

Highworth



Town Council

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www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Wildflower Feasibility Group held on Monday 20 July 2020

3.

Attendees:

Councillors (Mrs) L Vardy
K Saunders
R Williams
G Evans

HTC Groundsman: P Tilling

Zoom Host: (Ms) D Rose

APOLOGIES

1. None.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2019

2. The Minutes were agreed and no matter arising.

THE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE PROJECT

3. The project was slow, to get off the ground as the decision to go ahead with the pilot plots wasn't made until mid-November 2019. The wet winter and early spring create logistical issues in digging out the beds, which meant they were not ready for sowing until early March 2020

Over the winter research was carried out on potential seed mixes and a kilogram of Plant life's Cornfield jewels mix was purchased. Sowing took place during the early weeks of March 2020. Whilst the rains had stopped the winds had increased and it was problematic to find calm enough days to sow the plots.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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4.

With lockdown and the long spell of dry weather seed germination was slow, but after a slow start the beds have forged ahead and having been providing and increasingly spectacular displays over recent months and are still going from strength to strength.

The turf & earth removed from the Fair view beds was piled along the side of the beds furthest from the bungalows, to provide habitat for burrowing insects such as solitary bees. This was also done to discourage some of the residents and their visitors who drive all over the grass at Fair View from driving over the flower beds.

The beds have been positively received by both residents of Fair View & Park Avenue and the general population of Highworth as a whole. No direct complaints have been received.

Understandably there were one or two on the social media pages whilst the seed was establishing itself but these comments received short shrift from other users of the sites.

Lessons have been learnt and if we are to proceed we really need to sow in the autumn to give the seeds the best start.

THE FUTURE OF THE PROJECT

4. After the initial work of having to prepare the site there is very minimal maintenance required.

Councillor K Saunders advised the group that Pentylands Country Park received funding to purchase equipment to maintain the Wildflower Meadow. The offer of HTC using this equipment at no charge to maintain the wild flower areas was given.

The Wild Flower Working Group is to make Recommendation to the Environment and Leisure Committee that additional areas are to be identified within the Town to expand the project.

It is hoped that this will become a joint community and council project.

STEPS (IF ANY) TO BE TAKEN

5. To be discussed at the E& L Meeting:

- Should HTC do additional beds, patches, or verges around the Town or a combination of all three?
- Suitable locations of additional sites
- Who will maintain these sites?
- Can we engage with the community using social media?

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed after discussion at Environment & Leisure Meeting on 4 August 2020

Meeting closed 11:30am