



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 15 May 2023 7.30pm at The Shed

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

1. Apologies. Linda Haysom (LH), Kate Cassell (KC), Dave Bennett (delayed)
2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed, with two corrections.
3. Actions. The actions list was updated.
4. Finance. Current balance is £23,846, and there is still £640 from the plant sale to be paid in.
5. Trustees. WH will be leaving the area during the summer, so will resign his position. MC will take over the website for now, a new Trustee will be needed.
6. Membership. Membership has increased to 330. We have 177 allotment plots, one of which is currently vacant.
7. Trading. The Shed makes a reasonable profit, which is helping support the Club. It was suggested that prices could be decreased, but some allowance is needed for sudden price fluctuations. Prices are still better than elsewhere. There are still a few potatoes left. Trustees are reminded to ensure they complete all security activities while on duty in the Shed, such as locking up, putting up shutters, chain up the wheelbarrows.
8. Hiring the Shed. Someone had asked about hiring the Shed for art classes – she had done this several years ago. It was AGREED not to proceed because of security and insurance concerns.
ACTION: DB to respond to the applicant.
9. Allotments. We have 10 people on the waiting list.
 - Mowers; we now have eight, more than we really have space for. We will retain at least four in the longer term, others will only be kept until they fail.
 - As the Ts and C's are being changed to cover the disposal of weeds, it was suggested that the bonfires clause also needs updating. **ACTION:** AM will send DB draft clauses re weeds and bonfires for distribution and resolution by email.
 - AM has been chasing those not maintaining their plots. **ACTION:** LMc to send members the message about tidying plots and pathways.
10. Allotments maintenance. The spare rotavators are being offered to members. Tracks 3 and 4 are in a very poor state. Scalpings were done last year but more are needed, and something more

heavy duty is needed for track 4. The Community Payback Scheme has restarted and we might be able to benefit from it as we have in the past. **ACTION:** LM to try to find a contact point for the Community Payback Scheme.

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

11. Parking. DB had approached the Parish council regarding use of the dog walking area for parking. The Halls and Grounds committee will discuss this at the next meeting. DB will attend.

12. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel.

- More action is needed to repair the damage made by Clancy when the sewer was installed. The grooves, since filled in, have effectively created a conduit that drains into the corner by the bridge, so it may never be suitable for parking. **ACTION:** SC to write to Clancy to set up a meeting to discuss the best way forward.
- No recent fencing update. **ACTION:** SC to write to Parish Council to try to get a response re progress with fencing.

13. Health / safety / security. WH and DB completed the annual walk-around around the allotments. Altogether it was much better than last year. The only issue of concern was the ruts left by Clancy when installing the sewer pipe.

14. Monthly programme. The projector was an issue, as not all speakers bring their own and some laptops are not compatible with the school's system. **ACTION:** DB to purchase set of adapters to allow a range of laptop types to connect with the school projector. **ACTION:** AL to send a copy of the programme to WH so the website can be updated.

15. Social programme. **ACTION:** LMc will send joining details to those attending the Waterperry Gardens visit.

16. Newsletter / publicity / social media. LMc provided some very encouraging figures relating to our Facebook pages: The Group has 11 new members, taking membership up to 355 of whom 1 is in France and 1 in New Zealand. Post advertising the plant sale, page hits reached 3.6K.

17. Orchard & Butterfly Garden. The volunteer situation is still somewhat unclear. **ACTION:** GC to speak to Butterfly Garden volunteer to clarify situation. The volunteers are still active and work is being done.

18. Recipe book. There is much interest and 56 have been sold so far. Some assistance was requested for the next meeting so books could be sold there, LMc volunteered to help.

19. Plant sale. £580 was taken, plus more for teas and coffees. This is an increase on the previous few years. The Growing Group worked well, with many plants being raised especially for the sale. Next year's sale will be on 11+12 May. **ACTION:** GH to find out where the Scout's got plants for their sale, and investigate feasibility of using the source ourselves.

20. Other business.

We received a note of thanks from a plot holder for the paving slabs.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 19 June at The Shed.

ACTIONS ARISING

AL to send a copy of the programme to WH so the website can be updated.

AM will send DB draft clauses re weeds and bonfires for distribution and resolution by email.

DB to respond to the applicant. (art classes)

DB to purchase set of adapters to allow a range of laptop types to connect with the school projector.

GC to speak to Butterfly Garden volunteer to clarify situation.

GH to find out where the Scout's got plants for their sale, and investigate feasibility of using the source ourselves.

JC to continue to pursue payment for the memorial tree.

KC to put up more notices regarding disposal of weeds from allotments.

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

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

LMc will send details to those attending the Waterperry Gardens visit.

LMc to send members the message about tidying plots and pathways.

SC to write to Clancy to set up a meeting to discuss the best way forward.

SC to write to Parish Council to try to get a response re progress with fencing.