



# Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.  
1169353

## BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 17 October 2022 7.30pm at the Shed

Present: Gill Cooper – Chair (GC), Dave Bennett (DB), Kate Cassell (KC), Maewyn Cumming (MC), Chris Curtis (CC), Sue Curtis (SC), Gill Hamill (GH), Nicole Jones (NJ), Anthea Mabey (AM), Larry Mabey (LM).

1. Apologies. William Heaps, Annie Lowe, Liz McClymont
2. Minutes of September meeting. Minutes were agreed and approved with alterations confirmed.
3. Finance. There is £22,861.23 in the bank. The social made a small profit.
4. Membership. There are 321 potential members, of which only 215 have paid their dues. We have 171 plots – 115 of these have been paid. **ACTION:** CC to pursue remaining payments.
5. Trading. Going well, all shallots sets and garlic have been sold. The quality of the garlic, from the Garlic Farm, was clearly appreciated. The Suttons discount is confirmed and we have the code to use but it is not yet operational. **ACTION:** LM to pursue Suttons re code.
6. Allotments. The current waiting list is 14.
  - Note on form; one of the membership forms was used to express dissatisfaction with the state of a neighbour's plot, especially the seeding weeds. **ACTION:** GC to again write to perpetrator.
  - Maintenance; a working party will be held on 22 October. Among other improvements it will provide more winter-suitable parking spaces.
  - Pond; the willow tree has been observed to be especially popular with birds, so removing it may not be the best thing for wildlife. More information will be sought before a conclusion is reached. Hampshire Wildlife Trust have been asked for advice, no response yet. **ACTION:** KC to chase HWT for opinion of willow tree removal. **ACTION:** LM to discuss willow removal with his tree specialist neighbour for comparative costs. **ACTION:** KC to get costs for professional tree removal.
  - Purchases; wheelbarrows have been purchased to replace those stolen recently, also a hedge trimmer and a wheel for the trailer, which is now operational.
  - A-Frame; is on order. [Update – this was delivered on 22 October]
  - Wasps; three people have reported being stung this year. It was agreed that wasps' nests that are on the main track and therefore pose a danger to plot-holders will be destroyed – this will be arranged by the Trustees. Nests on paths or plots will be taped off and warning notices put up or the plot holder can fund their destruction themselves.
7. Roadway. SC had sent an update to all allotment holders. Now awaiting Parish Council's decisions on fencing style and proposal for gating of lower field. PC meeting on 18/10/2022. Central hedge still not cut.

8. Health & Safety. It was agreed that annual PAT testing is not necessary so will not be done this year.

9. Monthly programme. The final event for this year is in hand. AL will then be taking over the programme.

10. Social programme.

Volunteers' party; in hand. 45 volunteers have been contacted. **ACTION:** LMc to send out invitations. As many Trustees as possible should attend.

Social evening; this went very well, many compliments were received. Formal thanks for the excellent food have been sent.

11 Anniversary. The exact date that the allotments were first opened is uncertain but seems most likely to have been in 1973 or 1974. There are also several 'mini-anniversaries' e.g. when the Horticultural Association and Allotment Society amalgamated and formed Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club. **ACTION:** All to contact any older members to try to find more exact dates and any other information about the first allotments.

12. Newsletter/publicity/social media. Trustees are asked to send interesting ideas to AL for her excellent articles for the Parish magazine. **ACTION:** All – send items, ideas for Parish Magazine articles to AL. The articles need to go to the LMc for distribution to members – this happens after the publication of the magazine.

13. Orchard & Butterfly Garden.

Butterfly garden. The sleepers are finally in place and looking good. The fencing situation is still uncertain but being pursued by SC.

Orchard; the wire netting is coming off soon, apart from that on some of the newer trees. At the request of BW in Bloom a bramley apple tree has been purchased in memory of Jane Carpenter. BW in Bloom are funding the tree purchase and we will plant it though they may choose to be present. **ACTION:** SC to liaise.

14. Future Trustee Situation. DB has agree to take over as Chair when GC steps down, although he prefers not to attend all monthly programme events. DB will also take over the running of the annual show from Colin in 2024. GC will continue as a Trustee, doing the charity work. This will bring us up to a full complement of 13 Trustees. CC has responded to WH's offer to manage the website.

**ACTION:** DB to discuss details of role of chair with GC

**ACTION:** DB to begin shadowing Colin to learn the Show ropes.

15. Horticulture bursary. GC and SC are to meet the potential candidate, who does appear suitable on paper. **ACTION:** GC and SC to arrange meeting.

16. Dispute process. MC talked through the revised process. It will be amended to restrict those accompanying anyone to a meeting with the Trustees to BWGC members. **ACTION:** MC to make the amendment.

17. Other business.

Bats; there are bats nesting on the side of the shed. Bat boxes, to go on surrounding trees, will be ordered from the Men's Sheds to encourage them. **ACTION:** AM to order bat boxes from the Men's Sheds.

AGM; to be held on 25 January 2023. Report to go to GC for combining into main report, by end November. **ACTION:** All to provide AGM reports by end November. The event will be a wine and cheese, no speaker.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 21 November at The Shed

## **ACTIONS ARISING**

All to contact any older members to try to find more exact dates and any other information about the first allotments.

All to send items, ideas for Parish Magazine articles to AL.

All to provide AGM reports by end November.

AL to advertise monthly events on noticeboards around the village.

AM to order bat boxes from the Men's Sheds

CC Chris to pursue remaining membership payments.

DB to discuss details of role of chair with GC

DB to begin shadowing Colin to learn the Show ropes.

GC to again write to perpetrator of messy/weedy plot.

GC and SC to arrange meeting with bursary applicant

KC to get costs for professional tree removal.

KC to chase HWT for opinion of willow tree removal.

LM to pursue Suttons re code.

LM to discuss willow removal with his tree specialist neighbour for comparative costs.

LMc to ask members who wants plot numbers, and which numbers they need.

LMc to mention monthly events on Facebook.

LMc to send out invitations to volunteers party.

MC to amend disputes process.

SC to follow up on fence repairs once the sleepers are in place.

SC to liaise with BW in bloom re memorial tree

SC and to arrange meeting with bursary applicant