



# Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club

## BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB Minutes of meeting held on 17 June 2024 7.30 at The Shed

Present: Anthea Mabey (AM), Dave Bennett (Chair)(DCB), Gill Hamill (GH), Gill Williams (GW), Larry Mabey (LM), Linda Haysom (LH), Kate Cassell (KC), Maewyn Cumming (Sec)(MC), Nicole Jones (NJ), Robin Breach (RB), Ron Haysom (RH). As observers/cooptees: Alison Perry (AW), David Bushby(DB)

1. Apologies. None, all trustees present.
2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed.
3. Actions. All actions had been completed.
4. Finance. LH presented the finance report. The balance at the end of May was £20,897.03. Further progress had been made in setting budgets for this year. The finance sub-committee proposed a maximum of £25 spend on admin items before approval was needed from other trustees. This will not affect budget spending. This was AGREED. Projects until the end of September this year include trophy cabinet, new disabled people's beds, new access path behind the cage. The proposed 2023/4 budget will be agreed asap via email.
5. Membership. Steady, currently 335 members. Progress has also been made on Office 365.
6. Trading. Going well apart from the inability to deliver manure due to the remedial work.
7. Allotments. Two warning notices have been given and the plots are being given up. They will need to be cleared before they can be allocated. There are ten people on the waiting list. AM distributed the forms for the Trustees inspection, in advance of the Best Kept Plot competition.. **ACTION:** All to complete their plot inspections by 30 June. **ACTION:** MC to include details of the Food Bank distribution process in the next mail out.
8. Allotments maintenance. There will be a meeting with the Parish Council regarding the overhanging trees on the TPO line. Two plots are severely impacted by this. The large mower ('the beast') is starting to fail so is likely to need replacing soon. The hedge on the bottom track needs trimming once the birds have finished nesting. It was AGREED to permanently close the bottom track as it is unfit for vehicles. Access will be given for maintenance only. **ACTION:** MC to mention permanent closure in next mail-out.
9. Roads etc Clancy failed to provide the correct kit for the repair of the tracks, so we now have a large pile of unwanted stones in the car park. They installed a 'sample' section of the track using the kit they had brought, but it clearly presented an H&S issue. **ACTION** DCB to continue to liaise with Clancy over the best approach to the remedial works, and send photos of the Bargate site's

tracks which look suitable. Also to ask Parish Council if they want the stones – if not we would tell Clancy to take them away as we have no use for them on site. DCB, LM and RH met the Parish Council representatives, who agreed to cover the cost of fencing the lower half of the allotments site. They will allow for two vehicle gates and one pedestrian gate. The detailed design will be drawn up once funding has been confirmed.

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

11. Social programme. We have confirmed that we can have two panellists from Perennial for the Gardeners Question Time at the social. **ACTION:** DCB to create annual social tickets at £18 each. We will need to start promoting it soon, especially after the barbecue. Barbecue: tickets to go on sale this weekend: adults £6 (for a burger and a hot dog), children £3 (either a burger or a hot dog). **ACTIONS:** RB to do poster, MC to include in mailout. Concern was expressed about the potential dearth of quality produce at this year's show. **ACTION:** MC to remind members that we are all in the same boat and it is still worth entering less than perfect veg.

12. Hidden Gardens. **ACTION:** LM to talk to Jim B regarding the H&S aspects of having the public walking around the allotments for Hidden Gardens. MC to ask for more volunteers, we have the bare minimum at present.

13. Communications. The new website will, all going well, be up and running by the end of the month. We will then be able to issue BWGC email addresses to all trustees. **ACTION:** MC to update website re the venue for the September meeting.

14. Charity work. The damage from the vandalism in the orchard has been repaired, at no cost. The fencing for the butterfly garden should be installed soon. **ACTION:** RH to chase butterfly garden fencing. It was proposed that we give the Millennium Sculpture to another organisation, but after discussion it was agreed that we will wait until after Clancy have completed the remedial works then reexamine the issue. **ACTION:** DCB to ask the Parish Council if we could site the Millennium Sculpture on the corner opposite The Shed. **ACTION:** MC to ask members for small pots for our stall at St Peter's Country Fayre. RH highlighted the draft sponsorship policy which he had distributed. **ACTION:** All to provide comments on the draft sponsorship policy by Friday 21 June.

15. Other business.

**Water:** The Cricket Club meter is unreadable. Castle Water will send a 'wholesaler' advise on what remedies could be put in place, but only if we agree to a potential charge of £210, which will become payable if action is needed. **ACTIONS:** MC to locate agreement between BWGC and the Cricket Club regarding the meter. DCB to write to the Cricket Club regarding the water meter.

**Trustees.** AP and DB both agreed to become trustees. DB will handle social media and AP will be the new secretary. MC will liaise re the handovers. **ACTION:** MC to update Charity Commission and WhatsApp lists of trustees.

Meeting finished at 8.55pm

Next meeting 14 July 7.30pm at the Shed

## **ACTIONS ARISING**

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

All to provide comments on the draft sponsorship policy by Friday 21 June.

All to complete their plot inspections by 30 June.

DCB to continue to liaise with Clancy over the best approach to the remedial works, and send photos of the Bargate site's tracks. Also to ask Parish Council if they want the stones

DCB to create annual social tickets at £18 each.

DCB to ask the Parish Council if we could site the Millennium Sculpture on the corner opposite The Shed

DCB to write to the Cricket Club regarding the water meter.

LM to talk to Jim B regarding the H&S aspects of having the public walking around the allotments for Hidden Gardens.

MC – for next mail-out: permanent closure of bottom track, more volunteers for Hidden Gardens, barbecue tickets, small pots for our stall at St Peter's Country Fayre. Veg competition, Food Bank, show produce,

MC to update Charity Commission and WhatsApp lists of trustees.

MC to update website re the venue for the September meeting.

MC to locate agreement between BWGC and the Cricket club regarding the meter.

RB to do posters for barbecue.

RH to chase butterfly garden fencing.