



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2023 7.30pm at The Shed

Present: Dave Bennett - Chair (DB), Annie Lowe (AL), Chris Curtis (CC), Gill Cooper (GC), Gill Hamill (GH), Kate Cassell (KC), Linda Haysom (LH), Maewyn Cumming - Sec (MC), Nicole Jones (NJ), Sue Curtis (SC), Colin Carter (item 1 only)

1. Annual Show. The schedule is now available from the Shed, Pearson's and online. Entry forms to be returned to Colin, the Shed or Pearson's. New cards have been printed. Gill Stainer will complete the cards. **ACTION:** CC to send latest membership list to Colin to cross-check against Show entries.

Posters will soon go up. Unfortunately there were not enough confirmed sites to erect name boards. There are three new banners on order, to go up 1 July. Judges have been identified for all categories.

Two trophies are missing, the Challenge Trophy and the Bishop's Cup. It was AGREED that a replacement for the Bishop's Cup would be purchased. Winners' trophies will be presented on the day for photographs, then immediately returned so they can be taken for repairs and engraving. It is likely that for next year's show, trophies will not be left with winners but placed in a secure presentation cabinet, at an as-yet unspecified location.

Colin Carter left the meeting at this point.

2. Apologies. Anthea Mabey (AM), Larry Mabey (LM), Liz McClymont(LMc), William Heaps (WH)

3. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed. Some Trustees thought they recalled that it was DB not MC who was going to take over the website. Those directly concerned thought the minutes were correct as they stood. Minutes were therefore left as they were written. See also notes under item 6, Trustees.

4. Actions. The actions list was updated.

5. Finance. Current balance is £23,167. HMRC have sent £72 as our gift aid rebate.

6. Trustees. LMc had requested that she take over the website rather than MC, and it was felt that this was a better fit. A final decision would be made following a discussion of roles and responsibilities at the next meeting. **ACTION:** MC to add roles and responsibilities to next agenda. **ACTION:** MC to prepare an initial list of resilience requirements.

7. Membership. Membership has increased to 334.

8. Trading. We sold 81 kgs of potatoes, which were supplied at a very competitive price to our members. Next year we will not sell Kestrel as it was not so popular. Spent hops are popular, with the benefits of slug control, weed suppression and most important these days, moisture retention. Trustees are reminded that IOUs are strictly not allowed – one had appeared in the cash tin.

9. Allotments. We have 5 allotment quarter plots vacant, and 13 people on the waiting list. Anthea has drafted the changes to the Ts&Cs, and these have been distributed prior to the meeting. Discussion will take place via email.

10. Allotments maintenance. There is some subsidence on track 3. An attempt to repair it using donated roof tiles caused damage to LH's car, as he drove over the tiles to crush them. LM has asked if the Club can cover the cost of repairs, estimated at about £800. **ACTION:** DB will circulate details of the damage to LH's car, and discussion and voting will take place via email.

Scalpings are still needed to fix the track. A working party may be appropriate, or we could pay someone as agreed in earlier meetings. **ACTION:** KC, MC and DB to investigate availability and costs of hiring a labourer.

There have been several problems with taps recently. **ACTION:** KC to send LMc text for the next newsletter reminding people that if lots of taps are in use, the flow rate will drop.

11. Parking. The Parish Council are considering the bigger picture, including the SINC's future. It was noted that some plot holders have started parking in the new Bishop's Meadow development. The development is private property, but in effect it is not possible to stop people from parking there. It was mentioned that splitting some plots into half and quarter plots effectively means we have more plot holders and this is exacerbating the parking problem. At present lots of people are parking under the trees and this seems to have alleviated some of the issues for now, but DB will continue to pursue the Council for a better long-term solution.

12. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel. Clancy repaired the blown-out plot, and the plot holder is very happy with the result.

Work has started on the path at the top, and they will put the paving slabs aside for us.

Clancy have rejected our request to have certain remedial work done following the sewer work. Concern was expressed that we are implying, incorrectly, that the corner by the bridge used to be in better condition than was actually the case, but it was clarified that, while it would be good to have it in an improved state, the main current concern is that it is now worse than it was, and that Clancy's preferred action will not return it to its previous condition. DB will continue to work with the Parish Council to find a solution.

13. Monthly programme. AL has started work on next year's programme. Details of the next speakers IT and payment requirements have still not been sent.

14. Social programme. The Waterperry trip was a great success, and made a small profit. It was unfortunate that a few people came down with covid following the trip, though there is no clear evidence that it was a direct result of the coach ride. NJ will organise another trip next year. The barbecue will take place on 6 August. This is a Sunday as no suitable Saturday could be found.

15. Newsletter / publicity / social media. It was AGREED that CC would send a reminder email to members about the June monthly meeting and members show. **ACTION:** CC send reminder email to members re monthly meeting. **ACTION:** All to send any other items for the monthly update to Liz.

16. Orchard & Butterfly Garden. 1-2 stakes have been broken in the orchard, possibly due to vandalism. The trees seem to be OK. It was AGREED that GC would purchase more stakes and crossbars as needed.

Volunteers are needed for the butterfly garden. **ACTION:** GC will ask A Mcgrath to provide a form of words for LMc to include in the next newsletter asking for butterfly garden volunteers.

17. Plant sale. An extra £21 has come in, bringing the total to £601, including refreshments. This is an increase of about £90 over last year.

18. Charity work. It was AGREED that we will continue to sponsor the student next year. St Peter's Fayre – it may not be possible to sell the recipe book at the Fayre as this could lead to us being charged for a table. AL providing cuttings for older children and those who have planted crocuses at the last few Fayres might prefer to do cuttings of, e.g. succulents. She will consider further. A rota may be needed to spread the workload around the volunteers.

19. Other business. There was no further business.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 17 July at The Shed.

ACTIONS ARISING

All to send any other items for the monthly update to Liz.

DB will circulate details of the damage to LH's car, and discussion and voting will take place via email.

DB, KC, MC to investigate availability and costs of hiring a labourer.

CC to send latest membership list to Colin to cross-check against Show entries.

CC send reminder email to members re monthly meeting.

GC will ask A Mcgrath to provide a form of words for LMc to include in the next newsletter asking for butterfly garden volunteers.

KC, MC and DB to investigate costs of hiring a labourer.

KC to send LMc text for the next newsletter reminding people that if lots of taps are in use, the flow rate will drop.

LM to try to find a contact point for the Payback Scheme.

LM to contact local scoutmasters to see if scouts could use activities on the allotments to help them gain badges.

MC to add roles and responsibilities to next agenda.

MC, KC and DB to investigate costs of hiring a labourer.

MC to prepare an initial list of resilience requirements.