



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 15 July 2024 7.30 at The Shed

Present: Anthea Mabey (AM), Dave Bennett (Chair)(DCB), Gill Hamill (GH), Gill Williams (GW), Larry Mabey (LM), Kate Cassell (KC), Maewyn Cumming (MC), Robin Breach (RB), Alison Perry (AP) (Sec), David Bushby(DB)

1. Apologies. Nicole Jones (NJ), Linda Haysom (LH), Ron Haysom (RH)

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

3. Actions. All actions had been completed.

Ideas of speakers for monthly meetings were provided including – Flower Arranging, Bee Keeping (Feb/March time). **ACTION:** GW and KC to check other gardening clubs for ideas for speakers – Alresford, Titchfield and Botley. **ACTION:** All to continue to provide GW with ideas for speakers.

4. Finance. LH sent finance papers but was unable to attend meeting. The balance at the end of June was £21 279.06. Looking healthy. Query regarding £1200 budget for annual show but expected that this will be confirmed once show wash-up has taken place. **ACTION:** LH to organise finance committee meeting in order to devise budget for September onwards.

5. Membership. Steady, slight increase - now 346 members. Hidden Gardens provided one extra membership on the day. Still having to input to both old and new systems – once Office 365 in place this is envisaged to cease.

6. Trading. Slower trading at shop during summer - £25-30 amount spent every weekend. LM has made an order to re-stock fertilizer etc, which was topped up with other sundries in order to get free delivery. Shop will now be well stocked.

Shed security – **ACTION:** LM to buy new padlock for mower store. Doors, shutters and security lights now all in place and working. Couple of issues with people on allotments disturbing boxes/tools etc – nothing taken as far as aware.

7. Allotments. 2 plots have been let to people as full plots – plots 54, 55. Sleepers on one of the plots to be moved ASAP. These sleepers to be used for raised beds. **ACTION:** LM to ask Clancy to move these when they come to do the track. Some other ¼ plots have been assigned. KC offered to help AM to chase up those people with plots that need work. Suggestion that a final warning email to be given at renewal time. **ACTION:** AM to devise final warning email. Tenancy agreement to be updated to try to reduce those people hanging onto their plots and not looking after them. **ACTION:** DCB, AM and one other to review and update tenancy agreement. .

8. Allotments maintenance. KC gave an update. Payback team have been in and worked 1 day. There is still a lot of work to do. They managed to clear one of the full allotments so very useful. It was agreed that a skip was not needed for the remaining rubbish – if needed LM will do a tip run. Would like Payback back to help build raised beds. Happy to take them for any days particularly later on in the season. **ACTION:** KC to reiterate this to supervisors.

KC, parish council and tree surgeon (Titchfield Trees) have inspected the 2 large oaks. Advice was that one of them seems to have moved. Parish Council to contact Bargate to get this reinspected and for them to take on the work. It was agreed the other needed crown lifting to just above head height – Parish Council agreed to get this done. KC has contacted Parish Council but no response so **ACTION:** LM to Chase Parish Council. As there is an ongoing H&S issue here.

RB's bay tree to be pruned to reduce height.

There are a number of fruit trees around the site that need pruning – KC offered to help do this.

ACTION: KC to speak to individual plot holders about fruit tree pruning.

Mower repairs – most are quite small apart from ride-on which is currently broken. **ACTION:** KC to get quotes for the work and bring back to meeting.

KC thanked everyone for their help tidying up the site for the Hidden Gardens event and it was noted that BW in Bloom raised about £2000 from the event.

9. Roads etc DCB – Clancy have agreed in writing to do a similar job to the one at the Bargate carpark, this would require the removal of 12t top layer of soil and subbase and they have asked if we want it. It was agreed that they should take it away. DCB currently doesn't have timings for the work as yet. **ACTION:** DCB to confirm to Clancy to take away soil.

