



MINUTES OF THE WILDFLOWER FEASIBILITY GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2020

Attendees:

Councillors

K Saunders
R Williams
G Evans

Zoom Host/
Assistant Town Clerk: (Ms) D Rose

APOLOGIES

1. (Mrs) L Vardy

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

2. The Minutes were agreed.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

MATTERS ARISING

3.
 - a. Councillor K Saunders will continue to chase Aldi with reference to funding.
 - b. Email correspondence has been received from Dave Roblin confirming the existing site at Roundhills Mead has been cut and the cuttings removed, thanks are to be passed to the Grounds Team. The plot is now being prepared for seed.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

4. Correspondence has been received from SBC Officer Martin Hambidge requesting a maintenance schedule / frequency / timing of cuts and disposal of arisings. Once this information has been received a variation to the Deed can be completed. Any areas of land that are deemed a public highway will require a Cultivation License and any areas belonging to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) will form part of the Deed variation.
- 5.

Re-wilding of the verges	<p>Preparation - Cut the grass and remove cuttings, scarify the area Sow the seed</p> <p>Annually – Late autumn early spring mow and remove the cuttings Weeding as necessary to remove unwanted plants during growing season July/September mow the area and leave for 7 days, remove cuttings and store compost (location to be confirmed) Mow 1-2 cuts in late autumn and re-sow if necessary</p>
Designated areas	<p>Preparation- Remove the turf, scarify the area, potentially add sharp sand and sow the seed Weeding as necessary to remove unwanted plants during growing season</p> <p>Annually – July/September mow the area and leave for 7 days, remove cuttings and store compost (location to be confirmed) Add seed as necessary & lightly dig soil/scarify to cover any seeds over winter</p>
<p>The work outlined is to be carried out by the Wildflower Group as a Community project with the support of Highworth Town Councils Grounds Team. All risk assessments will be carried out by Highworth Town Council prior to any work taking place and all insurances are up to date. This project is linked to HNP policy 12 Local Wildlife and bio-diversity.</p>	

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. Research into online Public Consultations is to be undertaken in the view that a 14-day Consultation can be publicised on the Highworth Town Council website and Facebook pages and can be shared to other Facebook pages, along with leaflets through the doors of areas near to the site proposals advising them of the potential site plans and any comments to be emailed, face book Messenger phone or in person at the Council Offices.

The Goldfinger site already has a lot of self-seeded wildflowers, Councillors agreed to encourage this.

Questions for Public Consultation:

Highworth Town Council is looking to extend the Wildflower Pilot Project as Community Council Partnership initiative, to enhance and add splashes of colour as you move around the Town whilst creating a natural habitat for wildlife such as bees and insects.

If you are interested in assisting with the project please register your interest at the end of the questionnaire.

Q1. Are you in favour of increasing the wildflower areas in Highworth?

A1. Yes/No

Q2. Do you object to any of the sites proposed and if so which ones? (Priory Green, car park at Brewery Street, St Michaels Ave, Cricklade Road and the triangle at Windrush)

A2. Yes/No Comment.....

Q3. Are there any specific areas around the town you would like to see as a Wildflower Area?

A3. Yes/No Comment.....

Q4. Are you willing to assist with this project?

A4. Yes/No Contact email.....

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. Any areas around the Town where ownership is in dispute Highworth Town Council should request to take ownership. The triangle site in Windrush is owned by the developers whom have ceased to exist. The Assistant Town Clerk will make enquiries with Swindon Brough Council and see if this is the same situation for the whole Windrush estate and if so, can we apply for the land? This item is to be a future Agenda item.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8. To be confirmed.

Meeting closed 1:50pm

Actions

- Assistant Town Clerk to liaise with Martin Hambidge at SBC.
- Assistant Town Clerk will make enquiries with Swindon Brough Council and see if this is the same situation for the whole Windrush estate and if so, can we apply for the land? This item is to be a future Agenda item.
- To set up the online public consultation with support from Councillors.