



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 20 November 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), Liz McClymont (LMc), Maewyn Cumming - Sec (MC), Nicole Jones (NJ), Sue Curtis (SC).

1. Apologies. Anthea Mabey (AM), Larry Mabey (LM).

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

3. Actions. The actions list was updated.

4. Finance. The current balance is £23,980. Allotment costs have been higher than in previous years, mainly because the cost of equipment for the Community Payback team, and maintaining the lawnmowers. **ACTION:** All trustees were asked to make LH aware of any planned expenditure before mid-December, in readiness for the AGM. **ACTION:** KC and AL to prepare draft budget proposals for their areas of responsibility.

LH talked through the expenses policy paper. It was AGREED that there was no benefit in changing our current insurance company to increase cover as initial searches indicated strongly that none would do this. However, there might be some benefit to comparing our current policy with others that are on the market to ensure that we are getting best value for money. It was further AGREED that all Trustees and volunteers should carry out a risk assessment before using their own equipment for unusual purposes. **ACTION:** LH to develop a suitable risk assessment tool for use of own equipment. We will also look to making more use of contractors, but would not purchase new novel equipment.

5. Meetings. The December meeting will be hosted by DB and MC. We may not hold a February meeting as so many trustees will be away, however if business from the AGM requires a more immediate meeting we will reconsider.

6. Membership. Membership is down from 343 last year to 314. 292 members have renewed and paid for the next year. 'Red' warnings have been sent to three allotment holders.

7. Allotments maintenance. The Community Payback people have now attended for six weeks. Despite the dreadful weather they have spread scalplings, levelled the main track and started painting The Shed. **ACTION:** LMc to advise that the allotment tracks have had scalplings laid and to ask that members do not place debris and/or old brick and rubble in holes on the driveway. The large mower ('the beast') has been repaired and strengthened by the Men's Sheds. It was AGREED to provide £50 to cover their costs. The taps have been switched off, repairs may be needed to one of them. There has been no progress with getting the trees cut. **ACTION:** DB to continue to ask the Parish Council to cut the trees back.

Some new ploholders have been asking about help in clearing their new plots as they had to clear a great deal of rubbish before they could start cultivating. Ideas included provision of a skip for a short time, or asking all ploholders for a deposit of £50, to be returned when they gave up their plots unless the plots were not cleared. **ACTION:** DB and AM to discuss ploholders' deposits. It will be raised at the AGM if we decide to go ahead.

8. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel. Beeline have agreed a price and are contracting with Crest Nicholson to erect the fencing, with gaps for the gates. **ACTION:** DB and LM to attend the Parish Council Halls and Grounds committee meeting to assess progress with gates and geogrid material.

9. Social programme. The annual social made a profit of £16.10. NJ will take over coordinating the annual social from now on. NJ is arranging an excursion to Holme for Gardens in Wareham. It will take place on 20 May 2024.

10. Communications. LMc has been planning the publicity for the 2024 open show. Parish magazine articles in particular need considerable advance planning. She will also advertise the next monthly meeting on social media asap. **ACTION:** MC to distribute initial list of events for next year. This needs to be completed as far as possible for handing out at the AGM. LMc will take over management of the website on 7 December this year. **ACTION:** LMc advise that letters of thanks have been sent to volunteers at all our events as well as thanking them on the day

11. Charity work.

Orchard & Butterfly Garden. A volunteer has been identified but yet to be confirmed. GC and others will soon be visiting the orchard with the volunteers. **ACTION:** DB to continue to chase Hampshire Countryside Service for an update on the fencing for the butterfly garden. The date for Bishop's Waltham in Bloom's 'Hidden Gardens' was confirmed as 7 July 2024. This makes it possible for us to take part. **ACTION:** MC to contact Bishop's Waltham in Bloom for details.

12. Other business.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 18 December 2023 at 1 Shore Lane.

ACTIONS ARISING

All trustees were asked to make LH aware of any planned expenditure before mid-December, in readiness for the AGM.

AM and DB to discuss ploholders' deposits. It will be raised at the AGM if we decide to go ahead.

AL and KC to prepare draft budget proposals for their areas of responsibility.

DB to continue to chase Hampshire Countryside Service for an update on the fencing for the butterfly garden.

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.

DB and AM to discuss ploholders' deposits. It will be raised at the AGM if we decide to go ahead.

DB and LM to attend the Parish Council Halls and Grounds committee meeting to assess progress with gates and geogrid material.

KC and AL to prepare draft budget proposals for their areas of responsibility.

LH to develop a suitable risk assessment tool for use of own equipment.

LM and DB to attend the Parish Council Halls and Grounds committee meeting to assess progress

LMc to advise that the allotment tracks have had scalplings laid and to ask that members do not place debris and/or old brick and rubble in holes on the driveway

LMc advise that letters of thanks have been sent to volunteers at all our events as well as thanking them on the day

MC to distribute initial list of events for next year.

MC to contact Bishop's Waltham in Bloom for details.