There had been more discussions over the fencing of the lower plots. Parish Council are keen to do the fence but have no money, they suggested we could look to apply for a grant and they can help us complete. There was mention of the H&S concerns regarding the new playground and traffic on the track and that the promised signs don't appear to have been erected. One way to alleviate this would be to erect the fencing and gates. There was discussion about whether to pay for fencing ourselves and claim back the funding from Parish Council but this was not agreed. There was discussion over the ownership of the track and whether we 'own' the track. **ACTION:** DCB to further press the Parish Council on the fencing highlighting the playground H&S concern and lack of warning signage pointing out that this problem is of their own making (due to their need for access to their land) and they need to rectify this. **ACTION:** AP to scan and save a digital version of the plan in the lease agreement. **ACTION:** DB to look into WCC grants further.

DCB suggested training for applying for grants.

It was identified that the current site lease ends in 2035. Question whether worth BWGC paying for big capital projects (such as the fencing) with no long term assurance for the site. Parish Council have indicated that they are happy to discuss renewing the lease. Look to try and get as long a lease as possible for a peppercorn rent. **ACTION:** DCB to progress renewing lease with Parish Council. If needed KC has a contact that maybe able to do some *pro bono* legal work.

Following last meeting it was found that the cricket club are responsible for the faulty water meter – **ACTION:** LH to continue to pursue cricket club for contribution towards water costs estimated until they get the meter fixed. LH/DCB to write letter.

10. Speakers/ Monthly programme – all in hand

GW confirmed that there is usually no speaker with AGM/quiz.

MC offered to do quiz, pub quiz style **ACTION:** MC to devise quiz for AGM

ACTION: All, to pass any ideas for speakers for next year's monthly meetings to GW.

11. Social programme.

BBQ – 5 tickets remaining. **ACTION:** DB to put post on Facebook to sell final few tickets

Social – in hand and tickets selling well. **ACTION:** MC to check with NJ whether non-members can attend social.

Members shows – feeling was that these need a re-think. **ACTION:** MC to convene sub-committee of 3 to review and make recommendations.

12. Update/Publicity/Social Media.

Publicity – MC, DB, RB have had a meeting and divided up work between themselves. Publicity for show very good. 126 people attended show.

RB to produce dates for submission of articles for each newsletters **ACTION:** RB to submit dates for submission for newsletter articles. For 01/09 Newsletters articles to be submitted to RB by 15/08

ACTION: RB to send copies of BBQ and Social posters to MC and DB so they can advertise where needed – better as digital copy.

RB confirmed that the Parish mag has asked BWGC to write an article about the show. **ACTION:** All to send photos to RB for inclusion in this article. NB ensure you have permission of any one identifiable before submitting photos.

13. Community Orchard. There was a written update from RH but he was not able to attend – looking at replacement Mulberry trees. All agreed not to bother as it was felt the field was not viable for fruit trees as they keep dying and there have been lots of trees replaced.

ACTION: DCB to obtain advice from WCC/Parish Cllr as to what to do with the field going forward.

14. Charity Programme. Written update from RH

Need to follow up with Swanmore School as we gave them gardening bits. **ACTION:** RH to ensure that attendance/submission of entries at the show is a pre-requisite of help being offered.

ACTION: RH to explore interest from Brownies, Cubs, schools for 'group' classes at the show.

15 Vols required for the St Peters Fayre. **ACTION:** MC to send note asking for volunteers. **ACTION:** ALL to continue to collect pots. Agreement from the group that we did not want the stall to be a plant sale and therefore we don't want plant donations as the stall is busy enough with the bulb offering. **ACTION:** RH to speak to Justine Greening to confirm BWGC offering.

15. Website Review – documents on new webpages to be reviewed:

- Membership form – now have word version so this can be updated **ACTION:** AM to update membership form
- Tenancy agreement – currently opened ended, this needs reviewing and made so that it has to be returned on a annual basis with membership renewal. It was noted that other allotment sites tenancies only last for the year and are renewed. **ACTION:** AM/DCB to review tenancy agreement
- Constitution – should be fine – meets charity commission rules,
- History – **ACTION:** MC to look into updating history documents, GH to speak to Sue Curtis to see if she will help
- All other documents were ok – **ACTION:** All to feedback if any issues were found in the documents.

