



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 16 September 2024 7.30 at The Shed

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

1. Apologies. Kate Cassell (KC)

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

3. Actions. The actions list was updated.

4. Finance. See papers from LH. The balance at the end of Aug was £21068. This is down £2.4k from this time last year but there has been a number of capital expenditures that have occurred including new gates for the fencing which has reduced this.

LH talked through the Budget Forecasting document. This was ratified by all in attendance. Need to add KC as budget holder for Annual Show. Discussion was had over proposed £4k transfer of trading profit to charity account and concerns that this was possible, etc.

Personal liability insurance renewal was due – queries over whether this was required – agreed this was. **ACTION:** LH to look into whether it made a difference as to whether the organisation was incorporated or un-incorporated.

ACTION: LH will send each trustee with budget responsibility the details of their budgets and how to update figures – if in doubt speak to LH who can explain.

ACTION: All to send expenses claims and invoices to LH by 20th Sept.

5. Membership. The new process for renewing membership is about to be rolled out, AM and MC to do final checks/tweaks. Payment can be bank transfer, card or cheque (at shed). Email to go out following week. **UPDATE:** Emails gone out and well received with some payments on the same day.

6. Trading. Stock take has been completed. It was quiet over the summer as usual but now the onions and garlic were in stock these were selling well along with manure as one of our big sellers.

7. Allotments. 2 people on waiting list. Leaflet drop to be done to get a few more on the list.

LH/RH have updated leaflet with QR code and **ACTION:** RH to allocate streets to volunteers for leaflet-drop, ideally to be done in pairs to take place weekend of 28/29 Sept.

Renewal may free up some further plots and hope to use payback scheme to sort some of these plots out before issuing to new holders.

8. Allotments maintenance. Ditch has been cleared on top field – spoil needs to be spread in orchard – contractor to complete before being paid. Post and rail fencing has been completed in bottom field car parking area. No reply from BWPC regarding TPO trees **ACTION:** KC/DCB to chase

PC. Mowers have had a tune up from Ed for no charge – he reckons the mower stock is good ongoing into 2025. There was concern from one plot holder about wasps (he is allergic) but it transpired they were attracted by aphids in a willow tree and moved on quickly. The bottom hedge needs a lot of work as it hasn't been cut for at least a year. **ACTION:** DCB to chase the Parish Council re cutting the bottom hedge and ensure that this done well into the cricket ground tree line.

Payback list of jobs to include: Middle hedge, robins bay tree, clear overgrown allotments, create new raised bed area, paint shed, scalp track 2. There was discussion that we would like their input on a more organised basis – possibly 1 day a week or month on a long-term contract. **ACTION:** KC to explore a long-term agreement with them where they work on a regular basis.

9. Parish Council issues. RH has invited all the PC Cllrs to come down for meeting, ideally need halls and grounds/finance Cllrs to enable discussion over the issues of responsibilities. RH is awaiting confirmation of dates, following trustees to attend if possible, with a pre-meeting to decide how to approach the meeting – DCB, RH, AM, LM, LH if possible. Main aim is to make them aware of their obligations under the lease agreement – set scene. We are not sure they understand their obligations. Allotment hedge as priority. **ACTION:** RH to confirm date once fixed

10. Clancy Works. DCB still awaiting a date for the track works to take place – they need to hire in specialists so ongoing.

11. Member Shows. MC has consulted with members about Member shows. Feedback received was that it was felt it was a good opportunity to get some experience of showing and it was useful to learn how to present. The trustees then had a discussion about number of shows with suggestions of April and Sept. It was agreed to just go with a Sept show for next year with 3 or 4 classes and the giant courgette comp with some veg and dahlia type classes. Certificates only would be presented as opposed to any cash prizes. **ACTION:** MC to work out classes and to report back on any further feedback received.

12. Monthly programme. This is on track – reminded that next meeting 25/09/24 would be at St Peters Hall as opposed to Junior School.

13. Social programme/Social. Annual social (26/10/24)– 40 tickets sold would be nice to get another 20 – so push for the sale of these in the shop. **ACTION:** If selling tickets encourage people to submit their questions for the 'Question Time' panellists. NJ still requires volunteers on the evening to help with the 'banqueting role'. **ACTION:** All to let NJ know if you can help if you've not already done so. Flowers/foilage needed for table displays of BWGC grown flowers for each table. **ACTION:** Please let NJ know if you will have anything available to use in the displays and get them to her in the days leading up to the social (24/25/26th Oct).

