



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 20 May 2024 7.30 at The Shed

Present: Anthea Mabey (AM), Dave Bennett (Chair), Gill Hamill (GH), Gill Williams (GW), Larry Mabey (LM), Linda Haysom (LH), Kate Cassell (KC), Maewyn Cumming (Sec), Nicole Jones (NJ), Robin Breach (RB), Ron Haysom (RH). Colin Carter (CC) (item 1 only)

1. Annual show. CC updated the trustees on progress with organising the show. The judges have been confirmed, sign boards complements of Pearsons are on their way, lists of stewards and their duties are in development. The show committee will meet on 3 June. Jill Stainer will do the catering and will be asked to write the entry cards. CC will act as judge for the children's' section. The Men's sheds will not be able to create the trophy cabinet, so CC will investigate the cost of purchasing a ready-made one. The option of not engraving the cups was considered as a cost saving measure, but decided against.

2. Apologies. None, all trustees present.

3. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed.

4. Actions. The actions list was updated.

5. Trustees. Robin Breach had been coopted by email; he will take responsibility for aspects of the communications work. **ACTION**: MC to update Charity Commission list of trustees. Two trustees are doubling up on their roles; LH will be assisting NJ with the social programme as well as acting as treasurer; and MC is doing social media, updating the website and creating a new web site as well as acting as secretary. **ACTION**: MC will call for volunteers to become trustees and ease the burden somewhat.

6. Finance. LH presented the finance report. The balance at the end of March was £20,889.68. Further progress had made in setting budgets for this year, and a useful forecast covering the rest of this financial year was introduced. Indications are that we will be in profit this year, but a great deal depends on what is happening with the fencing. RH proposed a budget specifically for charity/community work which will allow for more activities with schools and other groups.

7. Membership. Membership is stable, increasing slowly. DB has acquired a free version of Office 365, and is making steady progress with developing it to streamline our processes.

8. Trading. The Shed door has been fixed so the Shed is secure. **ACTION**: LM to investigate getting a second lock to increase security of the Shed. Sales have been good so LM has ordered a £600 restock. The price of ProGro has risen sharply and it will need to be collected. LM, RH and RB will form a convoy to collect it. Trustees were reminded once more that credit is never to be given. LH

suggested opening The Shop on Friday evening, this was agreed. LH, LM and AM will be on hand to do this, no doubt supported by other trustees. **ACTION:** MC to inform members asap about the shop opening on Friday.

9. Allotments. The waiting list now numbers eight, and this should drop further soon. **ACTION:** RB to mention in Parish Magazine article that it is a good time to apply for a plot. One final warning letter is due to the owner of a neglected plot.

10. Allotments maintenance. Two new Honda mowers have been purchased and delivered. Records will be kept of maintenance costs for each one, as well as for the older mowers. Older ones will be replaced if they are no longer economical to run. A

local company, Tim Brown, has taken over mower maintenance from Andy. The taps have all been turned on. There has still been no response from the Parish Council regarding the overhanging trees. **ACTION:** DB to raise the issues of the trees at his next meeting with the Parish Council.

11. Roads etc Clancy are due to arrive at the allotments on 10 June to drop off the 40 tonnes of gravel which they will install in the following days. MC will inform plot-holders a few days before as there will be limited access to the top plots, and none to The Shed or disabled people's plots. Work has started on the play park; we were told we would be consulted before this happened but we were not. DB has arranged for the Parish Council to organise a meeting with relevant players asap. There are some indications that rumours regarding access to the plot of land behind the Albany Wood via the Cricket Club are true.

12. Plant sale. This went very well with record takings. Parking was an issue. This should not be a problem again next year as the track will have been repaired. It was agreed that next year's sale will be on one day only – Saturday 10 May – from 10-4. **ACTION:** AM to talk to the Scoutmaster to let him have to date of the next plant sale, to avoid a clash.

13. Socials/speakers. One of the members has expressed concern about the topic 'The gardens of Russia' for our June speaker, given the situation over there and the fact that we have some Ukrainian members. MC has been in contact with the speaker and is awaiting a response. **ACTION:** MC to pursue. UPDATE – the talk will now be on 'Heavenly hostas', he might be able to bring some to sell.

14. Social programme. NJ has been finalising catering arrangements for the annual social with Bishop's Waltham Country Market The speaker has still not been confirmed. **ACTION:** MC to chase Perennial re the speaker for the social. MC and RB will begin advertising the social especially asking members to save the date.

Barbecue – RH has agree to organise this year's event , scheduled for 4 August

15. Hidden Gardens. MC will begin seeking volunteers, and arrange with AM to devise a suitable route for the tours.

16. Communications. MC has identified a preferred website hosting company, saving us about £400 per year. She is currently building a replacement site. The Facebook page needs adjusting so members can do more in the way of sharing pictures etc. **ACTION:** MC to investigate permissions on our Facebook page.

17. Charity work. We had a very charming thank you from our sponsored student, who has now completed his final year at Sparsholt, and has been helping with their Chelsea entry. RH will soon circulate the draft updated sponsorship application form. The Butterfly Garden is looking especially good at present. Ann McGrath is purchasing labels to identify the various plants. The Millennium Sculpture has been rescued from the Care Home and is currently stored safely. The plaque has been removed to be polished up with the text being made good. A decision on where exactly to site it needs to be made and costed.

We have a table booked for St Peter's Fayre on 21 September.

UPDATE - Den Marriner called to thank DB for his thoughtful 'thank you' card, for his work on the rose garden.

18. Other business.

Gill Cooper had donated a cup for 'best kept garden'. It was agreed to pass this to Bishop's Waltham in Bloom.

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

Next meeting 7.30pm at the Shed

ACTIONS ARISING

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

AM to talk to the Scoutmaster to let him have to date of the next plant sale.

DB to raise the issues of the trees at his next meeting with the Parish Council.

LM to investigate getting a second lock to increase security of the Shed.

MC to update Charity Commission list of trustees

MC to chase Perennial re the speaker for the social.

MC to inform members asap about the shop opening on Friday.

MC to let members know about work to be done by Clancy

MC to pursue attempts to change title of June speakers talk

MC to investigate permissions on our Facebook page.

MC will call for volunteers to become trustees and ease the burden somewhat.

RB to mention in Parish Magazine article that it is a good time to apply for a plot.