



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 16 October 2023 7.30pm at The Shed

Present: Dave Bennett - Chair (DB), Anthea Mabey (AM), Chris Curtis (CC), Gill Cooper (GC), Gill Hamill (GH), Kate Cassell (KC), Larry Mabey (LM), Linda Haysom (LH), Maewyn Cumming - Sec (MC), Nicole Jones (NJ).

1. Apologies. Annie Lowe (AL), Liz McClymont (LMc), Sue Curtis (SC).
2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed. The date needs to be amended.
3. Actions. The actions list was updated.
4. Finance. Current balance is £23,939. This includes the first of the membership renewals. The invoice for the most recent stock purchase for the shop has not yet been received. There had only been one comment received on the draft expenses policy, so trustees were asked to read and comment. **ACTION:** All. All to read and comment on the expenses policy paper.
5. AGM. **ACTION:** All. Notes for the Chair's report for the AGM need to be with MC by the end of October. It was decided that we would follow the formal part of the meeting with wine, cheese and a quiz, as last year. **ACTION:** MC to look at the quiz questions to ensure they are still current.
6. Membership. So far 201 people have renewed their memberships. There are 179 plots, 113 have been paid for so far.
7. Trading. The large order has finally been received so the shop is fully stocked. There is heavy demand for manure, LM is considering opening for a day or two next month to give members a chance to collect the manure they want, and also to do a final mow.
8. Allotments. The waiting list is very short at present. **ACTION:** AL to add a short piece to the next Parish Magazine article inviting interested parties to apply for plots. The strimmer was replaced by Tool Station as it had developed a fault.
9. Allotments maintenance. The Community Payback people have started work, and will continue coming in on Fridays for a while, weather permitting. So far they have spread scalplings on track 4, and started levelling the main track. If they hit a dry Friday they will start painting the shed. The mowers are still requiring a lot of repairs. There has been no progress with getting the trees cut. **ACTION:** DB to continue to ask the Parish Council to cut the trees back.
10. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel. Crest Nicholson and the Parish Council have agreed to provide a fence and three gates. The prices quoted for gates is very high, LM identified something much more economical. **ACTION:** LM to purchase one of the cheaper gates so we can assess its suitability. **ACTION:** DB to inform the Parish Council of our proposals regarding the gates.

Clancy have agreed to install Geogrid material right around to the top corner, provided the Parish Council's tree expert agrees.

11. Social programme. All is ready for the annual social this month. NJ is looking to arrange an outing sometime early next year, probably in April.

There will be a Share and Taste evening event on 18 November at 7.00, where members can bring produce, or items made from their produce, for others to try.

12. Charity work.

- Orchard & Butterfly Garden. It was **AGREED** we would not purchase a second tree for the orchard, in addition to the one we agreed to buy at our previous meeting.
- Hampshire Countryside Service have identified some volunteers who will repair the fence.
- Bishop's Waltham in Bloom is doing it's 'Hidden Gardens' event again this year, and it was suggested that we open the allotments as part of this. Trustees were generally keen but concerned that the proposed date is the day after our annual show. **ACTION:** MC to attend the Town Team meeting when dates are discussed and see if they can be better coordinated.
- We raised £92 for the church at the Church Fayre this year. Many children were interested and took part.
- Hampshire Butterfly conservation have been working with a golf club to improve planting and this has greatly increased the butterfly population. The allotments are too small a site for a similar project, but it was proposed that we start an Ecology group, once the fencing has been completed, with similar aims. There was much enthusiasm for this.

13. Other business.

- The electricity meter is about to be changed to a smart meter.
- Some amendments have already been made to the job descriptions. **ACTION:** All who have not done so to amend their job descripts as necessary. It is easiest to take a copy of the existing one, mark any changes and send to MC.
- A new Trustee will be needed next year to highlight and extend our charity work. **ACTION:** MC to advertise the post on the BW Volunteers site.
- Action will be needed next year to encourage plot holders, and home growers, to pass their unwanted produce on to others.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 20 November 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 comment on the expenses policy paper.

All who have not done so to amend their job descripts as necessary.

AL to add a short piece to the next Parish Magazine article inviting interested parties to apply for plots.

DB to inform the Parish Council of our proposals regarding the gates.

DB to continue to ask the Parish Council to cut the trees back.

LM to purchase one of the cheaper gates so we can assess its suitability.

MC to look at the quiz questions to ensure they are still current.

MC to attend the Town Team meeting when dates are discussed and see if they can be better coordinated.

MC to advertise the charity trustee post on the BW Volunteers site.