Discussion was then had about the annual trip – it was decided that Wakehurst in the middle of May would be the preferred option as this would be free entry for NT members, £13.20 for non-members. Quotes were received from Beeline and Lucketts for the cost of the bus – it was suggested that a bus with a toilet would be better for the longer trip. **ACTION:** NJ to check if quotes included VAT or not.

14. Update/Publicity/Social Media. Facebook has been doing well, 141 people signed up and starting to create a community with people offering things and others asking for things – all trustees to continue to engage.

Website has been pretty much finished, but DB can add things as needed.

RB confirmed that newsletter has been done, Suttons signed up to, article in parish mag done and posters completed. **ACTION:** MC to email members with Suttons code.

There was discussion over notice boards and the desire to have a board in town. Would be good to have a board at Red Lion Street – **ACTION:** RB to check if this would be possible with PC as this had been previously promised to be replaced. Possibly to move the board from by the shed to town if it was refurbished or to get Mens' shed to build a new one. Discussion over potential to apply for a grant for this or for a new board. RB will also put a poster into the doctors' surgery. At some point MC will hand email comms over to RB.

15 and 16. Community orchard/butterfly garden/Charity Programme RH had sent an update via WhatsApp – The works to replace broken fencing at Butterfly garden have been completed – AP had seen some comms on this from HCC – it was HCC vols who produced the timber and helped install. There was some damage to plants that will need to be replaced but hopefully others will recover.

- St Peters Fayre 21/09/24 – all ready to go, RB overseeing the day with help from volunteers. Ideally a couple more needed. Suggestion of a prize for best blooms planted to be submitted to shed in the new year – decision taken not to progress with this.
- Sponsorship – nothing from Sparsholt as term only just started, RH also checking with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust – students still need to apply.
- Community – table booked for Greening campaign on 05/10/24 11-3.30pm at Jubilee Hall – volunteers wanted on the day. Idea to promote BWGC and allotments and possibly have something to display – compost or fruit and veg. **ACTION:** Contact RH if you can volunteer.

17. Other business.

- QR code – LH had found a free version and will try and get this on the leaflets before they have been printed.
- Greening – see above.
- Grants update – DB and DCB have spoken to WCC about their small grants scheme and submitted a request for a £1000 grant for creating the raised beds, all Parish Cllrs were in support, decision in 7-10 days from WCC as to whether we would get this – if so funding would have to be spent by end of financial year (March 2025). BWPC have launched their latest round of funding, but this cannot be spent on BWPC property – **ACTION:** All to think of projects not improving BWPC assets that we could apply for funding for.
- AM raised concerns over donations tin for tea/coffees – agreed to discuss at next meeting.
- Requests for chippings have been coming in – LM confirmed that these will be delivered as and when they are available.

Meeting finished at 2130.

Next meeting 21 October 7.30pm at the Shed

ACTIONS ARISING

- All to send expenses claims and invoices to LH asap and by 20 September at the latest.
- LH to look into whether it made a difference as to whether the organisation was incorporated or un-incorporated for insurance purposes.
- LH will send each trustee with budget responsibility the details of their budgets and how to update figures.
- RH to allocate streets to volunteers for leaflet-drop, ideally to be done in pairs to take place weekend of 28/29 Sept.
- KC/DCB to chase PC re TPO trees.
- DCB to chase the Parish Council re cutting the bottom hedge and ensure that this done well into the cricket ground tree line.
- KC to explore a long-term agreement with payback people to work on a regular basis.
- RH to confirm date of meeting with PC Cllrs once fixed.
- MC to work out classes for member show and to report back on any further feedback received.
- If selling social tickets encourage people to submit their questions for the 'Question Time' panellists.
- All to let NJ know if you can help on evening of social.
- All to let NJ know if you will have any flowers/foilage available to use in the displays and get them to her in the days leading up to the social (24/25/26th Oct)
- NJ to check if quotes for buses for annual trip included VAT or not.
- MC to email members with Suttons code.
- RB to check if notice board could go on Red Lion Street
- Contact RH if you can volunteer for Greening Fayre.
- All to think of projects not improving BWPC assets that we could apply for funding for.