

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM COMMITTEE
HELD AT WEEPING CROSS DEPOT
4 APRIL 2024

Present

Keith Roberts (Chair), Jane Mackenzie, Pam Moseley & Kath Owen

In Attendance

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Danny Powell (Operations Manager), & Drew Ganley (Countryside & Greenspace Team) & Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager)

Apologies

Mary Davies, Margaret Thrower, David Vasmer & Becky Wall; Darren Woods (Logistics Team), Amy Jones (Amenities Team)

7/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2024 had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

AGREED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

8/23 MATTERS ARISING

Re Min 5.1 – Barnabas Church – Keith Roberts had met Darren Wood on-site and they had determined how many planters were needed. Darren would source spares from the Depot and have them delivered.

Re Min 5.6 – Other Towns – Danny Powell reported that a number of other Parish & Town Councils had sought quotes from the Town Council for plant and basket supplies. A number had requested supply whilst Much Wenlock & Broseley had decided to stick with existing suppliers.

Min 5.7 – Hanging Basket Tree – Danny Powell reported that work is ongoing to develop the infrastructure to support a Hanging Basket Tree in the Quarry; this infrastructure would also be used to install a Christmas Tree in the park.

9/23 WEEPING CROSS OPEN EVENINGS

Work was ongoing in preparing for two Open Evenings: one on the 22nd May for the Business Chamber and the main Open Evening on the 23rd May for the public. Interest had also been sought from the Shropshire Horticultural Society and a Garden Club in Telford to visit; further details are being requested. Publicity will start shortly, and all tickets will be accessed via Eventbrite.

10/23 HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM JUDGING

Date had been booked as Tuesday 23rd July with Nicola Clarke and Joe Hayden visiting. The aim is to start the tour at Weeping Cross and finish at Livesey House showing two Town Council facilities that have never been on the Judging Tour before. Refreshments will be available at both locations as well as a tea & cake stop possibly at the Castle. Stuart Farmer was sourcing a vehicle, though the Mayor's electric car might be used. The route was as follows:

- Weeping Cross Depot & Greenhouse – Tree Nursery
- Emstrey Island
- Oteley Road – New Housing Development POS & SUDS
- Shrewsbury Town Football Club – Garden of Remembrance
- Meole Island
- Cemetery Island
- Cemetery – Gods Acre Volunteers
- Longdon Road
- Stanley Lane Allotments – Meole Allotments Management Committee
- Church Road Recreation Ground – Meole Village Residents Association & White-lining Machine
- Radbrook Primary School – Summer School
- Copthorne Park – Friends of Copthorne Park
- Castle – Conservation Management Plan
- Castle Street
- St Marys Church – Stain Glass Window Restoration Project
- Bear Steps
- Grope Lane
- Unitary Church on High Street – Hood Hub
- Square – Town Crier/Youth/Rangers/Rickshaws
- Quarry & Dingle

The route was currently being worked on to ensure that things weren't left to the last minute. The majority of groups had now been confirmed and availability of Bloom Members can be confirmed at a later date.

Staff will start to work on the Portfolio.

11/23 TOWN OF FLOWERS COMPETITION

Members considered whether to run the Town of Flowers Competition and the following categories were decided.

Category	Closing Date	Judging Date
Front Gardens	30 June	Mid July
School Grounds	30 June	Mid July
Commercial Premises	30 June	Mid July
Pubs, Restaurants, Cafes	30 June	Mid July
Allotments	31 July	Mid August

Helen Ball would look to developing Application Forms and Criteria for the next meeting at which Bloom Members would be asked to help with judging.

12/23 PLANTING 2024

All seed/plugs have been ordered for 2024 season. Many of the Fuchsia & Geranium Plugs have arrived and over 2000 Heliotrope cuttings have been made. The installation of a heated bench will mean that more plants will be able to be grown on from seed. Staff continue to investigate the best compost mix using a mixture of peat free compost and recycled compost. The Sedum Rabbit from the Dingle has been planted. The Business Improvement District has started to promote Hanging Basket Orders.

Away from the Greenhouse, interviews will be taking place for waterers.

For the visit of the Queen, staff installed over 100 union flags along the route. So well received have these been that they will stay in situ all summer and further flags are being ordered to expand around the town centre.

This year's carpet bed at the Castle will feature D-Day and the World War One Bed in the Dingle will pay homage to the Inner Wheel.

Elsewhere climatic conditions are greatly impeding staff ability to start grass cutting. It was reported recently that in the last 18mths there has been 5ft of rain.

13/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Mens Shed – It was reported that Mens Shed had recently dismantled the smaller greenhouse in the Quarry and were relocating it to their Shed at the West Midlands Showground. Mens Shed had also built a number of bird boxes for Town Council woodlands and were looking to help restore a number of park benches.

13.2 Upton Magna Garden Club – A request has been received for a member of the Bloom Committee to present at their meeting on 21st May at 7.30pm. At the request of the Chairman, they had been asked whether they would like to attend the Open Day but they would prefer attendance at their meeting. There was no Bloom Member available. Either the Town Clerk or one of the Operations Managers would do the presentation

14/23 FUTURE DATES

- Thursday 2nd May
- Thursday 13th June
- Thursday 4th July
- Thursday 18th July