

MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 in Stanwick Club Games Room

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

- 1 **Apologies:** Samantha Roberts and Val Fisher
- 2 **Treasurer's report and collecting this years subscriptions:** - We have £3,018.20 in the bank and £434.30 in cash. This includes a sum of £400 that was a grant for the new lawn mower, which was £380 and hasn't yet been paid out, and £200 contribution towards our insurance, which is now £271 per annum. Last year we had deposits of £1686.07 into the bank and takings of £551.00 in cash.
Payment for the bin collection was due in November but it has been difficult to correspond with the council and get stickers for the bins. There is always confusion as we don't have a postal address at the gardens. We are still waiting for a quote. However, they are still emptying the bins each week.
The members subscriptions and payment for mini plots will be due at the end of February. Reminders to be sent out this month.

Andy to action members reminders

Note: Our banking App isn't working at the moment. It can be seen but money cannot be moved. The fault has been reported to Nat West

- 3 **Review of the Christmas Fayre:-** We took £167.20 on our stall. The raffled Christmas cake making around £40, included in that figure, so that did very well for us. Thank you again to the contributor. There was a lot more competition this time as we were inside the hall. There were quite a few cake stalls so we didn't sell all of ours, but it was well worth doing and thank you to all of those who helped in any way. This year we will be more selective about the cakes that we offer, have more savouries such as sausage rolls, and offer plant related crafts. We decided that it would go down well to collect small pots throughout the year and pot up hyacinth and tete a tete bulbs so that they might flower at Christmas. ***Can we ask if everybody can look out for suitable, saleable pots for these please?***
- 4 **Matters arising from the meeting on 27th September 2023:-**
 - **The new lawnmower** has been purchased and is at present being looked after by our treasurer until a safe space is cleared in the container.
 - **Stanwick Primary Gardening club.** Mrs Ridley is running this in 2024. Brenda met year five at the allotments on 4th January. Mrs Ridley was absent at the time but we will liaise with her regarding planting in the raised beds. Some of the children were keen and were asking what they should grow. We will try to encourage them to get their parents to bring them in the school holidays to tend the plants.
Dave has had contact with the teacher of the youngest group and she is keen to repeat the sunflower event that was so successful last year.

Chair's report 2023...

It's been another good year for the Community Garden as a well-established favourite place for visitors and users alike. In spring last year, we held a Sunflower sowing session with Stanwick Academy School and their Ladybird class. This was originally meant to happen in 2020 but then the pandemic came along and all plans were put on hold. The children started by writing their names on stickers and put them onto pots that we gave to them. The next task was to get their hands into the compost and fill the pots before adding in the Sunflower seeds. This activity worked really well and combined with some of the subjects they were covering in the school curriculum. The ask was for them to take their pots away, water and look after them until they had well established Sunflower plants. We then arranged for the children and parents / grandparents / carers to return to the garden in May when we held a planting session for the children to plant their Sunflowers into the beds around the Community Garden. Everyone really enjoyed this and we have plans to do this again this spring with the latest Ladybird class and their teachers.

Our annual plant sale was another great success, and like the previous one, we continued to offer plants for a few weeks so that people could come along at other times if not available for the main sale date, and also to pick up plants that required further growing time.

The Community Garden was again represented on some of the village activities - such as the Church Fete and Christmas Fair. This worked really well not only to sell goodies to eat, but to continue to get our name out there and encourage more use of the garden. Its success was also driven by a wonderful donation of a beautifully made Christmas Cake - many thanks again to the anonymous donor of this.

The mini plots continue to be well used and as I write this, have been fully allocated again for the coming year.

As a completely volunteer based garden, the continued success would not be possible without the individuals who consistently help. I would like to thank the committee for their continued commitment and also for everything they do with plant sowing / growing, maintenance

around the garden and making and baking delicious goodies for fundraising. We also have other regular volunteers in Chris and Carolyn who not only put out our bins and look after this side of the garden, but carry out maintenance such as applying wood treatment to the summer house and toilet, plus cutting back the shrub area. Also, to John and Jenny who continue to keep the fruit cage in such great condition. Lastly to Mick (aka Taff) who often helps with watering duties.

Many thanks to everyone - I really appreciate your efforts and love working with you all too.

Finally, as spring and the warmer weather are hopefully just around the corner I'm looking forward to spending more time in the garden - hope you are too? See you there!

Happy growing to you all 😊

Dave

STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN USER GUIDELINES 2024

Community Garden opening/use times

Dawn until dusk, seven days a week.

Notice boards

The public notice board is at the entrance to the Garden. The members notice board (chalk board) is in the polytunnel and is a way for all of us to stay in touch. Please only use it for any day to day garden-related purposes.

Security

The car park gates should be kept closed even when using the car park. The gates into Community Garden area will be left unlocked for community access but must be kept closed for rabbit proofing purposes. To help keep property secure, please do not divulge codes of the locks.

Rubbish

Compostable - please dispose of all vegetation in the brown bins.

Non-compostable - please use the appropriate bins for non-recyclable and recyclable rubbish (no dog mess, please).

Water

Remember, to conserve the use of water at all times – The harvested rainwater should always be used as a priority. The taps have padlocks on them to prevent them from being misused and wasting water.

Please check the member board for specific instructions on watering plants - otherwise water as required. (We have a watering rota at certain times of the year so please ask first) Tap codes are 815 and 0815. Taps should be locked when not in use.

Organic gardening

No weed killer, pesticides etc. to be used unless first discussed with the Committee.

If vermin is seen, please report to a committee member.

Tools & Storage Container

Return cleaned after use and store safely. Children are not allowed in the storage container. Access to the storage container is by permission of the committee only.

Garden Product

Produce is grown on a not-for-profit basis, but can be sold for future funding of the community garden. Any surplus will be distributed at the Committee's discretion.

Visitors

Family members are welcome to the garden site; children must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times. Dogs, except those on a leash, are not allowed.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact a committee member by email stanwickcgg@gmail.com or telephone Dave Cox on 07920095981 or Brenda Marshall on 01933 461670.

COMMUNITY GARDEN ACCOUNTS

JANUARY 1ST 2023

OPENING BANK BALANCE 1887.06

CASH BANKED 1686.07
3573.13 3573.13

PAID OUT 956.92 3573.13
956.92

4TH FEBRUARY 2024 2616.21 2616.21
CASH AT BANK

OPENING BALANCE CASH ACCOUNT 82.04

CASH RECEIVED 509.51
591.55

PAID OUT 482.32 591.55
482.32

CASH IN HAND 109.23 109.23

TOTAL 4TH FEBRUARY 2024 TOTAL 2725.44

Appendix 1

Rules for the plots inside the polytunnel

- The plots are small so please do not grow large plants such as melon, squashes etc. These spill out onto the pathway and cause trip hazards as well as encroaching onto other plots.
- Do not plant Potatoes or tomatoes directly in the soil. This is to prevent the spread of any blight that may be present. Growbags can be used for these.
- Please take care of the soil, even if you use growbags. If you don't have any blight at the end of the season you should dig the compost into the soil.
- Rubbish disposal is the same as user guidelines. Compostable in brown bins, non-compostable please use the appropriate bin for recycle and non-recycle.
- Water...Please use the harvested rainwater whenever possible. Your plants will much prefer it anyway. Water all the soil if it is very dry, it helps to break it down and keep it cultivated for the next person. Do not rely on committee members to water your plot for you.
- Organic gardening...No pesticides, weed killer etc. unless first discussed with the committee. If vermin are seen please report to a committee member.
- Tools...You are welcome to use tools that are left in the polytunnel. Please and wipe them clean and replace them to where you found them before leaving.
- Please do your bit to keep the polytunnel tidy. Sweep the paths every now and again. Don't leave rotting vegetables anywhere in the polytunnel even if you think that others may want them. If you have any to share leave them in a crate outside clearly labelled 'help yourself'.
- At the end of the season your plot should be cleared and dug over for next year. Leaving rotting plants encourages pests, aphids etc.

- **Acorn nursery and Pre-school raised beds.** At present the raised beds are quite tidy as we cleared them at the end of last year. Apart from a couple of scarecrows that have been left there. These are falling to pieces and look untidy. We were pleased that they took part in the scarecrow competition, but they will now be sent an email asking them to remove them asap. We are hoping that they will take part in doing the weeding of their raised beds when the weather gets better so that it doesn't become overgrown again.
- **Paid Labour.** We will still be on the lookout for somebody to be paid to do a bit of weeding every now and again as the previous girl that we had planned to use didn't materialise.
- **Events Committee. At the last meeting it was discussed that we would hold our plant/cake sale alongside a village event.** This meeting is scheduled for 25th January at 7pm in the village Hall. Janet and Brenda will attend. Andy will be present but he will represent the Races Group. The idea of the committee is to co-ordinate village events and perhaps get together to help one another.
- **The Block pavements** in the Community Garden have been re-fixed where necessary.

5 Review and approve the new rules for the plots inside the polytunnel:- Brenda presented draft rules and they were approved. Appendix 1

6 Tidying the garden, polytunnel and container:- It was agreed that Janet, Brenda and Clare would try and sort out the polytunnel this month weather permitting. A small work party could sort out the container following this. We will try to arrange collection of the larger unwanted items, such as the old metal lawnmower. Also get a quote to repair the recently used mower and perhaps be able to sell it.

Andy to action

7 Advertising the mini plots:- We can begin to advertise our ten mini plots now as the season for these begins on 1st March. The clerk to the Parish Council has offered help in this area.

8 Look at the 'weedman' quote for 2024. Our 'weedman' who sprays paths only for us, has changed his way of doing things and his price has gone up to £108 for the year. We agreed that as he visits every month and in our experience he does keep the paths relatively weed free, that he is good value so we agreed to keep him on for 2024.

9 Set a date and book a venue for our AGM:- It was agreed that we would book the village hall for our AGM towards the end of February. Brenda to action

10 A.O.B.

- Andy has done a little weeding and removed the Christmas decorations from our scarecrow. Thank you Andy
- Lyndsey Cutmore has kindly offered to welcome new members and new mini plot holders to the garden. She is free some weekdays and would like to help new people get as much from their membership as she has done in the past. We all agreed that any contribution from members is very welcome.