

MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 in Stanwick Club meeting room

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

1) Apologies from Julie Patterson

2) Treasurers report :- We now have £1794.74 in our bank account, and a cash sum of £113.96 which totals £1908.70. Included in this there is £41.48 left in the annual budget fund, £600 in the polytunnel savings and £200 put aside for our insurance. We have a very kind benefactor who gives us his small change periodically and we have been so surprised and pleased that his donations have totalled £78.77 this year!

We again discussed the need for a new treasurer next year. There has been no response from any members so we have asked Jenny Hodgson to help us to find somebody to take on the role.

3) Christmas Fayre stall: - With the Christmas fayre at the village hall looming on Sunday 4th December we made our last minute plans for this.

The Fayre starts at 3pm for two hours. We are not sure now when the Church are holding the Christingle service, but it may be before we open at 3pm. Set up is from 2pm.

Janet, her husband Roland, their daughter and her husband are going to erect the gazebo. Clare will provide a groundcover/mat and battery fairy lights. Janet and Roland will also bring chairs for us to sit on. Roland has lanterns and we are told that there will be some lights erected this year too. Clare said that she has some guy lights which will be useful if it is windy enough to use guy ropes.

We will be selling cakes, savouries and preserves.

Janet will bring sausage rolls and chutneys. Brenda will bring chocolate cake, Christmas cake squares and pickled beetroot. Clare will bring homemade biscuits. Dave will bring homemade cookies. Andy will bring chutneys and he will supply bags and labels. Andy is supplying refreshments inside the hall with turkey and pork cobs, teas and coffees. Clare will be helping him and he has very kindly said that all the profits will go to the Community Garden.

4) Summerhouse repairs: - Our lovely summerhouse has been leaking badly. Clare has brought in the suppliers to look but as it is not under guarantee anymore they could only advise. We had new roofing felt put over the top of the existing, which had numerous small holes in it. Thought to have been caused by pigeon droppings combined with the heat of the summer. The handyman who repaired it put new fascia's on the front and back so that the felt tucked underneath, which wasn't done previously. Andy has put some guttering down the sides to hopefully stop any water from splashing up causing seepage from the bottom of the walls. At the time of writing the materials have come to circa £80. The corners of the fascias will need

trimming off as before to prevent accidents. **Dave to action this.** Thank you Clare for organising the repairs.

- 5) **Turning Scary Mary into Jolly Holly:** - For those of you who don't know, this is our resident scarecrow. Weather permitting we will dress her in her Christmas robes next Tuesday. Clare has a red top for her; we have a white t shirt and red gloves. Her skirt is staying and we have tinsel to stitch onto it. Janet has bought a Christmas hat.
- 6) **Finding more helpers:** - We continue to struggle with this and although we do very well for the handyman type jobs, we still have very few outside the committee helpers when it comes to gardening. We have had a few people who expressed interest but then haven't come back. We think this may be because we don't have people on site regularly to show people what to do.
- 7) **Tidiness of the gardens:-** With the lack of helpers in mind we decided that we really need to ask some of the groups to take a more active part in maintaining their raised beds. There are a couple in particular that are very untidy. A letter will be sent out in the New Year. The mini plots are also a problem from time to time. It was agreed that a firmer stance will have to be taken and if people do not keep their plots tidy they will not be eligible for having one next year. There will be a deadline announced for letting us know if there is a problem with being able to maintain their plot.

Set a date for the AGM:- It was decided that we will plan for the end of February. Brenda will book the meeting room in the village hall for this.

8) A.O.B.:-

- A neighbour of the Chair has kindly donated some plants that were surplus from her garden. They included two standard hibiscus, agapanthus, crocosmia, heuchera and a large lily. Janet and Clare braved the cold and the mud to plant them along the border, apart from the hibiscus which Andy offered to do.
- We decided that the topsoil for topping up the raised beds will be purchased in the spring.
- The lawnmower has not yet been serviced, but it only needs an oil change and spark plugs cleaning up.
- At the last meeting we discussed the movement of paving slabs. The contractor has been out and pointed out to us the guarantee ran out some time ago. He told us that the only thing we could do with the area at the back of the polytunnel is to remove the existing slabs, under the water butts, and put concrete down as there is such a lot of weight on the area. We decided that this is not necessary as nobody really walks round the back. The other slabs, at the front of the raised beds are not too bad.
- It was suggested that we ask the Parish Council if we could have a sign on the gate to the garden saying 'Dogs on Leads'. It was noticed that, although our members are aware that they should keep their dogs on a lead, visitors are not.