

Minutes of MIB Committee meeting held on Monday 29th August 2022, Milngavie United Free Church Hall

Present: Tim Rhead (Chair), Sandra Wilson, Fiona Lawrie, Helen Martin, Diane Black, Moira Clark, Ian Mitchell, Evelyn Parbrook, John Davies and Craig Kennedy

Apologies: Sheena MacLachlan, Norman MacLeod

1. Tim welcomed Craig Kennedy to his first committee meeting. The minutes from the meeting on 18th July 2022 were approved.

2. Chair's Report

- a. **Publicity** - Our summer newsletter was produced by Sandra and circulated to our volunteers. Once our annual report has been published we will submit an article to the Community Magazine.
- b. **Health & Safety** - Sandra referred to her recent illness which could be linked to compost. Whilst there is a health warning on compost bags, it is very small and easy to overlook. The handling of compost, fertiliser or other chemicals is referred to in our Gardening Risk Assessment and the advice is to only use in ventilated areas and wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Moira suggested that we add this as a gardening tip/reminder on our 2023 calendar.
Action: Calendar Group
- c. **EDC** - Tim wrote to EDC regarding the delay in completing the new power points in Mugdock Road car park. He received a reply advising that the matter is with the legal section of Scottish Power. As this work was started 18 months ago it may be worth speaking to local Councillors. **Action: TR**
- d. **Volunteer Afternoon Tea** - This was a great success and was enjoyed by all. We had a great turnout and everyone mixed. The catering by Posh Tarts was much appreciated.
- e. **Milngavie Youth Centre** - Tim attended a meeting on 21st August with Lynne Gibbons and Stuart Sharkie from MYC. They have recently held their AGM and have new Committee members. They would like to have a representative from MiB on the Committee, however it was suggested that we perhaps attend one meeting and thereafter share Committee meeting minutes. It would, however, be useful to meet with their new Youth Worker to discuss involving young people in MiB. MYC is happy with the recent tree removal and said that we can continue to use the area covered by sheeting and used for leaf mould, but they may need it back in the future. They have been in touch with EDC to ask for help removing weeds from the front of the Waypoint pavilion, but may ask the Community Service Volunteers to help and asked Tim for a contact name.
- f. **AGM on 8th September** - Sandra is working on a powerpoint presentation for Tim which will be ready by the end of the week. A representative from the Ramblers will be giving a short talk and we are expecting around 11 invited guests. St Joseph's has a huge collection of glassware we can use, Ian and Moira will pick up refreshments and Diane will purchase nibbles.

Diane, Sandra and Evelyn will do floral arrangements for the tables. Fiona has been in touch with Willie Anderson from Baldernock Gardening Club and has arranged to borrow their projector.

- g. **MUG meeting** - Tim circulated a note from the meeting he attended on 29th August.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. **Monthly accounts** - Norman submitted his monthly report.
- b. **Annual Accounts** - as the AGM is taking place earlier than normal, it was noted that the final accounts to July 2022 will not have been examined and approved by our Independent Examiner.

4. Fundraising

- a. There are no grants appropriate for us to apply for at present.
- b. We recently received an email from the Community Lead at Waitrose Milngavie regarding the possibility of a donation or funding for a specific project. Sandra will arrange a meeting and suggest sponsorship of the Community Bed next year.

Action: SW

- c. Calendar - To date 15 businesses have agreed to advertise again but there are challenges contacting the decision makers for the remaining 8. A cut off date of 12th September has been set for them to confirm or otherwise. Craig will contact the printer, Rannoch Press, to confirm the date the first draft will be available.
Action: CK. 500 calendars are being produced and the sale price will remain at £8.

5. Gardening Report

There have been 3 sessions since the last Committee meeting and all have been well attended with 14 or 15 volunteers.

- a. **Fraser Centre and Village** - The "Crown" garden at the Fraser Centre has looked great and we have to thank the Watering team for all their efforts during the hot spells of weather. The biggest problem there and throughout the village has been chickweed and it has been tackled at every session! We are going to contact Craigdhu School this week about removing the Crown in October, before the Poppies for Remembrance Day are laid out. We were given plants from Tesco and these were used to fill in gaps in the other beds. The roses have been regularly deadheaded and all beds weeded and tidied. There will need to be a big pruning session of older shrubs at the Fraser Centre and Graeme Bed in the autumn
- b. **Railing Planters** - Diane and her team keep these looking good.
- c. **West Highland Way** - A work day was held on Thursday 18th August. There was a concern that there may be Japanese Knotweed in the area but that seems to have been a well-intentioned false alarm, thankfully.

Jenny did point out a couple of Japanese Knotweed plants near the river bank, on the other side of the railing, so we do have it very near to our planted area and will need to keep a lookout. Helen will mark the location and contact East Dunbartonshire Council to try to get it treated.

Helen picked up about 15 perennial foxgloves donated by Waitrose and these were planted in various areas. They were a bit sorry-looking but should come to life in the spring. All areas were weeded and pruned, and are all looking good. Some leaf mould was spread and Hugh is keen to create some space in his corrals before the next lot of leaves come down. More goosegrass was cleared from the wildflower bed and that area will be strimmed at the next meeting. The barrel at the start of the WHW was tidied and a couple of begonias and half a dozen coleus plants were added to give a splash of colour before it is replanted in the autumn.

