



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 21 November 2022 7.30pm at the Shed

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

1. Apologies. William Heaps (WH), Annie Lowe(AL), Liz McClymont(LMc), Gill Hamill (GH),

2. Minutes of October meeting. Minutes were agreed and approved with alterations confirmed.

3. Finance. Last year's accounts have been completed and sent to the auditor.

Fuel allowance: we are benefitting from the government's provision of £66 pcm to assist with fuel payments. This is more than we spend so it was decided that the excess would go to the food bank in Wickham. **ACTION:** SC and CC to check rules on our giving to charity. **ACTION:** GC to find out what the food bank needs most.

4. AGM. There will be no increase in the fees for membership or plots. The situation regarding fees for three quarters of a plot will be clarified. **ACTION:** CC to draft statement for AGM clarifying the cost of three quarters of a plot.

The Chair's report and other papers will be distributed on 3 or 4 January.

Chair's report – **ACTION:** All who have not yet done so to provide text to GC for the Chair's report by 30 November. **ACTION:** GC to provide report to SC by 16 December.

5. Membership. There are potential members, of which have paid their dues. The current figures are 308 paid members. Due to some configuration changes there are now 169 allotment plots - 167 are paid, 1 outstanding due to long term illness and 1 vacant. **ACTION:** CC to continue pursuing remaining membership payment.

6. Trading. Going well, better takings than expected for the last month of opening. The additional Sunday opening during November proved popular.

7. Allotments.

Maintenance; the October working party was not well attended, so not all of the tasks on the list were completed. The hedges have still not been cut and the ground is now too wet. It was agreed that we would seek alternative contractors. **ACTION:** KC to ask a commercial firm to cut the hedges in January if the ground is hard enough.

It was agreed that a levy of £5.00 per plot will be charged to cover maintenance labour, as insufficient volunteers are coming forward. This will enable us to maintain the allotments properly. Some non-cash recompense will be given to the three regular volunteers. **ACTION:** GC to add the proposed imposition of a maintenance levy to the Chairperson's report at the AGM.

ACTION: LM to inform the three volunteers about the maintenance levy at the appropriate time.

Pond; KC and MC met Craig from Hampshire Wildlife Trust for his advice and opinions. The best actions are to; build a larger pond in a different part of the plot so it is less shaded by the large

willow; leave the large willow in place but cut it back; remove the small willow; generally tidy the area and perhaps add some suitable plants; get a bird bath; investigate health and safety issues; investigate possibility of obtaining a grant to cover costs. **ACTION:** KC and MC to investigate availability of grants for wildlife areas. **ACTION:** DB to investigate rules and guidance for safety of ponds on allotments.

8. Roadway. There has been no action by the Parish Council, it was not known if the issue was discussed at their last meeting.

9. Health & Safety. Nothing to report

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

Concern was expressed that the membership fee was insufficient to cover the cost of the monthly events. Attendance has dropped off over the last few years and most attendees are not plot holders. Consideration was given to charging a small sum for attendance but this could be administratively burdensome. Agreed to discuss further at the December meeting. **ACTION:** MC to add cost of monthly events to the December agenda.

Dates etc for next year's events should be available soon to announce to members. **ACTION:** AL to provide dates and speakers of next year's monthly programme.

11. Social programme. There are no Fridays available at Jubilee Hall for the 2023 social evening. Saturday 21st October will be booked instead. An outing to Waterperry gardens will be organised for May. **ACTION:** GC to announce the Waterperry trip at the AGM. A trip to Woolbeding Gardens, a National Trust property near Midhurst, will be considered for September.

12. Anniversary. It was agreed that we will not arrange any events to celebrate the anniversary.

13. Newsletter/publicity/social media. No report available. It was agreed there may be benefit in advertising events open to the general public on non-BWGC sites e.g. Facebook's BW chat room.

14. Orchard & Butterfly Garden.

Butterfly garden; the sleepers are in place and look good. The fence cannot be replaced as there is no budget, but it can probably be tidied up.

Orchard; redundant wire and fencing has all been removed. The Jane Carpenter memorial tree is due in late November.

15. Future Trustee Situation

SC will no longer act as Secretary after the AGM, but will remain a Trustee and manage the membership. GC will give up the Chair's post after the AGM but remain as a Trustee and do the charity work. CC will cease being Treasurer from January 2024.

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

16. Horticulture bursary. GC and SC have met the applicant, who appears highly suitable, and agreed to provide the bursary.

17. Dispute process. One more small change was requested. **ACTION:** MC will make one more change and send the final dispute process to CC to add to the Trustees section of the website.

18. Other business.

NJ has 28 recipes for the book and some good pictures. **ACTION:** NJ to find out prices for printing the recipe book in different formats and quantities. **ACTION ALL** to provide NJ with further recipes.

GH sends her thanks to all who helped with the volunteer's party, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 19 December, to be hosted by Sue and Chris Curtis.

ACTIONS ARISING

All who have not yet done so to provide text to GC for the Chair's report by 30 November.
All to provide NJ with further recipes.

AL to advertise monthly events on noticeboards around the village.

AL to provide dates and speakers of next year's monthly programme.

AM to order bat boxes from the Men's Sheds once a price has been provided.

CC to continue pursuing remaining membership payments.

CC and SC to check rules on our giving to charity.

CC to draft statement for AGM clarifying the cost of three quarters of a plot.

DB to discuss details of role of chair with GC

DB to begin shadowing Colin to learn the Show ropes.

DB to investigate rules and guidance for safety of ponds on allotments.

GC to add the proposed imposition of a maintenance levy to the Chairperson's report at the AGM.

GC to provide Chair's report to SC by 16 December.

GC to announce the Waterperry trip at the AGM.

GC to find out what the food bank needs most.

KC and MC to investigate availability of grants for wildlife areas.

KC to ask a commercial firm to cut the hedges in January if the ground is hard enough.

LM to inform the three volunteers about the maintenance levy at the appropriate time.

MC to add cost of monthly events to the December agenda.

MC and KC to investigate availability of grants for wildlife areas.

MC will make one more small change and send the final dispute process to CC to add to the Trustees section of the website.

NJ to find out prices for printing the recipe book in different formats and quantities

SC and CC to check rules on our giving to charity.