

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the meeting of the Wales in Bloom Sub-Committee held in the Ground Floor Meeting Room, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Wednesday 27 May 2015 at 10am

PRESENT: Councillor E.B. Palmer (Chairman – see minute No. WIB1).
Councillors: J.M. Johnson and P.J. McGarry (Mayor – who presided for minute WIB1).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mrs. K. Davies and J. Griffiths.

IN ATTENDANCE: D.C. Pierce (Clerk).

WIB1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2015/16

RESOLVED:

That Councillor E.B. Palmer be elected Chairman of the Wales in Bloom Sub-Committee for 2015/16.

WIB2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2015/16

RESOLVED:

That Councillor J.M. Johnson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Wales in Bloom Sub-Committee for 2015/16.

WIB3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

None.

WIB4. THE 2014 COMPETITIONS

The Chairman referred to the Town Council's second place honours in both the Wales in Bloom and the Flintshire Best Kept Communities Competitions. He thanked everyone for all the good work put in during the 2014 campaigns.

The Wales in Bloom judge, in his report, had also complimented all involved. He had been particularly pleased to see Holywell submit a private front garden into the competition, which he commended. Also, the designated flower bed in Fron Park, dominated in yellow and a plaque celebrating the 50 years of RHS Britain in Bloom/Wales in Bloom.

The County Council's judge reported improvement to the previous year's entry for the town centre.

The several comments in the various categories in both Areas of Achievement and Areas for Improvement, were noted.

RESOLVED:

That the Judges' Reports be received and noted and that these be considered as part of the ongoing partnership work with the County Council and other organisations to complement the Town Council's future competition entries.

WIB5. OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

5.1. Financial Position

Members had before them a Schedule detailing the financial position in respect of 2014 together with, for comparison, the corresponding position for the previous year, as follows:

	(2013)	2014
	£	£
Pottles Premier Plants Ltd – supply of baskets etc.	2,645.00	2,696.00
Erection/Removal of hanging baskets etc	450.00	450.00
Extra troughs	-	-
Watering of plants	1,200.00	1,300.00
Plant feed	59.89	-
Brackets safety checks/maintenance	-	255.44
Maintenance/repairs - watering equipment	35.00	30.00
Wales in Bloom Foundation	110.00	110.00
Photographs – awards ceremony	-	-
Schools competition	250.00	250.00
Engraving of presentation shield for Schools competition	10.45	9.90
Commemorative Slate Plaque (50 th Anniversary RHS/Wales in Bloom)		
Fron Park	-	350.00
	<u>4,760.34</u>	<u>5,451.34</u>
Less contribution by traders etc	426.00	570.00
contribution by Flintshire County Council (watering at Panton Place)	200.00	200.00
	<u>4,134.34*</u>	<u>4,681.34*</u>
Net cost of scheme*		

*excluding Members' travel etc costs in attending awards ceremony and County Environmental Awards income, covered under separate budget headings.

The allocation of expenditure and income was noted, particularly the increase in the contribution by traders.

The budget for the current financial year remained as £5,000, supplemented by sums of £3,000 for replacement hanging baskets; and £1,000 towards extra watering/hanging basket supports/safety checks, making a total of £9,000.

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule be received and the Clerk thanked for the information provided.

5.2. 2015 Scheme : Supply of Displays – Acceptance of Quotation/Arrangements for Works

The Clerk reported on the arrangements to invite quotations for the supply of hanging baskets (taking into account the Council's new requirements), troughs/planters and lamppost baskets, as well as on the situation regarding the erection/removal of displays and for the regular watering of the displays as required.

The quotation from Pottles Premier Plants of Gorsedd, Holywell had been the only one submitted. The figure for 100 x 16" plastic units with water retention facility worked out at £29.14 each; with a reduced refill cost of £16.25, compared with £25 for the wire hanging baskets (prices kept the same as for 2014). Although a higher cost in the first year overall, a labour saving for the future could be expected. The Clerk had accordingly authorised Pottles to go ahead with the order. Delivery and erection of displays was planned on a date around mid-June.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the action taken in inviting quotations and in accepting the quotation from Pottles Premier Plants of Gorsedd for the supply of replacement (plastic) hanging baskets, troughs/planters and lamppost baskets with plants, be approved.
- (2) That Messrs Geoff Foster and David Owen be appointed to carry out the erection and removal of displays in the total sum of £500.
- (3) That Tom Butler of Holywell be appointed to water the displays for the sum of £500 per

month, on a trial basis, such arrangements to be reviewed prior to the start of the 2016 season.

- (4) That the cost of hanging baskets and troughs/planters to traders etc be set at existing rates as follows:

	£
Baskets filled with plants	18.00
Troughs filled with plants	16.00

WIB6. ACTION PLAN FOR 2015 – WALES IN BLOOM AND FLINTSHIRE'S BEST KEPT COMMUNITIES COMPETITIONS

Consideration was given to ways and means whereby the impact of this year's entry in each competition could be maximised. The Clerk drew attention to the change in this year's banding arrangements in the Wales in Bloom Competition. This meant that the Town Council's entry would be in the National "Town" Category (registered electorate 6,001 – 12,000), formerly the "Small Town" Category (registered electorate 5,001 – 10,000). The change had been brought about to bring the Wales campaign in line with the rest of the country under the RHS requirements. A section for School Gardens was being re-introduced and the Clerk had notified local schools accordingly.

The Clerk also reported on a community project initiative by the Manager of Tesco Stores, Holywell that could have a positive environmental impact. Amongst others, Members of the Town Council had been informed and invited to submit proposals for consideration.

Members appreciated that much continued to be done in support of the Council's entry, taking into account last year's comments by the Judges. A discussion took place with suggestions put forward that embraced the wider remit of the competitions.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the following actions/issues be endorsed for inclusion, as appropriate, in the Council's entries, in addition to places such as St. Winefride's Well, the Art & Craft Mill (and adjoining Tea Rooms), the Recycling Centre (including soil conditioner collection service) and the "flagship" Fron Park which are referred to annually as standard items.
- Ensure that appropriate publicity arrangements are continued including via the Town Council's website.
 - During presentation tour with National Judge, refer to the Basingwerk Community Garden Project (now well

established)/Community Garden at the Holywell Hospital, as well as the workings of Flintshire County Council's Streetscene initiative, the Town Council's School's Project Competition, and meet up with some of those involved en route.

- Town Centre Streetscape Project with European Grant Funding/Statue/Heritage Trail – entrances to the High Street to be tidied up/outstanding works to be completed and planters to be added where appropriate.
- Continue close working arrangements with the County Council in respect of matters arising from last year's reports from the Judges.
- Highlight additional displays for example those private ones outside The Market Cross and The Boars Head on the High Street and if possible in and around The Stamford Gate area, Halkyn Road, Holywell.
- Continuation of local litter-picks as required with the assistance of the Holywell Air Cadets and Transition Holywell (eg 'Stop the Drop' clean up) Tidy up areas adjoining Tesco and Lidl and aim to have the underpass from the Tesco car park jet washed or similar.
- Control of Dogs measures.
- Town Centre Events Programme and the Holywell & District Walking Festival.
- Arrangements to maintain the annual contribution from Flintshire County Council towards watering of floral displays at Panton Place and support from the local business community with the costs of the displays.
- Additional item at Fron Park: Installation of Skatepark. Community Engagement Officer to continue discussions with joint agencies to see how this facility can be developed by and for young people.

(2) That Members forward any additional ideas direct to the Clerk.

WIB7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.40am.

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Chairman