



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club

Minutes

Date: Monday 17 March 2025 at The Shed

Time: 7:30 pm

Present: Dave Bennett (DCB) (Chair), Maewyn Cumming (MC), Linda Haysom (LH), Ron Haysom (RH), Alison Perry (minutes) (AP), David Bushby (DB), Gill Hamill (GH), Gill Williams (GW), Larry Mabey (LM), Anthea Mabey (AM), Robin Breach (RB)

1. Apologies for absence

Kate Cassell (KC)

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Accepted

3. Actions list

All in hand or covered below

- **ACTION: DCB** to approach PC about container on site – to do.
- **ACTION: Show Committee** to send DB list of classes so that these can be programmed to go out on socials. - Finalising
- **ACTION: KC/RH** to organise tree planting once details received from Chris Bird. – in hand
- **ACTION: DCB** to speak to PC about sorting out drainage into site – to do
- **ACTION: RH** to find out dates and more info on Library Garden Stories event. – To be received from library

4. Finance

Club has made nearly £100 on savings a/c's so far. At present budget is showing £1193 overspent so far this year. LH confirms this is not a concern as it will even itself out by the end of the club's financial year (Sept)

5. Membership

Steady numbers of members – 332 at present. Trustees discussed whether to do a leaflet drop to get some more. No decision taken on this.

6. Trading

Stock is low so LM will do a re-stock. £769 in takings since opening this year - quite high for this time of the year, down to good weather since opening day. LM has been having issues with obtaining a stock of Pro-grow. If any trustees know of any suppliers to contact LM.

7. Allotments

Good movement of members, no real waiting list. All raised beds now allocated. There was a discussion about the upgrade of the concrete path needed for improved access to the raised beds. Trustees agreed that this would be raised at future meetings.
Soil testing went well – tests were undertaken on 10 plots,

8. Allotments - maintenance

Quiet month, 5t topsoil was put into raised beds, manure pen sorted and now fixed. There was a query over when allotment holders would be able to drive along track? Trustees discussed this. There was firstly a requirement to barrier Larry's bridge and then put some fencing or guard rails along the narrow section of path. **ACTION: ALL** – discuss extension of concrete path at next extraordinary maintenance/projects meeting. DB confirmed that in the new financial year it is likely that WCC would open up applications for grants. **ACTION: DCB/DB** to look at WCC grants once these become available.

9. Plot Boundaries

There were concerns raised about plot encroachment onto driveways/paths which need to be monitored and stopped. **ACTION: MC** to include a note about plot boundaries in the next email out to plot holders.

10. Allotments - roadway/path /fencing/H&S/Drainage

Fencing –LM has obtained 4 quotes – preferred contractor quoted £7500. Once add in the cost of the 2 gates the quote is still under the £10k allocated. **ACTION: DCB** to submit fencing quote to PC halls and grounds committee on 18/03 and to follow up so we can appoint contractor. Once agreed at Halls and Grounds would hopefully be ratified at Finance committee (01/04).

H&S – due to see Wendy when warms up.

Drainage – LM had obtained one quote of £4.8k so we need to make sure that the works will make a material difference and at least in part resolve some of the drainage issues.

ACTION: DCB to speak to Steven Arthur (PC) about drainage quote **ACTION: LM** to obtain further drainage quotes once PC have been informed of the concerns and possible solution.

11. Monthly programme

All in hand. **ACTION: GW** to contact April presenter in plenty of time to confirm attendance and get them to submit their paperwork

12. Social programme

Priory Park was discussed as a possible alternative to Jubilee Hall as an afternoon event possibly with BBQ. **ACTION: GW** to check whether BBQ is an option at Priory Park and to check whether kitchen is suitable for food prep for Social Evening event

13. Annual Show

Schedule almost finished, final proof reading to be done, trophies currently displayed in the Shed, apart from 3 which are too big. It was agreed that following presentation of the trophies at the show they would be permanently displayed at the shed from now on.

ACTION: LM to decide how to best to store the trophies in the shed.

RH was assigned to the raffle, MC prizes for raffle/judging spirits.

ACTION:AM to send show schedule once complete to MC/DB for upload to website,
ACTION: MC to send teaser email about show out with some info
ACTION: RB to send show certificates to AM

14. Update / publicity / social media

DB uploaded March speaker etc onto Facebook

180 people on FB, few might be locals – has generated some outside interest.

RB confirmed that May parish magazine nearly done, all local publications notified of Annual show and plant sale info, but RB will send out again. Plant sale to be included in parish mag.

ACTION: RB to send newsletter out to non-email people

15. Community orchard

See RH update – proposals will be costed and prepared to give to finance committee,

ACTION: RH to meet with Steve Arthur PC to discuss/raise funds for the suggested work for the community orchard and discuss site drainage, it is imperative that the PC are reminded that the community orchard is a community asset and not just for club members, RH is still awaiting response to his email to Chris Bird. The report was further discussed, and it was concluded that the report made a number of suggestions rather than requirements. The costed suggestions will go to the finance committee.

16. Butterfly garden

No update

17. Charity programme

Last payments due in April, RH has requested reports but to date has not had anything back from Maddie. Tim is giving up and, on that basis, not accepting final payment,

18. National Allotment Week 11-17th Aug (note change in date from agenda)

Trustees discussed whether we could hold an event during the week, and it was agreed that the Aug BBQ might fit quite nicely. Theme is Allotments and Wellbeing for 2025.

Update: There is a promotional pack available for members – are BWGC members?

ACTION: AP to confirm if BWGC are members of National Allotment Soc. – if so, download promotional pack.

19. Any other business

- Shed Damage – payback to replace.
- Plant sale – **ACTION: AP** to add Plant sale to agenda for April, **ACTION: RB** to do poster for plant sale,
- Kids Treat – RH confirmed that he would attend, 6th July, mainly to publicise kids comp at the annual show.
- Annual Meeting of Parish – Jubilee Hall event, DCB booked a table, clashes with speaker event, DCB/RH/LM agreed to be volunteers on the night.
- Shed opening – LH suggested that the shed to open on Easter Monday – agreed RH/LH – to cover.
- Trustees have recently attended HFHS seminars – these are free to members, and it was suggested to make members aware. **ACTION: MC** to include details of HFHS seminars in email to members

- Thanks were given to DB for his work as a trustee over the last year following confirmation of his resignation. Of particular note was the huge increase in Facebook followers since he started. Thank you, David. **ACTION: ALL** to put forward potential new trustees.

Next meeting: Monday 28th April 2025 at The Shed 7pm – NOTE NEW DATE

Actions Arising

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