There was a discussion about the high area, where John and Fiona have done so much work. John has a list of plants which he can acquire from various sources, and anyone else with ideas can contribute to the drafting of a planting plan.

- d. **Carers Link Garden and Ellangowan Area** - General maintenance continued
- e. **Antonine Garden** - This has had a lot of work done by Janet and her team, pruning weeding and tidying
- f. **Heather/ Colpi Bed** - Some extra compost is needed as the soil is mostly heavy clay.
- g. **Fish Ladder** - Ian has maintained the barrels there and done a sterling job with watering!
- h. **Allander area** - Italian Garden is looking very good and area around it . The problem is the walkway area. Sandra Anton from "It's Your Neighbourhood " visited on 29th August and was impressed with the Garden . She is going to get us advice from her Biodiversity officer re the Allander Walkway and Allander Road areas.
- i. **Barrels** - Thelma is going ahead with ordering new barrels
- j. **Mugdock Carpark** - Daniel is doing his best to improve the area with a new wildflower bed.
- k. **Station Area** - Evelyn has been in touch with Nigel Scott re arrangements with ScotRail. These are not proving easy, however Tim will write formally regarding future funding. Evelyn will ask Nigel for a contact name. The station bed itself is being well maintained and looks good. One barrel has been removed by them as it was falling apart. Diane commented that the hanging baskets in the station are plastic and in bad repair. She asked if they could be replaced.
- l. **Town Hall Area and Lillie Art Gallery** - These are all being well looked after .
- m. **Other areas** - The Walking Man bed is being maintained. The Southgate Bed has benefited from donated plants from Tesco and is being looked after by the residents. The sunflowers planted by the Beavers at the Scout Hall have been watered by the "caretaker" there and are most impressive. Park Road Area is having an assessment.

September and October are going to be busy sessions and extra sessions may be needed for the Planters and Floral Fountains.

There are daffodils, crocuses and tulips dried off by Hugh and now in the shed and these will need to be planted. We think some should go to Lennox Park (not tulips). This will be discussed at next Gardeners Group Meeting.

6. Clean Sweep

- a. We had good turnouts at both sessions in August and were delighted to welcome two new volunteers, Moira and Pamela. Amy Callaghan and her assistant Pamela Marshall joined the litter pick on 3rd August and tackled the West Highland Way. Feedback received has been that litter has not been too bad, although car parks continue to be the worst areas. Trolleys are being found scattered around the village and our MSP and MP are taking up the issue.
- b. It was noted that we need more photographs of our Clean Sweepers but this proves difficult as they tend to scatter and work alone or in pairs. There will be discussion with Sheena at the next Committee meeting about arranging a social event after a clean sweep session later in the year.

7. IT Report

- a. Fiona was pleased to report that a response was received to our advert for a Social Media Convenor from Joanne Caldwell. Tim and Fiona had had a meeting with Joanne earlier that day to give an overview of MiB and discuss the role. It is planned to invite Joanne to the AGM and in due process she will be co-opted onto the Committee. In preparation for Joanne taking over from her, Fiona is spending time reviewing all the documents held on the website and deleting any duplicates and old versions.
- b. Apart from the email from Waitrose, the emails received since the last meeting have been Spam.

9. Volunteers

- a. There was no update from Heather.

10. AOCB

- a. John forwarded an advert from Better Briggs offering Feel Good gardening sessions. Tim suggested that John could go along to a session as it would be an opportunity to see if it attracts new volunteers. Tim will provide John with a contact name at Better Briggs. **Action: JD.** It was agreed that there needs to be proper discussion about how we attract new volunteers to MiB. This should be added as an Agenda item rather than a quick chat at the end of the meeting. **Action: TR**
- b. **Telephone Box** - Diane has obtained replacement glass and paint. She has had difficulty contacting Mens' Shed, however they have identified a volunteer to

replace the glass but need someone to do the painting. Diane is thinking about a display for Halloween.

- c. Fiona advised that Helen has forwarded her the volunteer hours worked on the West Highland Way since February. It was suggested this is forwarded to Evelyn as we may present this information in future reports.
- d. It was agreed that we will have a stall at the Reindeer Parade on 26th November. As this is the same day as a gardening session, Evelyn will look into it. **Action: EP**

Date of Next Meeting - Monday 17th October 2022 at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.

ACTION LIST

Discuss Mugdock Road car park with local Councillors	TR
Contact Rannoch Press re first draft of 2023 calendar	CK
Add reminder about compost to calendar	Callander Group
Contact Craigdhu School regarding removal of crown from Community Bed	EP
Arrange meeting with Waitrose re funding/donation	SW
Discuss social event for Clean Sweepers at next meeting	ALL
Attend gardening session with Better Briggs	JD
Recruitment of new volunteers to be added as Agenda item	TR
Forward volunteer hours worked on WHW to Evelyn	FL
Look into Gardening session on 26 th November	EP

Circulation list:

Committee

Gardening Group

Alastair Richmond