

Minutes of MIB Committee meeting held on Monday 21st March 2022, Milngavie United Free Church Hall

Present: Tim Rhead (Chair), Evelyn Parbrook, Fiona Lawrie, Helen Martin, Diane Black, Norman MacLeod, Sheena MacLachlan, Moira Clark and John Davies

Apologies: Sandra Wilson and Ian Mitchell

1. The minutes from the meetings on 24th January and 21st February 2022 were approved.

2. Chair's Report

- a. **Pandemic** – Despite the lifting of most restrictions, there is a high level of Covid in the community and we need to continue to be aware of vulnerable people.
- b. **Publicity** - The March edition of the Community Magazine features the Watering Team appeal. Sandra intends to do a spring newsletter. The committee were asked to think about topics for future articles. Fiona will post the Watering Team appeal on our Facebook page. **Action: FL**
- c. **Health & Safety** - Tim has inspected the contents of the shed with Hugh. The work to upgrade the electrics is expected to take place on 21st March.
- d. **Lennox Park Redevelopment** - There has been a good response to the public consultation. A meeting will be arranged to plan the next stage once the feedback has been assessed.
- e. **Spring Get Together** - This took place on 24th February and was attended by around 30 volunteers, despite the wintry weather. Although the break out groups did not work as planned, it was a successful afternoon and the home baking was very well received.
- f. **East Dunbartonshire Council** - The trees near the shed have been cut back but the work on the charging points and car park wall has not progressed. Jackie Gillespie is off work until the end of May and Tim will find out who is standing in for her. **Action: TR**
- g. **BID** - Tim has written to request that they restore the level of payment for plants and compost to the original amount of £800.
- h. **Telephone Box** - Diane has given the inside an Easter makeover however one of the windows was smashed in an act of vandalism. Diane contacted Mens' Shed who replaced it with perspex. The paintwork needs to be touched up and Diane asked Norman if he could supply her with the red paint. Norman believes it is in the shed and will check and get back to her. **Action: NM** The BID is planning to install CCTV in the central area of the town.
- i. **MUG report** - Tim circulated a note from the meeting on 1 March 2022.
- j. **Milngavie Week** - This will take place between 4th and 11th June, starting with the Classic Car event. MiB has agreed to have a stall at the event.
- k. **Business Cards** - It was agreed that these would be useful to hand out. Tim will arrange for 200 to be printed. **Action: TR**

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. **Monthly accounts** - Norman submitted his monthly report.
- b. There has still been no request to repay the £5000 donation which was made in error. Norman will get in touch with the donor nearer the Year End.

4. Fundraising

- a. There are no grants appropriate for us to apply for at present.
- b. We are still looking for someone to project manage the production of our calendar.

5. Gardening Report

- a. **General** - There have been two gardening sessions since the last committee meeting, both were well attended in spite of some rather cold days. The usual areas were tackled with lots of tidying and pruning as necessary. Some replanting was done in some of the beds around the Fraser Centre with Polyanthuses and Wallflowers. The compost under the tarpaulin at the shed is looking great and will be used to top up the compost for the summer planting in planters, railing planters, barrels, etc. Crafted flower pots have been distributed around the village shops - thanks to Ina and her team of knitters. At the gardening group meeting on 7th March provisional dates for clearing the Community Bed, floral fountains and large planters were agreed. Once finalised the dates will be circulated with a request for extra help.
- b. **Community Garden** - We have given the school a plan of the bed and some ideas for plants and await their response with a design. Ina will chase this up.
- c. **Italian Garden** - Sessions have restarted and the garden is now on a more maintenance level. The adjoining Allander Walkway was planted with wildflower plug plants in the autumn and we are waiting to see how they do as the area suffered from waterlogging during the very wet spell of weather.
- d. **Antonine Garden** - A lot of work has been done here, again lopping and pruning of trees. Janet and her team have made an inventory of the plants in the beds and have been given the go ahead to plant up spaces to improve the area.
- e. **Burnbank Sheltered Complex** - Evelyn has been in further contact with the Warden and tidying up of the area will be organised in April
- f. **Beaver Group at Scout Hall** - As the Beavers are quite young we think planting up some barrels with seeds such as Nasturtiums and dwarf sunflowers, and some herbs, would be best. A date has been arranged for Thursday 24th March.
- g. **Tool Shed** - A tidy up and tool sharpening is scheduled for 29th March.
- h. **West Highland Way** - Sessions have started there and snowdrops are being divided. They will be left by the shed for anyone to collect and add to their own area. Thelma had suggested that the group might take over the barrel at the start of the WHW as it is an outlier from the rest of the barrels in the precinct and slots in between the triangular bed and the start of the footpath. The group agreed to take this on at their session on 17th March and there will be funds available from MiB to buy plants for the barrel, if required.

