



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 17 July 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), Sue Curtis (SC), Anthea Mabey (AM), Larry Mabey (LM), Liz McClymont(LMc)

1. Apologies. Nicole Jones (NJ), William Heaps (WH)
2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed.
3. Actions. The actions list was updated.
4. Finance. Current balance is £14909 + £7958 in the Trading Account, a total of £22.867. The Show appeared to be losing more money than previously, mainly because of rapidly rising costs. It may be necessary to consider selling advertising space again.
5. Trustees. WH has now officially resigned as a Trustee (via email) with effect from the end of July.
6. Membership. Membership has increased to 336, one person has not yet paid. There is 1 plot to be let, and possibly more to come soon.
7. Trading. Fairly quiet at present, good profits were made on shallots and onions. Profit margins vary from 2% to 49%.
8. Allotments. MA has identified someone (not a Trustee) to advise the trustees on the Health and Safety remit. The best kept plot had been selected by the Chair of the Parish Council and another councillor; the names will go in the next newsletter and be awarded formally at the AGM.
9. Allotments maintenance. The tap situation has improved. The bottom track is still poor, the hedge needs cutting back – holders of plot in the vicinity will be asked to cut back hedges near their plots. One wasp nest has been identified, plot holders in the immediate vicinity are not concerned about it so it will be left as is. **ACTION:** LMc to remind people to tell Kate if they discover a bee or wasp nest on their plot.
10. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel. The Parish Council's head groundsman has made some suggestions re Clancy's approach to repairing the damage from the sewer work. LM has requested that they add scalplings as well. The Parish Council will go back to Clancy's, they are aware that the work is their responsibility. It needs to be mower-able. It is best if nobody drives over the affected track for now – there are barriers in place. There has been no change re parking.

11. Monthly programme. Progressing nicely. AL asked the Trustees for ideas/requests for subjects for speakers. The next monthly meeting is in September.

12. Social programme. The date of the barbecue (6 August) was confirmed, to start at 5pm. GC will organise the food and decide on an appropriate ticket price. LMc to handle the advertising. Deadline 4 August to inform the Club you will attend and give food preferences, 5th August for payment. LM and AM to assist with the shopping.

13. Newsletter / publicity / social media. We have a few new Facebook followers. **ACTION:** DB to hand-write thank-you cards for those who helped with the catering for the show. LMc will put pictures from the show on Facebook asap. Unfortunately the timing of the Show and the publication schedule for the Parish Magazine means it is not practical to do an article as it would not appear until at least 3 months after the show.

14. Orchard & Butterfly Garden Volunteers are still being sought. **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.

15. Charity work. St Peter's Fayre - plant pots, 4" and very small – are needed. AL will provide some succulents for cuttings for older children.

16. Roles and responsibilities. Discussion was wide ranging. SC has job descriptions from a previous exercise, though they may not be complete or up to date. **ACTION:** SC to send job descriptions to MC. It was noted that one does not need to be a Trustee to perform a task, but that having fewer than 13 Trustees could lead to problems ensuring meetings are quorate.

CC and SC will be leaving at the AGM, and CC is steadily passing on his responsibilities to others, and will complete the handover of finance work to LH by the end of September. It was agreed that MC could take over the Charity Commission role, as this fits with the secretarial duties. LMc will take over website administration, as agreed at the previous meeting, AM will take over email administration. CC and SC will complete the membership renewals later this year.

[Our constitution says that one third of Trustees must retire at each AGM. It was noted that this is largely a formality as said Trustees would simply rejoin immediately. However it will be discussed further to ensure we are not in breach of our constitution.]

Each Trustee present described their role briefly to the others, for clarity.

17. Other business. The Bishop's Waltham Community Volunteers register is up and running, and there is one entry by BWGC for allotment maintenance assistance. All - send MC details of any tasks that could be done by a volunteer, to be added to the register.

ACTION: All - send MC details of any tasks that could be done by a volunteer, to be added to the register.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 21 August at The Shed.

ACTIONS ARISING

All - send MC details of any tasks that could be done by a volunteer, to be added to the register.

All – provide plant pots for the Fayre.

DB to hand-write thank-you cards for those who helped with the catering for the show.

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.

LMc to remind people to tell Kate if they discover a wasp / bee nest on their plot.

SC to send job descriptions to MC.