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Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



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

Present: Dave Bennett - Chair (DB), Anthea Mabey (AM), Annie Lowe (AL), Chris Curtis (CC), Gill Cooper (GC), Gill Hamill (GH), Kate Cassell (KC), Larry Mabey (LM), Linda Haysom (LH), Liz McClymont (LMc), Maewyn Cumming - Sec (MC), Nicole Jones (NJ), Sue Curtis (SC).

In attendance: Ron Haysom

1. Apologies. There were no apologies.

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

3. Actions. The actions list was updated.

4. Finance. The current balance is £23,985.05. There has been a lot of expenditure this month, including the gates. LH presented the draft risk assessment tool she had developed. **ACTION:** Trustees were asked to comment on the risk assessment tool by email. **ACTION:** LH, DB and KC to develop a budget for the remainder of the financial year.

5. Membership. AM and DB have taken over the membership management. Thanks to CC for the handover.

6. Hidden Gardens. MC thanked trustees for providing photos. No further activity has occurred, but we will probably be asked to provide details by the end of this month.

7. Trading. A delivery of seed potatoes is expected this week. The painting party is set for 22 January, LM has purchased the paint in readiness.

UPDATE: DB and SC tested the contactless card reader and concluded that it is technically possible to use one in The Shed. **ACTION:** DB to discuss with LM and LH, and if it is deemed appropriate to purchase a suitable card reader.

8. Allotments. There have been several new requests for plots. It was AGREED that bonfires would be allowed on the top plots during February this year, as a trial and if successful they will be allowed from October to March in future years, provided no serious issues arise. **ACTION:** LM and AM to approach those living closest to the top field would let them know what we intend to do re allowing bonfires. **ACTION:** LMc to include new bonfire policy in the next update.

9. Allotments maintenance. Community Payback have completed cutting the middle hedge. They are with us for a few more weeks, and we might be able to get them back later in the year. KC and LM will meet soon to decide exactly what lawnmowers are to be kept or purchased.

Materials had been purchased to repair the raised bed, Community Payback will do the work. KC had received a complaint about excess rubble on the lower track, she has cleared it. **ACTION:** LMc to mention in the next update that rubble must not be left on the tracks.

10. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel.

LM has purchased the gates and they will arrive soon. Several trustees offered to be available to assist with the unloading. **ACTION:** LM to chase Cathy in the Parish Council for an update on the track work Clancy are going to carry out, and also the overhanging branches.

11. Monthly programme. MC has confirmed that we can use the minibus to transport members to the monthly meetings, and has found a volunteer driver. She is now determining the likely level of uptake among the members. If there is sufficient interest the minibus will be booked for the March meeting. If there is minimal interest, we will consider asking members to provide transport in private cars.

NJ will take charge of the next monthly meeting as AL will have resigned as a trustee. MC will then manage them until a permanent person can be found. **ACTION:** MC to check the date the hall has been booked for the next monthly meeting as there was some confusion. UPDATE – the meeting will take place as planned on the 28th February, the speaker has been rescheduled.

12. Social programme. Ten tickets for the excursion to Holme for Gardens on 21 May have been sold. Our usual caterers for the annual social will not be able to do it this year, which is most regrettable as they do a most excellent job. **ACTION:** LH to approach Vanessa to see if changing the date would enable them to cater this year.

13. Communications. LMc has begun updating the website, and has added posts about the annual show on 13 July to our Facebook page and elsewhere.

14. Charity work.

Orchard: Additional tree supports have been purchased and will soon be installed. Winter pruning of the trees will continue this week, despite the very cold weather. A new volunteer has been found.

15. Other business.

- BW library have approached us to ask if someone will do a session as part of their 'Green and thrifty' week. **ACTION:** LM and RH to create a 'Green and thrifty' event.
- Trophy cabinet – it seems likely that the Parish Council will allow us to put a cabinet on the wall in the main hall in the Jubilee Hall to safely display the trophies from the show. MC to pursue.
- It was pointed out that we have three events in a row in May. **ACTION:** MC to canvas trustees to determine if they would prefer to change the date of the May meeting.
- Ann McGrath is creating a photo album for the Club, using materials taken off the walls for painting, and new photos. Photos of the first planting of the orchard would be much appreciated. The medals from the Club's 1997 and 1998 entries in RHS Chelsea are missing. **ACTION:** LM to see if he can locate Chelsea medals.
- MC and DB will be overseas for the 19 February trustees meeting. The trustees will decide after the AGM if a meeting is needed, if it should be a formal or non-formal meeting, and who, if anyone will act as chair and secretary.

- AGM A representative from the Town Team has asked if he can address the 24 January AGM briefly to explain what the TT does. It was agreed that this will be allowed. **ACTION:** MC to confirm time the hall is booked for the AGM, and to purchase cheese etc as needed.

Next meeting TBA

ACTIONS ARISING

All: Trustees were asked to comment on the risk assessment tool by email.

AM and LM to approach those living closest to the top field would let them know what we intend to do re allowing bonfires.

DB to discuss with LM and LH, and if it is deemed appropriate to purchase a suitable card reader.

DB, LH and KC to develop a budget for next financial year.

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LM and RH to create a 'Green and thrifty 'event.

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LMc need to follow up on the Facebook account hacking.

LM to see if he can locate Chelsea medals.

LMc to include new bonfire policy in the next update.

LMc to mention in the next update that rubble must not be left on the tracks.

MC to check the date the hall has been booked for the next monthly meeting.

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