16. Other business.

- a) Colin present – Suggested that golf items would be good. Voucher from Corhampton GC. **ACTION:** MC/NJ to organise. If at BBQ presents and card would be presented to Colin. LH has bought a card. **ACTION:** DCB to leave card at shed so people can sign.
- b) Liaison with Alresford Gardening Club – **ACTION:** RB to chat to, offer them allotment tour or something similar.
- c) Suttons Group Scheme – All agreed should carry on. **ACTION:** RB to confirm to carry on
- d) Sculpture - KC spoke to parish council – they suggested could go at entrance to Priory Park once it has been done up and offered to store at their Groundsman's storage area. **ACTION:** KC to liaise with parish council about this.
- e) Potato weigh in – LM to do Saturday 20th July at latest – 10am **ACTION:** MC to send reminder to members about potato weigh in.
- f) Manure guaranteed herbicide free? We cannot guarantee this. Would make a good newsletter article. **ACTION:** RB to organise article.
- g) Show wash-up – CC would be doing this. **ACTION:** LH to produce financial schedule once info received from CC.
- h) Annual returns for Charity commission have gone back – **ACTION:** MC to swop rights over – need to check whether LH or AP to do in future.
- i) New show committee to consist of AM, KC, LM, Melissa and Ian – should be smooth transition as most have been on show committee to date.

Meeting finished at 2110

Next meeting 19 August 7.30pm at the Shed

ACTIONS ARISING

- GW and KC to check other gardening clubs for ideas for speakers – Alresford, Titchfield and Botley. All to continue to provide GW with ideas for speakers.
- LH to organise finance committee meeting in order to devise budget for September onwards.
- LM to buy new padlock for mower store
- LM to ask Clancy to move these when they come to do the track. Some other ¼ plots have been assigned.
- AM to devise final warning email
- DCB, AM and one other to review and update tenancy agreement. .
- LM to Chase Parish Council regarding trees.
- KC to speak to individual plot holders about fruit tree pruning.
- KC to get quotes for ride-on work and bring back to meeting.
- DCB to confirm to Clancy to take away soil.
- DCB to further press the Parish Council on the fencing highlighting the playground H&S concern and lack of warning signage
- AP to scan and save a digital version of the plan in the lease agreement. .
- DB to look into WCC grants further.
- DCB to progress renewing lease with Parish Council.

- LH to continue to pursue cricket club for contribution towards water costs estimated until they get the meter fixed. LH/DCB to write letter.
- MC to devise quiz for AGM
- All, to pass any ideas for speakers for next year's monthly meetings to GW.
- DB to put post on Facebook to sell final few BBQ tickets
- MC to check with NJ whether non-members can attend social.
- MC to convene sub-committee of 3 to review and decide on future of members shows.
- RB to submit dates for submission for newsletter articles.
- RB to send copies of BBQ and Social posters to MC and DB
- All to send photos to RB for inclusion in the Parish Mag article. NB ensure you have permission of any one identifiable before submitting photos.
- DCB to obtain advice from WCC/Parish Cllr as to what to do with the field going forward.
- RH to ensure that attendance/submission of entries at the show is a pre-requisite of help being offered.
- RH to explore interest from Brownies, Cubs, schools for 'group' classes at the show.
- MC to send note asking for volunteers for St Peters Fayre.
- ALL to continue to collect pots.
- RH to speak to Justine Greening to confirm BWGC offering not to include plant sale.
- AM to update membership form
- AM/DCB to review tenancy agreement
- MC to look into updating history documents, GH to speak to Sue Curtis to see if she will help
- All to feedback if any issues were found in website documents.
- MC/NJ to organise voucher for Colin.
- DCB to leave Colins card at shed so people can sign.
- RB to speak to Alresford GC offer them allotment tour or something similar.
- RB to confirm to carry on Suttons Scheme
- KC to continue to liaise with parish council about sculpture location
- MC to send reminder to members about potato weigh in.
- RB to organise article about herbicide found in manure/compost.
- LH to produce financial schedule from show once info received from CC.
- MC to swop rights over for charity commission – need to check whether LH or AP to do in future.