

MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 in Stanwick Club meeting room

Present; Dave Cox (Chairman), Brenda Marshall (Secretary), Andy Bignell (Treasurer), and Janet Carrington.

1) Apologies: Samantha Roberts and Julie Paterson.

2) Treasurer's report: - We have received another donation of small change totalling £18.39 which we are extremely grateful for. We have spent some money on compost, manure, and some printing ink.

Our balances are as follows... £175.98 in cash and £1,620.73 in the bank. Total =£1796.71

Our registered address still needs to be changed over to the new secretary's that will be done in due course.

We now have 40 members and four group members.

3) Matters arising from the meeting on 8th February:

- **Review and approve the guidelines:** There will be a few details changed in the user guidelines to bring them up to date. **Brenda to action**
- **Five year plan:** We decided that we no longer need a five year plan as we achieved our goals in the first couple of years. We will, however, have a document called 'Aims and Goals. 'This will be put together over the next few months. We thought that it should include how to publicise the community garden and involve more people and our planting ideas.
- **Trimming of the summerhouse fascia's:** **Dave to action**
- **Meeting with the representative from Acorn Nursery:** Following a site meeting to discuss Acorn Nursery's raised bed and its regular use and maintenance, it was agreed they would utilise this more frequently and clear the plants that are too large so that the children can then plant/sow some more suitable flowers. We offered to help as much as we can by supplying plants from our stock. But pointed out that we do not have the resources to do it for them.
- **Dave told us that our new banner/tablecloth is ready:** It will be used for the first time at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April. Where we will have an information stall.
- **Update on the children's sunflower sowing event:** Dave reported that the plans for this were in place. The youngest children from Stanwick Primary will be brought to the garden on Wednesday 29th March to sow their seeds in pots. They will bring stickers and pens to label them. They will take them away and when they are grown sufficiently they will come back with their parents and plant them in the garden. Dave will sow some back up seeds in

case some fail. We were given some free seeds from RHS to use in the community in some way so we will send some photos of the planting session to them afterwards. Taking care not to show children's faces.

- **Update on mini plots:** All of the mini plots are taken and paid for. Some have started planting already.

4) The area around the scarecrow: This area has become very overgrown with grass and weeds. We discussed a plan proposed by Clare Annable that used weed stop membrane under decorative stones in sections, with planting in the spaces in between. We liked this idea, but agreed that it would not be the cheapest way forward. We are going to clear the weeds and try and keep the nice bits of creeping Thyme. We will see what we are left with. The log roll border will be inspected and if it is still in reasonable condition it will remain for the short term. We may put some weed barrier down in some areas or we may just plant a mixture of cottage style plants such as Poppies, Love in a mist, Ageratum and alpines for the time being as we want it to look nice by May. We did decide however, to have a circular flower bed around the scarecrow with spring bulbs for next year and flowers in the summer.

5) Update on the Coronation plans for Bank Holiday Monday 8th May: Julie Patterson will put The Community Garden on the map that will be on sale showing group activities around the village. We will be there from 10am-3pm. We will show people around and explain more about the garden and what we do. We will put photos up in the summerhouse and have the albums there for people to look at. Any children that come with their map will get a sticker on it and a free pack of seeds. The scarecrow will be dressed for the occasion. Janet has a possible dress for her and we have Easter bonnets, so we could dress her for Easter first of all, then if we could get a large flag to wrap round her it would be good. We will need to order new Union Jack bunting as last year's was thrown away as it disintegrated.

6) Date for our first working party of the year: We decided that Saturday 15th of April was a good date to do this. We will only have a possible three committee members there, but a couple of allotment holders have offered help and we hope other members may come along. There is a lot of grass under the shrubs that needs removing while we can still get to it and we should make a good start on the central area around the scarecrow.

7) A.O.B:

- Thanks goes to Christopher Brawn for making such a great job of cutting back the shrubs.
- Our plant sale and cake stall will be on 20th May and run in conjunction with the Pocket Parks car boot sale.
- We have the seeds for giving to the children on Coronation Bank Holiday and with the kind donations that we have had we have quite a lot for growing to

sell, but we still need some trailing plants as they are very popular. We will shop for those in the near future.

- The races group have asked if they can borrow the flip chart from the summerhouse for race day and we agreed that we are not using it that day.
- Jenny Hodgson has asked if we would participate in a 'Stanwick Events Committee' if this should come to fruition. Janet and Brenda offered to take part.
- We have topped up the raised beds with topsoil as the levels had eroded.
- Brenda requested a new external hard drive to store all members' details on it. Permission was given.

Next meeting to be arranged