

Minutes Hopton in Bloom AGM 2020 Wednesday 25th November at 7 pm by Zoom

1. Minutes of last AGM Wednesday **20th November** 2019 were proposed by Alison Seconded by Lynne and all agreed they were a true record

2. Matters arising None

3. Election of Officers

There being no other nominations the following were elected en bloc

Chairperson Kath Cockerill

Treasurer Alison Hayman

Secretary Chris Breare

Proposed by Gail and seconded by Toni and all in favour

Lynne proposed a vote of thanks for the work done by the officers over the last twelve months

4. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT to 31st October 2020

Alison presented her annual report and balance sheet.

The Current A/C balance at the end of last year (31/10/19) was £10692.35.

From 1/11/19 to 31/10/20 we have had an expenditure of: £2886.42

Plants £736.65 - Compost/weed/feed/watering £135.76 – Equipment £258.26 - Building Projects £1316.65 - Advertising £119.97 - Miscellaneous £319.13.

From 1/11/19 to 31/10/20 we have had an income of £50.00:

Donations £50.00.

The balance @ 31/10/20 £7855.93.

PETTY CASH

The Petty Cash balance at the end of last year (31/10/19) was £291.20.

From 1/11/19 to 31/10/20 we have had an expenditure of £418.74:

Plants £71.79 – Compost/W Killer £14.48 - Equipment £87.08 –

Building Projects £208.15 - Advertising £37.24.

From 1/11/19 to 31/10/20 we have had an income of £230.20:

Plants Credits £32.20 - Advertising £58.00 – Miscellaneous £100.00 –

Donations £40.00.

The balance @ 31/10/20 £102.66

She reported that over the year we had a deficit of £2,836 as we have not held any funding raising events. However we usually spend up to £3000 each year on bedding plants but this year we most of the spending has been on building projects, which will permanently enhance the village. These are broken down:-

HOPTON IN BLOOM PROJECTS 2019 - 2020

Yew Trees & Pathway		Gravel/ Edging	Bark Fencing	Yews	Membrane
Gravel & edging stones	£216.83	£216.83			
Membrane	£32.00				£32.00
Edging stones	£239.52	£239.52			
Gravel & edging stones	£161.16	£161.16			

Gravel & edging stones	£152.72	£152.72				
Bark	£35.05		£35.05			
Yew trees	£66.24			£66.24		
Yew trees	£38.64			£38.64		
Gravel P/C	£40.80	£40.80				
Membrane P/C	£7.50				£7.50	
Fencing P/C	£27.99		£27.99			
	<u>£1,018.45</u>	<u>£811.03</u>	<u>£63.04</u>	<u>£104.88</u>	<u>£39.50</u>	<u>£1,018.45</u>
			Shrubs/			
Circles		Stone	Plants	Compost		
Stone	£312.00	£312.00				
Shrubs	£112.39		£112.39			
Junipers	£48.00		£48.00			
Compost	£14.61			£14.61		
Compost	£19.77			£19.77		
Shrubs	£82.68		£82.68			
Shrubs	£26.03		£26.03			
Muckers Mulch	£28.50			£28.50		
Plants	£69.60		£69.60			
Building materials P/C	£131.86	£131.86				
	<u>£845.44</u>	<u>£443.86</u>	<u>£338.70</u>	<u>£62.88</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£845.44</u>
Gateway to Recreation Ground						
Sand & cement	£13.95					
Sand & cement	£28.95					
Sand & cement	£12.10					
Sand & cement	£5.76					
	<u>£60.76</u>					<u>£60.76</u>
Wildlife Garden						
Gravel	£47.22					
Gravel	£94.44					
	<u>£141.66</u>					<u>£141.66</u>

Alison thanks Andrea for auditing the accounts and signing them off.

Kath thanked Alison for her report and meticulous work all year in keeping the accounts.

5. Secretary's Report

Chris gave her report.

After our AGM in November 2019, we began another year full of hope and plans for a lot of activity for the coming year. We completed the application of the Green Flag award for Community Parks for our Recreation ground but decided that we that we are still in the middle of several projects and would not enter Yorkshire in Bloom in 2020. We were delighted to be awarded the Green Flag again in September.

Following a complete overhaul of our insurance policy and a lot of hard work by Roger and Michael Hampshire, we now have a combined policy for UHCA, which incorporates Hopton in Bloom and we are very grateful to them both.

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas get together in Croft House in January. The members of our team as we began this year were

- ❖ Gail and Richard Auty
- ❖ Toni Baldwin
- ❖ Anne Blamires
- ❖ Chris Breare
- ❖ John Broscombe
- ❖ Kath and Dennis Calnan
- ❖ Kath Cockerill
- ❖ John Farren
- ❖ Margaret Gill

- ❖ Anita Godden
- ❖ Alison and Tony Hayman
- ❖ Russell Heaton
- ❖ Roger Leedham
- ❖ Sandra Moylan
- ❖ Dammika Nixon
- ❖ Lynne Stagg
- ❖ Phil Tolson
- ❖ Jean Williams

Very sadly, we lost John Broscombe, one of the stalwarts of our team, who died on July 23rd and here is a tribute from Lynne

“He was a true friend to Upper Hopton and its people in so many ways. Many of you will have known him because he was always around getting involved in all sorts of things.

