

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 20th June 2022 7.30pm at the Shed

Present: Chris Curtis (CC), Gill Hamill (GH), Anthea Mabey (AM), Larry Mabey (LM), Nicole Jones (NJ), Gill Cooper (GC), Sue Curtis (SC), Liz McClymont (LMc), Annie Lowe (AL), Kate Cassell (KC) + Colin Carter for Item 3 only

1. **Apologies:** William Heaps (WH)
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved and signed with amendment
3. **Summer Show**
 1. Judges – agreed to pay fees after all + lunch for 4 and all-day helpers. Judge fees to be paid on the day and receipts obtained. **CC** to organise cheques / cash
 2. Stewards – some still required but time still to approach people
 3. Refreshments – G Stainer to organise – will **need** float – **CC**
 4. Raffle – **SC** will purchase 10 – 12 prizes to value £120 / 130
 5. Pay out of prize money – **CC**
 6. NJ queried location of entry forms – On-line and some at Shed. **GC** to print more for Shed 7. **SC** to email Forum contact to Colin Carter for publicity
4. **Matters arising not on the Agenda:**
 1. GC- BWGC Recipe Book , A5 format. **NJ** to investigate printing cost – not yet done, next meeting
5. **Correspondence:**
 1. CC – R Breach to thank lady who cleans toilet at allotment – was thanked as part of volunteer thank you session last year.
 2. GC – letters from J Lovegrove and P Burkett re fencing at allotments, long walk to plots etc.,. See Item 10
6. **Finance:**

CC – Bank a/c's balance currently £23516 + £9.70 Paypal + trustee claims outstanding.

 1. K Elliott – invoice paid
 2. Upcoming costs – Show, website hosting
 3. School hall hire – 10% increase to £24.75 per hour from September. GC to submit Hall hire form for September onwards
 4. Claims – GC owed since last October!
 5. Issue of allotment costs and rents and membership fees – re-consider over next 6 months
7. **Membership:**

CC – Currently 330 members . 1 new allotment holder needs chasing for paperwork - **AM**.
8. **Trading:** LM

Sales slowed - £120 per weekend average in June. Trying to get new lines in, have done well with these.

Volunteer staff should arrange their own rota swaps when they are unable to attend a shift (from AOB)

9. **Allotments:**

15 on waiting list

1. Inspections – number of plots in poor state need letters to plot holders from Trustees stating need to cultivate or termination of tenancy notice will be issued. Potentially contentious – 1. used to store vintage machinery used occasionally for cultivation but also taken to events, plot generally uncultivated 2. some herbs/veg grown but left uncultivated and overgrown as wildflower/life area 3. holds 2 plots and grows a few potatoes and pumpkins. **GC/AM/SC** to re-inspect poor allotments and send letters.

2. All plots need to be numbered by plot holders

3. Water butts – taps left on, water waste, unnecessary costs, may change fittings to exclude hoses.

4. Watering – frequency vs. effectiveness of water use to be emphasised

5. Weeds – need for plot holders to deadhead at least to ensure no spread to neighbouring plots

6. Path mowing and maintenance are part of tenancy agreement, filling dips in paths a H & S issue. Trustees can allow mowers out when they are on site.

7. If can't manage plot then discuss to reduce size given waiting list currently

8. Plots should be cultivated as required by Tenancy agreement

Points 2 – 8 to be covered in monthly email – **LMc**

9. LMc – issue of service dog in training to be on allotment of owner in future. Agreed legal requirement to allow. Owner to be asked by **LMc** to submit all certificates of training to Trustees, for the dog to wear some identification to show it is a service dog when it is on the allotments. Then all allotment holders can be notified that it will be present but general no dog rule still applies at all times.

10. **Roadway Construction / Parking:**

Baram site manager has agreed to try to provide an earth ramp to offset the steep drop where the new tarmac pavement joins the top pathway by Plot 1 as some allotment holders are by choice for their own convenience moving the barriers and accessing the allotments this way which is a H & S hazard.

SC contacted PC in w/c 30/05/22 re fencing and allotments, are on Agenda for next Hall and Grounds meeting. **SC** will send up-date to allotment holders on footpath/cycleway/fencing and will re-contact PC for progress.

11. **Health & Safety:** WH - No report

12. **Monthly programme:** NJ

Assistance needed at monthly meeting – GC does technical part. Low attendance last meeting, partly subject related. Need to advertise outside of Club to attract more non-members and to monitor attendance re in-person vs. Zoom meeting.

13. **Social Programme:**

GC /NJ visited Waterperry Garden near Oxford. Assessed as good for an outing. Group entry currently £8 + coach totals about £30. Agreed to short notice now for September so aim for Spring 2023 with plenty of advance advertising.

14. **Newsletter / Publicity:**

AL all in hand – will carry on with monthly output

LMc – OK, sending out emails as requested and information on Facebook., about 100 people see publicity

15. Community Orchard / Butterfly Garden:

Ann Magrath and helpers have been maintaining orchard. Wire around trees to be removed later in year.

Butterfly Garden – SC still waiting for Parish Council to collect sleepers for installation.

16. AOB:

1. SC – will cease to be Secretary from AGM Jan. 2023.

2. KC – allotment work party Sat 25th June, number of volunteers already

Meeting Closed; 22.00

Next Meeting: Monday 18th July 2022 at The Shed

Actions agreed at this/previous meetings to carry forward: