

Minutes of the Meeting of the S & T Parish Council Environment Committee (aka Green Finger Gang) held on Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

1. Welcome: Councillor David Coupe (Chair) welcomed those present at the meeting: Cllr. Angela Cooper, Cllr. A. Liddle, Maureen Holmes, Carole White, Brian Chapman, Lynne Brear, Pauline McInnes and J. Holmes (Secretary) and a special welcome to new members Barbara White, Josie McCabe, Heather & Andy Bulpitt, Joanne & Brian Weightman.

2. Apologies for Absence: Lyn Wharry, Pat Burton, Elizabeth Revett.

3. Winter Planting: Seasonal bedding plants had been purchased and planted by members who had been reimbursed the costs.

4. General:

MH reported that letters had gone out to all known volunteer helpers asking if they are happy to continue tending their allotted areas. Some replies awaited but most have agreed to continue. Currently there are 46 areas (planters, troughs or beds) to tend by 21 volunteers.

The wooden planter at Rose Cottage 1 (Bramble Close) is in poor state of repair and needs to be taken away.

The 2 barrel planters at the entrance to Thornton on Seamer Road to be re-sited near Cedar Drive.

Old village pump – It was suggested that the old village pump on Thornton Road in front of Joanne & Brian Weightman's property would be better sited in a more prominent location. MH had spoken to local residents, and it was proposed that an ideal site would be at the Thornton T junction near the finger post sign where the old rose bed had been. BW was willing to help relocate the pump if approval given.

All persons at the meeting agreed to the proposal of moving the pump to the suggested location. MH to speak to Elizabeth Revett regarding the proposal.

5. Finance – Secretary reported that only £225.75 had been spent in the current financial year, mainly on the purchase of plants. Members to submit claims for purchases.

6. Towns Fund – Chair reported that the Towns Fund was not appropriate for suggested uses made at last meeting.

7. Pond, Rose Cottage 3. – Chair reported that the suds pond was still the responsibility of Taylor Wimpey even though the footpaths around the pond were to be adopted by Middlesbrough Council who believed the pond did not warrant being fenced off. Members present would be pressing for some form of fencing.

8. Garden Event 2022 – Following on from a suggestion at the previous meeting it was agreed that a garden event in the Memorial Hall should be organised for next spring. DC to contact past owners of Cherry Hill Garden Centre for possible speakers. To be progressed.

9. Any other business – AB informed the meeting that residents of Rose Cottage 3 had complained that the bus stop at the bottom of Strait Lane was hidden by the overgrown hedge. Bus users had difficulty seeing up Strait Lane. The ROW footpath from the Wynd to Low Lane through Rose Cottage 3 needed attention. The footpath exit from the pond area onto Low Lane was not aligned to path on the other side of Low Lane and consequently a danger to pedestrians crossing Low Lane.

Chair reported he would organise a 'walk through' of the entire ROW footpath with the Footpaths Officer from Middlesbrough Council, pointing out all hazards mentioned.

10. Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1 February 2022, 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 8.30pm