John was multi-talented with many skills and ideas.

The telephone box displays were a good guide to his talents – the bike going through the box to celebrate the Tour de France, a football on top of the box for Huddersfield Town, Christmas displays, which were so charming and lovely summer features such as a teapot pouring into a cup. John thought about these for ages and then brought them to life for our enjoyment.

He was a ‘Bloomer’ in Hopton in Bloom not so much gardening as constructing things. Construction comes into his village improvements – the new entrance to the Recreation Ground, the edging of the village car park and the new back entrance to the graveyard.

John helped with the summer fete and he helped at the church and sang in the choir as well.”

When John began building the steps and walled gateway between the churchyard and the recreation ground he decided to have a stone inscribed “Annus Pestis Erat” (this was the year of the plague) to record our enforced quarantine during the early months of the Covid 19 pandemic. Chris Ledwidge very kindly inscribed the stone together with another on the other side “JSB 2020” as a permanent tribute to John. The phone box was filled with tributes to him for all his work with HiB, UHCA, RNLI and the Club where he organised fundraising events.

In September, we welcomed new members Ashley and Alex Raine and Matthew Baldwin. We were aware Ashley, a former chairman of UHCA, was terminally ill but he helped with the ongoing construction of the wall and sadly he died on Nov 4th. Ashley was Chair of UHCA when the K6 telephone box was saved from removal by BT and John was responsible for completely restoring it ensuring genuine parts were used.

We are also pleased to welcome Anita Green and Sue Plimley to our team specifically to help with displays in the K6 telephone box.

Although it has been a difficult year, many of us feel that being able to continue our regular Wednesday morning community projects, while following socially distancing guidelines, has kept us sane during this pandemic

These are the projects we have been and continue to be busy with;-

The circular beds in the Rose Garden have been raised by building a wall around them thanks to Michael Hemingway; the urns have been taken out, and used as birdbaths in wildlife garden; they have been filled with compost and planted with permanent shrubs and ground cover to eliminate the need for annual bedding. Sadly the two juniper trees did not survive and will be replaced soon.

A new Yew hedge replacing the trellis fence with a defined pathway behind it to allow cutting.

We have revamped the 3rd circle on banking

The beds around the edging in Rec are to be tackled once a month as a team.

This year we did not plant the mangers at Croft House as we were unsure how long the total lockdown would continue.

The barrels around the village and lamppost planters at Croft House were planted with begonias. The Fish Shop has been completely cleared out and now houses our equipment and stands for the Village Fete. The task of regular weeding and maintenance in the Recreation ground was a challenge this year after a warm and sunny Spring and then lots of rain, the weeds grew to a gigantic height during the total lockdown from March to June. Regular weeding sessions are now the norm with sometimes an extra session on a Monday. The bark pathway in the wildlife garden has been replaced with a gravel path.

The birch tree in the Teacup was getting too tall and it has been moved to a spot just over the wall into ground surrounding the car park. Another tree, near the border with the Hall, was leaning and has been straightened and supported in its new position.

The circular beds at Hopton Drive and Avenue have been cleared and hydrangeas planted and the border beds weeded.

Over several months, the churchyard has slowly but surely been cleared of overhanging braches, saplings, brambles and ivy making it a haven for visiting relatives and for wildlife with new planting of winter and summer bulbs and ground covering perennial to encourage pollinators.

Some new tools have been purchased and stored in the container to enable us to work more efficiently and we now have a small greenhouse behind Croft House to nurture and bring on our plants.

Construction of the gateway to the recreation ground continues with Matthew joining the team.

Working with Preschool.

Plans to work with Preschool had to be abandoned for two reasons, the pandemic and an increase in the numbers of children attending which makes it difficult to staff the small working groups. The children were delighted to see the apple tree they planted last year bearing copious fruit which they enjoyed eating.

Fundraising this again has been on hold with the Gardeners' Question time, Garden Trail and Plant sale planned to take place next year

Publicity.

Thanks to Roger and John for updating and refreshing our website and to Sandra for the Hopton in Bloom Facebook page. For all who help with the displays in the Telephone box.

Thanks are due to Amanda Poulson, Andy Goff from Kirklees who provide us with support, and plants and very importantly clear our rubbish with the help of Keith and his tractor. This year they have provided and installed a flagpole so that the Green Flag can fly to designate our community park.

Thanks also Knowle Park Nursery and Horticulture who supply our wonderfully healthy plants at a discount.

Future plans

Create a path at rear of Croft House and planting scheme for shade.

Finish gateways –get a quote for the wrought ironwork planned for the gateway between Croft House and the rec.

Fish shop is to be refurbished

In the Recreation Ground, we hope to make a Woodland Nature Trail for children to explore with the help of the families with young children. This is the safest area of the Rec where young children can run freely.

We are so very grateful for all the wonderful community support we receive from people far and wide and particularly during lockdown when residents were confined to walking round the village for exercise and so many have recognised what a wonderful place it is to live.

6. Date of AGM next year Wednesday November 17th 2021