- i. **Mugdock Car Park** - Daniel has plans for the greenhouse at the back of the shed and has been busy in his garden area in the car park.

6. Clean Sweep

- a. We had great turnouts this month and were delighted to welcome 3 new volunteers.
- b. The Rangers Academy boys did their first litter pick on 9th March. They seem really keen to help and it is hoped that this will become a regular event. They found some fly tipping which was reported to the Council.
- c. The head teacher at Douglas Academy has organised a team to tackle litter on the path leading to the school.
- d. One really bad area at the moment is Aldi's car park and we may need a team in that area on a regular basis. Sheena is planning to send a team there on the next clean sweep day will contact Aldi regarding the amount of litter being found there. **Action: SM**
- e. Scotrail are reducing the funding for plants within the station area and Sheena asked if MiB would make up the shortfall. This was agreed, however Sheena will ask for an update from Nigel and report back. **Action: SM**
- f. Sheena will order more High Visibility tabards. **Action: SM**

7. IT Report

- a. There have been very few emails received since the last meeting and the website is up to date.
- b. Wednesday 23rd March is the second National Day of Reflection, remembering those who have lost their lives during the pandemic. Fiona will post an appropriate message on our Facebook page. **Action: FL**
- c. World Earth Day is on 22nd April and this year's theme is "Invest in our Planet". The main focus is on litter and there is a huge campaign to remove litter across the globe. Fiona will link this to our Big Spring Clean Up on Facebook. **Action: FL**
- d. Fiona spoke with one of our volunteers, Craig Kennedy, at our Spring Get Together and he suggested it would be useful to have a map of Milngavie with all the sites that MiB maintains pinpointed. This could be attached to our Milling about Milngavie document to highlight how many areas our volunteers cover. The committee agreed that this would be useful. **Action: FL**

8. Volunteers

- a. Heather has made contact with all the new volunteers passed to her from Tam and will organise a walk around Milngavie in April.
- b. An email was received from a recently retired couple interested in volunteering. Heather has made contact and suggested that they join in the walkabout in April.

AOCB

Diane advised that some of the plug plants from Dobbies have not done too well, perhaps because they went on sale too early and their roots were not established. An order has been for replacements at no cost.

Diane was approached by Gavin's Mill asking if she would do a demonstration on how to plant up a hanging basket and a trough. This is taking place on Tuesday 3rd May and Thelma is helping out with this. Gavin's Mill will pay for plants, etc and make a donation to MiB.

Date of Next Meeting - Monday 25th April 2022, United Free Church Hall, at 7pm

ACTION LIST

Post appeal for Watering Team on our Facebook page	FL
Update risk assessments	TS
Find out who is standing in for Jackie Gillespie whilst on sick leave	TR
Check shed for red paint for phone box	NM
Arrange for business cards to be printed	TR
Contact Aldi re litter in car park	SM
Contact Nigel for an update on Scotrail funding	SM
Order High Visibility tabards	SM
Link to Big Spring Clean Up on World Earth Day	FL
Obtain street map of Milngavie and pinpoint all sites maintained by MiB	FL

Circulation list:

Committee

Gardening Group

Alastair Richmond