



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 21 August 2023 7.30pm at The Shed

Present: Dave Bennett - Chair (DB), Annie Lowe (AL), Chris Curtis (CC), Gill Cooper (GC), Gill Hamill (GH), Maewyn Cumming - Sec (MC), Sue Curtis (SC) (late arrival), Larry Mabey (LM).

Colin Carter (CCr) attended for a non-agenda item.

Non-agenda item. CCr had brought back all but three trophies, which had been repaired and engraved with the results from the last three shows. **ACTION:** CC to pay the engravers. CCr will arrange for distribution of the trophies. The first show meeting will be held in the first few weeks of October. A theme for the next show will be needed, and publicity will need to be improved. CCr departed at the end of this item.

1. Apologies. Anthea Mabey (AM), Kate Cassell (KC), Linda Haysom (LH), Nicole Jones (NJ) Liz McClymont (LMc).

2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed.

3. Actions. The actions list was updated. GC has been unable to contact the Men's Sheds. **ACTION:** DB to send GC the email address for the Men's Sheds.

4. Finance. Current balance is £23,328. The trading invoice has not yet been received. LH will take over the finance role from 1 October, CC will remain until the AGM and will assist with the annual accounts.

5. AGM. **ACTION:** All. Notes for the chair's report for the AGM need to be with MC by the end of October.

6. Annual Show 2025. We still do not have anyone to take over from CCr once he has done his final show next year, which puts the show at risk of not being viable. LM had a suggestion. **ACTION:** LM will approach the person to assess their level of interest in organising the 2025 show.

7. Membership. The new forms are available on the website. **ACTION:** LMc to distribute membership forms.

8. Trading. We are awaiting a major order but there have been delays. LM will chase, and consider changing suppliers next year. There is no manure at present as the supplier's tractor is broken.

9. Shed rota: GH passed this duty to LM for the 2024 rota.

10. Allotments: The waiting list is shrinking as people have given up their plots and more plots are halved or quartered.

11. Allotments maintenance. KC is awaiting an email from Payback to confirm the first working party. She has not received a response from the PC regarding the hedge cutting. **ACTION:** DB to contact the Parish Council regarding hedge cutting.

Some of the mowers are needing lots of repairs. Our volunteer wants somewhere to work but it is not practical for him to use the Shed. If the mower store has better lighting and a drop-down bench it would be practical to use it. A decision will be made at the next meeting when KC is present. Ongoing mower repairs are becoming expensive and some machines will be replaced with new, reliable ones, in accordance with the decision made at the May 2023 meeting. The trees on the bottom border have become over large, the shade is making some of the bottom plots almost unusable. **ACTION:** DB to approach the Parish Council to ask them to cut the trees back.

12. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel. Clancy have offered to install Geogrid material and fill with shingle, from near the Shed to the bridge corner, but just to lay topsoil and seed under the trees. DB has asked the Parish Council to ask one of their groundsmen for an opinion as we really need that track to be driveable, preferably in all weathers.

It was noted that cars seem to be coming down Albany Road at greater speed than before. There is an outstanding action with MC to see what can be done about speed limit signage.

13. Monthly programme. There is still no word from the October (social) speaker about the change of time. AL is pursuing. **ACTION:** LMc to advertise the next monthly meeting on social media. The posters AL put on the Shed door, advertising the event, had disappeared – in future they will be put in the noticeboard recently renovated by the Men's Sheds.

14. Social programme. LH appears to have everything in hand for the social. **ACTION:** DB to ask LMC to ramp up the advertising of the social, as ticket sales are slow. CC agreed that those who find it inconvenient to get to the Shed can purchase their tickets directly, paying by BACS. It is still not clear whose role it is to manage the social – to be discussed at a future meeting..

15. Orchard & Butterfly Garden. It was AGREED that another tree would be purchased for the orchard. The family of swans from the pond have been frequenting it Butterfly Garden.

15. Charity work. St Peter's Fayre - about 40 spider plants have been donated. Final details were arranged. We will continue to support our sponsored student.

17 Other business.

- The job descriptions are now on the Trustees section of the website for all to amend and update.
- Gill Cooper tendered her resignation as a Trustee due to other demanding commitments. She will continue in her role until the AGM.
- DB said that a discussion paper about our expenses policy would be distributed soon, and LH would appreciate any comments in advance of the next meeting. **ACTION:** All to read and possibly comment on the expenses policy paper.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 16 October 2023 at The Shed.

ACTIONS ARISING

All. Notes for the chair's report for the AGM need to be with MC by the end of October.

All. All to read and possibly comment on the expenses policy paper.

CC to pay the engravers.

DB to send GC the email address for the Men's Sheds.

DB to contact the Parish Council regarding hedge cutting.

DB to approach the Parish Council to ask them to cut the trees back.

DB to ask LMC to ramp up the advertising of the social as ticket sales are slow.

GC to approach Men's sheds to ask about possibility and costs of repairing the Butterfly Garden fencing.

LM will approach the person to assess their level of interest in organising the 2025 show.

LMc to distribute membership forms.

LMc to advertise the next monthly meeting on social media.

MC to ask Parish Council, Cricket Club and Men's Sheds to try to find someone to replace the signs.