it is successful. Peter Tomkys felt that we should not enter this year and that we should concentrate on re-organising ourselves. He put forward a motion that we would not enter the competition and this was seconded by Peter Dack who said we should get out of it completely. Sue Dack agreed saying that we were happy to get the positive comments from the towns 'people.

David Riley said he was surprised that so few towns entered and that he thought it would be good to go in for it again.

Councillor Jim Whitfield thought that Beverley in Bloom could do what they want and that the Town Council would take on the administration duties such as the brochure and taking the judges around the town.

Councillor Harold Bottomley thought that if the Town Council was giving £2000, Beverley in Bloom should do enough. He pointed out that new planters with reservoirs had been purchased but this raised the question of sufficient watering by the Handyman in the past. Councillor Jim Whitfield agreed that there had been problems with watering but it had been a hot summer and funding had been used up earlier than anticipated. The focus this year on planting colours for the WW1 commemoration and the Town Competition was enough for the judges to look at.

Matt Snowden thought that Beverley in Bloom could be independent but associated to the Town Council and it was unfortunate that the Spring judging had not been scrapped from the competition.

A vote on Peter Tomkys' proposal that Beverley In Bloom would not enter Yorkshire in Bloom was taken and passed by 11 to 3 votes.

The group is re-organising and there was a need for volunteers to take responsibility for their own areas. It was hoped that the Georgian Quarter could get involved and Matt Snowden pointed out that were holding special events in September and might be willing to help to spruce up the area. Peter Tomkys agreed to contact David Bird in the Georgian Quarter.

David Riley thought that we should explore other media than the press, such as Face book as many younger people do not read the paper. We do have a Beverley In Bloom website and we can leaflet specific areas for help.

## **688 A.O.B.**

Peter Tomkys said because he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer he was temporarily handing over the co-ordinator's role to Chris Upton as he may be incapacitated for around three months following his treatment. Councillor Jim Whitfield expressed his best wishes for the outcome and thanked him for the huge amount of work he had put in, liaising as well as the physical work.

Peter Tomkys said he would put together details of areas such as Minster Towers and give Chris Upton the background.

Chris Upton said that she was a little concerned about the logistics of moving the plants around as Peter Tomkys had been able to use his trailer but it was agreed that members would use their cars to assist with this.

Peter Tomkys pointed out that he had hoped to recruit a minute taker via the Do-It website but that he had had no reply to his email to a possible recruit. He did not feel that the Do-It site was for us.

Chris Washbrook said that the liner contents from last season were not rotting down and that they would need to use an accelerator such as 'Garotta' to achieve this. Councillor Whitfield said that this would be ordered through the Town Council.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00p.m. at Well Lane Offices.