



# Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club

## BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 25 March 2024 7.30 at The Shed

Present: Anthea Mabey (AM), Dave Bennett (Chair), Gill Hamill (GH), Kate Cassell (KC), Larry Mabey (LM), Maewyn Cumming (Sec), Nicole Jones (NJ)

1. Apologies. Linda Haysom (LH), Liz McClymont (LMc), Ron Haysom (RH)
2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed.
3. Actions. The actions list was updated.
4. Finance. The risk assessment tool was accepted as written. The trustees like Linda's new table showing the financial status. This will be developed further as the budgets are set and it will be possible to show spends against budget. **ACTION:** LH, DB and KC to develop a budget for the remainder of the financial year (carried forward from last month).
5. Membership. A few members have joined recently, with the usual issues with non-return of paperwork. **ACTION:** DB to investigate acquiring Office 365, and acquire it if we qualify for the free version. This should help us streamline some of our processes, especially those that involve more than one trustee.
6. Trading. Very slow as the weather has not been conducive to active gardening. MC proposed that we open The Shop for all four days of the Easter weekend – volunteers quickly came forward. **ACTION:** LMc to inform members that The Shop will open right over Easter. The card reader is proving popular but occasionally fails. **ACTION:** LM to draw up instructions on what to do if the card reader fails and send to DB who will add this to the SumUp instructions. The rats have all gone. We will use peppermint spray to try and deter them so there will be less need for poison.
7. Allotments. There are 13 names on the waiting list, and three quarter-size plots to allocate. More robust enforcement is needed of the tenancy agreements to ensure plots that are not maintained do not become a problem for other plot-holders. A member had asked about erecting a shed and having a large amount of top soil delivered. **ACTION:** AM to find out more details about the size, especially the height, of the shed that has been requested and the amount of top soil and respond accordingly.
8. Allotments maintenance. The wet weather has been problematic and mowers have not been allowed out. Community Payback are booked for April for a variety of tasks; it is hoped they will be able to move the pile of soil and rubble from the Cricket Club to the bottom track. However it seems unlikely that it will ever be prudent to open the bottom track again. It was AGREED to maintain the 'no dogs' rule, for health reasons.

9. Roads etc **ACTION:** DB to respond to the letter from the Men's Sheds re parking on what is currently the dog walking area. We will support their endeavours but not commit to any expenditure at this point. Their plans may impact our plans to install gates on the bottom part of the allotments, we will need more information about the Parish Council's plans before finding a way forward.

10. Monthly programme. MC still hasn't received all of the information about this year's speakers from Annie. She will pursue. March's speaker has been contacted and all is in hand for March. **ACTION:** MC to liaise with Robin Breach re posters for monthly events. It was agreed that we would allow the Rotary Club a few minutes to talk about their work. **ACTION:** MC to respond to the Rotary Club, and also offer them a spot at the annual show.

11. Social programme. There are still tickets for the excursion on 21 May. **ACTION:** NJ to open ticket sales for Holmes for Gardens to non-members, and ask LMc to let everybody know. It was AGREED that we would ask the membership if anybody is willing and able to take charge of the catering for the annual social, and if nobody comes forward to contract Bishop's Waltham Country Market. Ticket price will be raised to £20 to cover the additional costs. **ACTION:** MC to find a speaker for the annual social.

12. Communications. LMc has asked that an up to date list of trustees be provided so she can update the website. **ACTION:** MC to prepare an up to date list of trustees. The website is otherwise up to date. The monthly events have been advertised in four local parish magazines, and the March event re-advertised with an additional note about the free draw.

**ACTION:** RH to ask Robin if he would like to reinstate the monthly newsletter, as this has been requested by some members. However a final decision on whether to reinstate it is yet to be taken.

RH and LH have volunteered to run a stall at the annual Parish Council Community Evening on 17 April. **ACTION:** MC to ask LMc if she can rewrite the trifold leaflet about the Club, as it is now out of date. If she cannot then MC will do it. **ACTION:** MC to let the Parish Council know we would like a stall.

13. Charity work.

**ACTION:** RH to determine who owns the Millenium sculpture so we can determine the best way forward. It may belong to BWGC, or possibly to the Parish Council.

The Community Orchard is surviving well although the ground is extremely wet. RH has received several offers from members volunteering their support and passed these to Ann McGrath.

The Butterfly Garden fence is likely to be completed in June or July. It is being made by a volunteer of HCC who works one day a week hence the delay.

The Club's sponsorship of a student at Sparsholt College finishes this summer. If we want to fund another student the application forms will need to be sent out to relevant schools/colleges soon. RH will locate the originals so that they can be updated.

14. Other business.

Plant sale. **ACTION:** GH to send LMc text to send to members re the plant sale. MC to add plant sale to next month's agenda.

It was felt that it would be useful to have our own urn/boiler for the monthly events, and also for events at the Shed. This would allow us to provide plenty of cups of tea quickly, and save the need to go into the classroom at the Junior School to get boiling water. **ACTION:** MC to look at prices for urns.

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

Next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm at the Shed

### **ACTIONS ARISING**

AM to find out more details about the size, especially the height, of the shed that has been requested and the amount of top soil and respond accordingly.

DB to chase up PC to ensure cost of gates for lower field is included in their budget (carried forward from last month)

DB to investigate acquiring Office 365, and acquire it if we qualify for the free version.

DB to respond to the letter from the Men's Sheds re parking on what is currently the dog walking area.

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

GH to send LMc text to send to members re the plant sale.

LM to chase Kathy again for an update on the track work Clancy are going to carry out.

LM to fix shutter hinge at shed (carried forward from last month).

LM to draw up instructions on what to do if the card reader fails and send to DB who will add this to the SumUp instructions.

LMc to inform members that the Shop will open right over Easter.

MC to liaise with Robin Beach re posters for monthly events.

MC to find a speaker for the annual social.

MC to ask LMc if she can rewrite the trifold leaflet about the Club, as it is now out of date.

MC to let the Parish Council know we would like a stall.

MC to respond to the Rotary Club, and also offer them a spot at the annual show.

MC to add plant sale to next month's agenda.

MC to look at prices for urns.

MC to prepare an up to date list of trustees

NJ to open ticket sales for Holms for Gardens to non-members, and ask LMc to let everybody know.

RH to ask Robin if he would like to reinstate the monthly newsletter,

RH to determine who owns the Millenium sculpture so we can determine the best way forward.