**Halesworth in Bloom**

**AGM**

**Tuesday, 16th April 2024**

**Co-op Community Room**

Attendees welcomed by Chair, Steph Minns

*Those in attendance*: Stephanie Hammond, Gillian Coulson, Nicki Finnan, Reuben Perkins, Lisa Simmonds, Maggie Wisniewski, Sue Bullough, Liz Wooster, Sally Boltun

*Apologies*: Anthea Warne, Karen Chenells, Val Rutterford, Chas Keys, Val Large

Sally Boltun was representing Mors Bags. This is an organisation created to reduce the amount of plastic we use by making bags out of donated fabric. They were kindly donating bags to all HiB volunteers.

*Report on recent activities*: See attached.

*Treasurer’s report*: See attached.

*Election of Steering Group Officers*: **Treasurer** – Liz Wooster, **Secretary** – Gillian Coulson, **Digital Media Officer** – Steph Minns, **Projects and Liaison Planning Officer/Public Relations Officer** –Stephanie Hammond.

*Confirmation of Project Areas and Coordinators/Volunteers*: See attached. Nicki Finnan has offered to be a very welcome new volunteer on Tuesday work parties.

*Confirmation of Committee*: Steering Group plus Lisa Simmonds, Maggie Wisniewski and Anthea Warne

*Future plans*:

* Stephanie reported that HTC are planning new planters for the Market Place. They are currently being made and HiB will plant them up when they are in place. A lot of new signage is also planned for the town. It was noted again that HTC greatly appreciate the work that HiB do around the town.
* The need for the tiered planter in the Market Place was raised yet again. Lisa will check with HTC about who it actually belongs to, and also with Chas (who looks after it) to see if he would rather it was just removed as it is so difficult to maintain.
* HTC are holding the Annual Parish Meeting in the Town Park on18th May. There will be entertainment, food and drink. HiB will have a stall. It will be an opportunity to promote the Business Floral Frontage event to be judged in July.

Gillian reported that she and Val Rutterford are not doing the children’s gardening club at Edgar Sewter at the moment. The school does not have a teacher to take that on, and because of security rules and access issues it is very hard to run the gardening club without a teacher involved. The school will let Val and Gillian know if the situation changes.

*Any other business*:

* Sue, who tends the planter on the Norwich Road, has a mystery gardener who likes to remove plants that she has personally bought and carefully planted and then they replace them with other plants or sometimes just rearrange plants. This, as we can all imagine, is somewhat annoying! Any sleuths who could solve this mystery, please get in touch!
* Red Dune, who have made a very generous donation to HiB, have suggested that HiB could have plaques showing companies that have made a donation. We agreed to invite businesses to sponser a planter. Liz will discuss this with the Assistant Town Clerk Phillippa, who has previously asked about passing information about HiB on to businesses.
* Val Large, who planted and maintained the Herb Garden, was always happy to welcome visitors to her garden for any Open Garden event and was a keen supporter of HiB. She is now having health issues and is unable to participate as she has in the past. All agreed that we should send flowers as a “thank you”. Gillian will organise that.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Gillian Coulson - Secretary