



# Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



## BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB Minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2024 7.30 at The Shed

Present: Anthea Mabey (AM), Dave Bennett (Chair), Gill Hamill (GH), Larry Mabey (LM), Linda Haysom (LH), Maewyn Cumming (Sec), Nicole Jones (NJ), Ron Haysom (RH). Gill Willilams (observer/cooptee)

1. Apologies. Kate Cassell (KC)
2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed.
3. Actions. The actions list was updated.
4. Trustees. Liz McClymont had tendered her resignation just before this meeting. Gill Williams had expressed an interest in becoming a trustee with an eye to taking on the monthly meetings. **ACTION:** MC to update Charity Commission list of trustees.
5. Finance. LH presented the finance report. The balance at the end of March was £19,999.61, an increase of £617.63. A budget meeting was held on 11 April, and some progress made to setting budgets for this year. LH asked for suggestions for a 'wish list' of items to purchase if we can afford them. **ACTION:** All: let LH know of any items for the wish list.
6. Membership. Membership is stable, increasing slowly. DB has established that we are eligible for a free version of Office 365, and installed it. Once it is set up it should make managing the membership, and other administrative tasks, more efficient and greatly increase resilience. It will allow us to have an email address per trustee role.
7. Trading. Steady now that the weather has improved a little. The door and key box codes need to be changed to ensure security and GDPR compliance. **ACTION:** LM to change the Shed door code. DB to change the key box code.
8. Allotments. Now that the weather is improving, growing should be starting in earnest. AM will soon be sending a note to those who are failing to cultivate their plots. One plot holder has been given notice to quit; they are saying we have not followed the exact procedure but not specified which procedure. They were given more time than the minimum of 30 days' notice. **ACTION:** DB to respond to the plot-holder giving details of how the process was followed.
9. Allotments maintenance. Kate had submitted a written report. Some paths are showing serious rutting and once the ground dries hard these could be a trip hazard and make mowing very difficult. **ACTION:** MC to ask members to tamp down and if possible fill in so that the ruts are minimised. The rubble we had been offered by the Cricket club proved unsuitable for our needs. Heras fencing had been used to build a cage at the far end of track one, to be used as an additional

manure pen. Woodchip deliveries will go beside the new pen. **ACTION:** MC to ask members to look out for woodchip deliveries. The pay back team had moved some Heras fencing and cut back most of the brambles from the far fence line. Clancy will probably be in over the next few weeks to finish the far top track. It will quite disruptive but should only take a few days.

10. Roads etc We await the Parish Council's response to questions regarding the gates. We have now received two complaints from local residents about parking – on warmer dryer weekends there are many cars parked on nearby roads, some of them rather badly parked, and this is causing a nuisance and a hazard. We will ask any residents who bring this issue to us to complain to the Parish Council who have responsibility for this.

11. Plant sale. Unfortunately the Scouts have their annual plant sale on the same day as us – there isn't really anything that can be done at this stage, just hope it does not have a detrimental impact on our takings. Volunteers are still needed. Trustees are all asked to attend, and preferably bring cakes! **ACTION:** GH to provide MC with text to remind members about the Plant Sale. **ACTION:** LH to respond to the member who offered plant pots, to say we don't need the plastic ones but will take ceramic ones.

12. Monthly programme. The speakers for this year have all returned their forms and given the correct venue. Several trustees visited St Peter's church Hall and judged it to be better than the Junior School as a venue. **ACTION:** MC to confirm booking of the Church Hall for the rest of this year. It was felt that 'monthly meetings' is not a good name for these events. **ACTION:** All to suggest new name(s) for the monthly meetings.

13. Social programme. There are still tickets for the excursion on 21 May. **ACTION:** MC to send reminder to members about the coach trip, and also put something on social media. LH and RH to take coach trip flyers to the Parish Council event on 17 April. Catering for the annual social will be done by a commercial firm as we have no volunteers from among the membership. **ACTION:** NJ to contact Bishop's Waltham Country Market re details of catering for the social. The speaker has still not been confirmed. **ACTION:** MC to chase Perennial re the speaker for the social.

14. Communications. Robin Breach will be contacted re taking over some of the communications role, with assistance from MC as needed. **ACTION:** MC to contact RB re the communications role. MC to contact Liz McClymont re handover of the communications role. It was **AGREED** that we would trial the publication of a newsletter, three times per year, to be written by RB. Some members may have trouble using our website as it is on a rather outmoded platform that does not perform well on phones and tablets. **ACTION:** MC to investigate better platforms for the website.

15. Charity work.

A meet and greet for the new Orchard volunteers was held at the shed. We now have sufficient volunteers for this work. HCS have confirmed that the Butterfly Garden fencing will be replaced in June. It has been confirmed that the Millennium sculpture belongs to the Club. **ACTION:** RH to arrange removal of the sculpture to the allotments, where it will be placed at the entrance. DB to write to Den Marriner to thank him for his many years of service maintaining the rose garden. The sponsorship policy is being updated and will be presented at the next meeting.

16. Other business. We had been asked to promote a plant and craft fair in Winchester. It was **AGREED** that we would maintain our policy of not promoting other organisations' events.

GW confirmed that she would like to become a Trustee, and was formally coopted.

Meeting finished at 9.33pm

Next meeting 20 May 7.30pm at the Shed

### **ACTIONS ARISING**

All: let LH know of any items for the wish list

All to suggest new name(s) for the monthly meetings.

DB to change the key box code.

DB to respond to the plot-holder giving details of how the process was followed.

DB to write to Den Marriner to thank him for his many years of service maintaining the rose garden.

GH to provide MC with text to remind members about the Plant Sale.

LH to respond to the member who offered plant pots, to say we don't need the plastic ones but will take ceramic ones.

LH and RH to take coach trip flyers to the Parish Council event on 17 April.

LM to fix shutter hinge at shed (carried forward from last month).

LM to change the Shed door code.

MC to ask members to tamp down and if possible fill in so that the ruts are minimised.

MC to update Charity Commission list of trustees

MC to ask members to look out for woodchip deliveries.

MC to chase Perennial re the speaker for the social.

MC to confirm booking of the Church Hall for the rest of this year.

MC to send reminder to members about the coach trip, and also put something on social media.

MC to chase Perennial re the speaker for the social.

MC to contact RB re the communications role.

MC to contact Liz McClymont re handover of the communications role.

MC to investigate better platforms for the website.

NJ to contact Bishop's Waltham Country Market re details of catering for the social

RH to arrange removal of the sculpture to the allotments, where it will be placed at the entrance.