

Reighton & Speeton In Bloom – Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting
Held Thursday 24th April 2014 Commencing at 8pm

Present: 22 residents of the two villages and Sheila Johnson from SBC (Apologies: Linda Wilson)

1. Minutes of the Last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 16th April 2013, having been circulated, were accepted as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

3. Chairman's Report

Lesley Paddock thanked everyone who had helped with planting/groundwork and litter-picking. She also thanked Sheila Johnson for her support and advice and for organising the Best Kept Garden competition.

She also thanked Betty and John for providing wood; Neil for making the nest boxes; and Doreen Goodall for supplying the oak tree.

The group had made progress during the year with a new flower-bed planted at the bus-stop and the planting of the jubilee tree.

We had no major projects for the forthcoming year as we don't want to "over-do it". We could plant some snowdrops near the pump and introduce some planting near the chevrons near Jean Dawson; plant up around the new footpath entrance on Church Hill; and there were some tubs to plant out – including the one for the village hall.

Speeton:

Lesley reported that there was some new interest with local residents making a good job of planting out the trough on Chapel Lane. There was also progress with the bed on Beacon View. Lesley would review progress over the spring and summer to see what would grow on this windy site. We would also look into creating a new bed near the trough using some of the £128.42 remaining grant money earmarked for Speeton Beacon View.

4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that we had not applied for any grant-funding this year. Income had consisted of the £130.80 proceeds from a Bingo night and £110 in donations. Expenditure consisted of the £70 RHS premium; £111.03 in plants/accessories; £15 room hire and £35.60 for a jubilee plaque. Income exceeded expenditure by £9.17 and we ended the year with a bank balance of £546.74CR.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

The following were proposed by Stephen Hinchliffe and seconded by Peter Cross:

Chairman: Lesley Paddock; Vice-Chairman: Neil Kempson; Secretary: P Riley; Treasurer: P Riley

Committee: Linda Wilson, Bill Basson, Lynne Wells, Pat & Peter Cross, Judy Triffit, Syd & Janice Carter, Rose Saltonstall,

Tricia Peake, Ken Bradley, Carole Ackerman, Michele Cosier-Randall, Beth Wright.

6. Best Kept Garden Competition

Lesley Paddock proposed a changed format this year with two trophies:

- (i) Best Small Garden or small part of a garden or pots, hanging baskets or just a garden feature;
- (ii) Best Large Garden – to be judged on an Open Garden evening with voting by local residents (anyone can vote so long as they don't vote for their own garden).

The Open Garden would just be advertised within the village. Lesley and Sheila Johnson would liaise to refine the format.

We would have another Sunflower competition to encourage children to get involved. We would possibly have a separate competition for vegetable plots.

It was hoped that there might be a revival of interest from Speeton if we can get some of the newly arrived residents involved.

7. A.O.B

There was a short discussion about the maintenance of the Dotterel Roundabout where we expect a sponsorship arrangement to be put in place shortly.

“All Muck and Magic”

Sheila Johnson reported on a new format for recognising the efforts of residents in maintaining their villages with a presentation of the “Oscars of Gardening” at the Spa in September. This would operate on a less formal basis than the previous Best Kept Village Competition which many villages were reluctant to enter.

Photographs of all the villages would be screened under a “community challenge” format. However, with our programme of planting and the regular litter-picks, there would be no need to do anything in addition what we are already doing. Sheila hoped that the less formal re-launched celebration night would attract people who haven’t come along in previous years.

Litter-pickers: Sheila agreed to obtain prices for some long-pickers and we expect to order three of these. Sheila reminded us that there was a helpline for fly-tipping and that the council has very good response times. Helpline Number 232323.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.