



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 23 January 2023 7.30pm at the Shed

Present: Gill Cooper – Chair (GC), Annie Lowe(AL), Anthea Mabey (AM), Chris Curtis (CC), Dave Bennett (DB), Gill Hamill (GH), Kate Cassell (KC), Larry Mabey (LM). Liz McClymont(LMc), Maewyn Cumming - Sec (MC), Nicole Jones (NJ), Sue Curtis (SC), William Heaps (WH).

1. Apologies. None
2. Minutes of December meeting. Minutes were agreed and approved with alterations confirmed.
3. Finance. The RHS and HFHS subs have been paid. The bursary student had provided bank details so the grant can now be paid.
Web hosting – the current contract expires in June and can be extended but with a 60% price increase. **ACTION:** WH to investigate alternative providers when he takes over the website.
4. AGM. **ACTION:** LMc to send AGM reminder to members. **ACTION:** GC to purchase cheese and wine for the AGM. Volunteers to help on the day were requested and many came forward.
ACTION: AL to bring quiz discs and laptop to AGM.
5. Membership. We have 312 members, a few have still to complete their forms. Plot 42 has been relinquished and will be split into 5 smaller plots.
6. Trading. The big increase in stock and sales over the last few years was noted and thanks given to Larry.
The seed potato delivery was delayed but they will be in place for the opening on 4 Feb.
The shop suffered a serious water leak as water entered through the conduit for electricity. Electricity company declared it was safe and no danger to the grid. A temporary repair using expanding foam appears to be holding. The insurance company has been informed in case a claim has to be made.
14 volunteers have come forward to mind the shop when it opens. **ACTION:** All who have not done so to let GH know their availability for The Shed rota.
7. Allotments. There are 18 on the waiting list, at least 12 are very keen.
All but two of the plot numbers made by the Men's Sheds have been collected. Two needed correcting. There have been requests for more. **ACTION:** LMc to determine if members can go directly to the Men's Sheds for numbers.
The bat boxes are ready.
The hedges have finally been cut, although no price has been given.
Wildlife area: a low maintenance approach was considered the most practical and sustainable. Means will be found to provide water for wildlife, but not a pond.

Security: LM has investigated additional security measures. Camera would be £700, or £20 pm.

ACTION: DB to investigate cost and feasibility of having wifi in The Shed. **ACTION** LM to purchase a very bright motion-activated light for The Shed.

Trustees on duty on weekends should ensure the mower store remains locked.

Drainage in the area between the shed and manure pen is very poor and a slip hazard. **ACTION:** LM and KC to talk to the drainage engineer about possible solutions to poor drainage around shed.

Mowers are going for service tomorrow. **ACTION:** KC to discuss mower maintenance with a member who has offered to carry out mower maintenance.

ACTION: KC to investigate signs of rot that have been spotted behind the large water butts.

8. Roadway. The fencing has been agreed and top fencing started. [Update: this has since been completed, albeit with an insecure gate]. The contractor has been asked to provide a quote for the other works. **ACTION:** SC to chase Crest Nicholson regarding the fencing that falls within their remit. **ACTION:** LMc to inform members that the new fencing is in place and that the gate will not be locked for now.

9. Health & Safety. **ACTION:** WH to carry our main assessment and CoSHH assessment. **ACTION:** WH to carry our risk assessment for off-site events.

10. Monthly programme. The list of this year's events should be available for the AGM. **ACTION:** AL to provide monthly programme details for distribution at AGM. No volunteers have yet come forward to run a raffle at these events. **ACTION:** GC to ask for raffle volunteer at AGM. **ACTION:** LMc to ask members if they would like Zoom access to monthly meetings in February, March, April and November meetings.

11. Social programme. **ACTION:** SC to contact Parish Council re booking Jubilee Hall for Social evening. **ACTION:** AL to complete Jubilee Hall booking form for social evening. Prices have been found for the visit to Waterperry Gardens. A form will be available at the AGM. A visit to West Dean in September is being investigated.

12. Newsletter/publicity/social media. Nothing to report. Notices are being distributed.

13. Orchard & Butterfly Garden.

GC to take over management of these following the AGM.

14. Future Trustee Situation.

GC had spoken to DB about the Chair's role and he is willing to take over once this has been ratified at the AGM.

Linda Hayson has offered to take over as Treasurer when Chris steps down on September.

ACTION: CC to speak to Linda about Treasurer's role.

15. Other business.

The possibility of having a box or location for lost and found items was discussed. Such items should be kept in the shed.

Plant sale: Will take place on 7 and 8 May this year, to avoid conflicting with the coronation.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 20 February at The Shed.

ACTIONS ARISING

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AL to bring quiz discs and laptop to AGM.

AL to complete Jubilee Hall booking form for social evening.

CC to speak to Linda about Treasurer's role.

DB to investigate cost and feasibility of having wifi in The Shed.

GC to purchase cheese and wine for the AGM.

GC to ask for raffle volunteer at AGM

KC to investigate signs of rot that have been spotted behind the large water butts

KC and LM to talk to the drainage engineer about possible solutions to poor drainage around shed.

KC To discuss mower maintenance with a member who has offered to carry out mower maintenance.

LM to purchase a very bright motion-activated light for The Shed.

LM and KC to talk to the drainage engineer about possible solutions to poor drainage around shed

LMc to send AGM reminder to members.

LMc to inform members that the new fencing is in place and that the gate will not be locked for now.

LMc to ask members if they would like Zoom access to monthly meetings in February, March, April and November meetings.

LMc to determine if members can go directly to the Men's Sheds for numbers.

SC to chase Crest Nicholson regarding the fencing that falls within their remit.

SC to contact Parish Council re booking Jubilee Hall for Social evening.

WH to investigate alternative providers when he takes over the website.

WH to carry our risk assessment for off-site events.

WH to carry our main assessment and CoSHH assessment