



Bishop's Waltham Gardening Club



BWGC

Registered Charity No.
1169353

BISHOP'S WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of meeting held on 18 December 2023 7.30pm at 1 Shore Lane

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

1. Apologies. Annie Lowe (AL), Kate Cassell (KC), Liz McClymont (LMc).

2. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes were confirmed, apart from two actions for LMc which will be added.

3. Actions. The actions list was updated.

4. Finance. The current balance is £24,235.48. It was AGREED that we would not ask for an increase in fees, or a deposit for allotments, or an additional charge for allotment maintenance, at the next AGM as we have sufficient funds for now. We will try to obtain one or more grants next year, particularly for improvements to the allotments.

ACTION: LH, DB and KC to develop a budget for next financial year.

5. Membership. Membership is at 303. Those few who have not paid after repeated reminders are being regarded as leavers.

6. Hidden Gardens. It was AGREED that the allotments would take part in Bishop's Waltham in Bloom's Hidden Gardens event in 2024. MC to coordinate.

7. Trading. All quiet at the moment as the shop is closed, although LM has managed to sell a load of grit. Next year's seed potatoes should arrive in January.

The interior of the non-shop part of The Shed needs painting, and now seems a good time as it has been cleared. A painting party was fixed for 10am, 22 Jan 2024. **ACTION:** LM to organise the painting party for January, with as many trustees coming as can manage it.

ACTION: DB and SC to look at the contactless card reader used for the BW festival to see if it is suitable for use in the shop.

8. Allotments. One of the raised beds needs repair work. **ACTION:** AM to get quotes for repair work on raised beds.

The waiting list is currently quite short. **ACTION:** LMc to mention in the next monthly update that now is a good time to put your name down for a plot.

9. Allotments maintenance. Community Payback have completed painting The Shed. They are now cutting the middle hedge, and this week will complete the job, they hope also to trim below

both sides of that hedge, including the ditch. Mr Tosdevine informed us that he had in fact been booked by the Parish Council to cut the hedge in January. **ACTION:** DB to check with the Parish Council that Mr Tosdevine will still cut back and trim the other boundaries and see if he can also cut the trees.

The biggest allotments maintenance cost is maintaining the tracks in the lower field. The far end of track two under the trees needs work, but the Payback group is not currently big enough to do the work; it will be looked at again in the spring. The ditch was not cleared this year, this will definitely have to be done next year as it is silting up.

10. Fences / Roadway / Sewage tunnel.

The Parish Council does not have a budget for gates in the top field. They had suggested that we apply for a grant but there is nothing suitable. It will ultimately cost more if we leave spaces in the fence for now, and install the gates at a later date. It was AGREED that we would purchase the gates needed so that these can be installed when the fencing goes in. **ACTION:** LM to purchase three gates. **ACTION:** DB to contact the Parish Council to inform them that we will purchase the gates. We will also push for the PC to purchase the gates for the lower field fencing.

Clancy remedial works – BWPC tree experts have confirmed that an all-weather track built from Georigid matting can be installed along the side of the tree line at the far end of the top field. However, as the trees have a TPO on them the BWPC are checking with Winchester City Council to see if any planning permission is needed first.

11. Monthly programme. We will need to find somebody to take over this task as AL will be leaving after the AGM. She will try to provide an updated list of next year's speakers for distribution at the AGM. It was agreed that we would investigate offering minibus transport to the monthly meetings for members. **ACTION:** MC to approach the minibus group for details.

12. Social programme. NJ has booked the coach for the excursion to Holme for Gardens in Wareham which will now take place on 21 May 2024.

ACTION: MC to book Jubilee Hall for the annual social next year on 26 October.

13. Communications. LMc has taken over the management of the website from CC so any documents that would previously have been sent to CC to be published should now be sent to her. Please indicate a deadline for publication so LMc can plan her work.

We now have 388 Facebook followers. The account appears to have been hacked. **ACTION:** LMc need to follow up on the Facebook account hacking.

ACTION: LMc to add our public events (the show and the plant sale) the 'What's on guide for Bishop's Waltham' published by the Town Team.

14. Charity work.

Butterfly Garden fencing – Volunteers from the Hampshire Countryside Service are busy building a new green oak fence for the butterfly garden. It is likely that this will be fitted in Spring 2024. The delay is a result of volunteers being unavailable over the winter period.

SC and others visited the Orchard and carried out an inspection of the trees, which are all doing fairly well. They have decided not to plant another tree, but requested funds to improve the tree supports. It was AGREED that funds be used for this purpose.

15. Other business.

LM will secure one of the filing cabinet drawers so membership forms and other documents containing personal data can be safely stored there. We will consider the practicality of scanning completed membership forms and saving them electronically, and destroying the paper copies.

Next meeting 7.30 Monday 15 January 2024 at the Shed.

ACTIONS ARISING

AM to get quotes for repair work on raised beds.

DB to check with the Parish Council that Mr Tosdevine will still cut back and strim the other boundaries and see if he can also cut the trees.

DB to contact Parish council to inform them that we will purchase the gates.

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

DB and SC to look at the contactless card reader used for the BW festival to see if it is suitable for use in the shop.

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

LM to purchase three gates.

LM to organise the painting party for January.

LMc to mention in the next monthly update that now is a good time to put your name down for a plot.

LMc need to follow up on the Facebook account hacking.

LMc to add our public events (the show and the plant sale) the 'What's on guide for Bishop's Waltham' published by the Town Team.

MC to approach the minibus group for details.

MC to book Jubilee Hall for the annual social next year on 26 October.

SC and DB to look at the contactless card reader used for the BW festival to see if it is suitable for use in the shop.