

Hailsham In Bloom Sub-Committee

Report (Minutes) of the Hailsham in Bloom Sub-Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Council Chamber/Meeting Room, Town Council Offices, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, on Wednesday 17th March 2010 at 19.30hrs.

Members Present:

- Cllrs Mrs J. Bentley, J. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), J. Puttick (Vice-Chairman)
- Miss C. Bentley-Astor – *Youth Representative*
- Mr H. Bell – *Hailsham Parochial Church Council*
- Mr J. Henderson – *Hailsham Horticultural Society*
- Mrs J. Simes – *Environment Hailsham*

Officers in Attendance:

- T. Hall
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1. Apologies for Absence

- These were received from Cllr B. Bentley, Mrs B. Henderson, Mr L. Lovelady, Cllr Mrs M. Rowe and Mrs J. Woodley.

2. Declaration of Interest

- None were received.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 3rd March 2010 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. South & South East In Bloom Judges' Tour 2010

- The Chairman confirmed that the date for this year's South & South East In Bloom judges' tour is Tuesday 6th July 2010.

5. Orchard & Sensory Garden

- The Chairman reported that three costings from local groundwork contractors for hard landscaping work have been sought. It is estimated that the required landscaping could cost in the region of £2,000 and all work will be carried out by the contractors without the input from Town Council Works staff. It was agreed that all quotations will be presented at the next sub-committee meeting and a contract tender issued to the successful company on Thursday 1st April 2010.
- Work on the raised brick planters will commence in early May, although some (nondescript) shrubs will be planted at suitable locations within the next two months.
- Cllr Mrs J. Bentley reported that a company selling flowers and shrubs at reduced prices has been sourced and much discussion ensued on the various plant species to be installed in the sensory garden (in each of the five sections).
- It was agreed that Cllr Mrs J. Bentley will place an order for 28 small fruit trees (including apple, pear, plum and cherry) and 4 additional ornamental cherry trees for each of the four corners of the site, and arrange for a pro forma invoice to be sent to the Committee Clerk. The trees will be stored by the retailer and delivery to the Town Council Offices will be arranged in due course.
- Mr H. Bell offered to donate a black bamboo plant for the new sensory garden. Cllr Mrs J.

Bentley reported that numerous other plant donation offers have been received.

- The Chairman stated that the partners and employees of local solicitors firm Hart Reade and able-bodied members of Age Concern Hailsham, have offered to assist with the installation of plants and other garden components on the official planting day which will be held on Sunday 23rd May 2010. Students of Plumpton Agricultural College and members of the East Sussex Association for Blind and Partially Sighted People (ESAB) may also be available to help on the day, although this will be confirmed at future sub-committee meetings.
- The Chairman requested that the Vice-Chairman is to produce a final design of the sensory garden for discussion at the next sub-committee meeting. A final price can then be formulated and passed on to the Hailsham Lions Club for funding consideration.
- The Vice-Chairman reported that he has already commenced work on the combined orchard and sensory garden project portfolio, which may be presented to South & South East In Bloom judges during their tour of the town on Tuesday 6th July 2010.

6. Town Gateway Floral Markers

- The Chairman confirmed that the blueprint for the new town gateway floral marker designs has been presented to a local metal fabrication company and a final quotation will be received within the next two weeks. Work on the production of the additional metal plant containers will commence as soon as the sub-committee's budget has been replenished in April 2010.

7. Tree Planting & Avenue Creation

- The Chairman stated that, due to negative feedback from a number of local residents concerned, the proposal to plant trees in Forest View be abandoned in favour of an alternative location. It was provisionally agreed that eight lime trees are to be planted at the Princess Diana Memorial Avenue at the Hailsham Country Park and two field maples installed on the nearby wildflower meadow mound. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs J. Bentley will obtain prices for these trees and discuss purchase options at the next sub-committee meeting.

8. Creation of Flower Nursery

- The Chairman reported that a local company has offered the sub-committee a 10ft by 10ft poly-tunnel at a discounted rate of £320 and requested that the Committee Clerk attempt to receive a further discount on the proposed price if possible. It was confirmed that the timber required for the flower nursery's slatted flooring will be donated by a local trader and additional flower seeds sourced at a reduced price.

9. Hailsham Country Park Wildflower Meadow

The Chairman reported that a representative of Wakehurst Place (Kew) has confirmed that the results of the soil sampling survey carried out at the Hailsham Country Park during the summer of last year are yet to be received. The necessary data will be forwarded to the Committee Clerk as soon as it is obtained.

10. Town Centre Floral Displays

- The Vice-Chairman reported that a reply to recent correspondence to local MEPs requesting advice on European funding for the town centre (twinning) floral display project has been received, and any developments will be reported at the next sub-committee meeting.

11. Tidying of 'Twittens' & Alleyways

- There was nothing further to report on the 'twitten' clean-up/tidying project.

12. Creation of Bee Shelter/Bee-Friendly Planting at Hailsham Country Park

- The Chairman reported that numerous ridge and slate tiles have been donated to the sub-committee by a local trader, which will be stored until further notice.
- The Chairman reported that an email has been received from an apiculturalist based at the University of Sussex, inviting a member of the sub-committee to a laboratory event at the university in late April, concerning the protection of bees. The Chairman stated that he will contact the apiculturalist to find out more about the event and ask if he would attend the South & South East In Bloom judges' tour on Tuesday 6th July 2010.

13. Repainting of Recycling Point Mural Displays

- The Committee Clerk reported that the painting of the murals at the Waitrose car park recycling site will be carried out by young people from the Square Youth Café next week.
- The Chairman reported that a local Brownie group has agreed to redesign and repaint the weather-damaged murals located at the Victoria Road recycling point, as an additional Hailsham In Bloom project for 2010. It is estimated that the final designs for the murals will be received by the end of April 2010.

14. Creation of Nature Reserve in Hailsham

- It was agreed that a site visit by members of the sub-committee will take place at the proposed 10-acre nature reserve creation site on Saturday 24th April 2010.

15. Use of Empty Shop Unit for Public Information Display

- The Chairman reported that Ross & Co are still looking into the availability of an empty shop in the town centre for use as a Hailsham In Bloom public information centre, and any developments will be reported by the Committee Clerk at the next sub-committee meeting.

16. Hailsham In Bloom Film Night

- The Chairman reported that only a small number of advance bookings for the screening of *Silent Running* have been made to date, although it is estimated that a greater number of people will turn up on the night.
- It was agreed that a raffle or tombola will be organised at the event and donation requests be made directly after the feature presentation.

17. Hailsham In Bloom Tombola

Cllr Mrs J. Bentley presented a donation of £140.20 towards the Hailsham In Bloom campaign, which was generated by proceeds made from a tombola held at Tesco on Friday 12th March 2010. The committee thanked her for her efforts.

18. Date of Next Meeting

- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.30hrs.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 31st March 2010 at 19.30hrs in the Fleur de Lys Council Chamber/Meeting Room, Town Council Offices.