

## MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in the summerhouse on site.

Present; Dave Cox (Chairman), Brenda Marshall (Secretary), Andy Bignell (Treasurer), Janet Carrington, Samantha Roberts and Julie Paterson

### 1) Apologies: None

### 2) Matters arising from the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March:

- We approved the updated version of the user guidelines..... **Appendix 1**
- Our aims and goals for the future: This is work in progress. We have already said that we should strive to widen the membership and find new active members We are putting money aside to replace the polytunnel cover at some stage in the future and we should add that the paving slabs may need to be replaced if they continue to move and lift.
- Dave has trimmed the corners of the summerhouse fascia's as promised at the last meeting.
- Acorn Nursery: Their raised bed is now overgrown again and we do not have enough help to do it for them Dave will write to them again. The two Stanwick Primary beds have not been used again either, although they are tidy. If we know we can plant something in them we will. Brenda will contact the teacher.
- Our new tablecloth/banner was used for the first time at the annual P.C. meeting and was a great fit and worked very well.
- The first working party of the year on 15<sup>th</sup> April was a disaster, with just Andy, Brenda and Janet there from the committee. Clare and Amanda came along as well, but nobody else from the village showed up. We decided not to organise another one just yet.
- Brenda has the new external hard drive for protecting data and it is now in use.

### 3) Treasurer's report: - We have received another two donations of small change for which we are grateful.

Our balances at the time of the meeting were as follows... £2,447.20 in the bank and £124.86 in petty cash.

Included in these figures are the takings from the plant and cake sales. This was a most successful day. The plant sale raised £290.00 and the cake sale £272.00. In addition to this £19.00 was put in the donation box for drinks that people could help themselves to and the ongoing plant sale collected in the honesty box another £61.75 over the next two weeks.

We have to date ring fenced £600 towards the polytunnel cover.

We are being given a grant of £400 from two of the North Northants councillors to purchase a new lawnmower as ours is not going to last much longer and The Stanwick Races group have allocated £200 of their charity money to us. We have also stocked up on compost for next year's growing at this year's prices and this is stored in the container.

- 4) Getting help to keep the garden tidy:** employing somebody and the Parish Councils suggestions. We have realised that as a committee we can no longer keep on top of the weeding around the garden and it is looking very overgrown in places. We have managed to make some money so want to pay somebody to get on top of it for us and perhaps do this two or three times a year. We will need to arrange a meeting with a possible gardener to establish rates of pay etc. **Andy to action**  
We need to make a list of jobs that we want to be done before the meeting.
- 5) The area around the scarecrow:** This is very overgrown and could be put on our list of jobs that need to be done.
- 6) The raised beds:** We discussed this under matters arising, but it was mentioned that the beds that we planted out were looking good.
- 7) Funding application for new lawn mower and grass cutting:**  
Richard (pocket park) is now mowing around the car park apart from the strip of grass next to the fence. Dave does this and inside the Community Garden. This change has been due to our lawnmower not really being good for rough ground and we are replacing it with the help of a grant (as mentioned in the treasurer's report) because of damage, but we still will have a domestic mower not a commercial one.
- 8) Review rules for the plots inside the polytunnel:** Although we had some rules in place, we have previously not had written rules for this. It is only the third year that we have let the plots.  
**Brenda** will draft some rules and have them approved by the committee.  
It was noted that the plots have all been taken up and it is looking very tidy in there.
- 9) Review the sunflower growing event:** Dave organised this. The initial seed sowing session was held with the children and teachers and when the planting session was held, parents and grandparents etc. were invited to come along and help - and we had a very good turn out! It all went very well and the children enjoyed it.  
Dave grew some spares just in case the children's plants didn't grow. One of these was needed when a child knocked the top off of theirs when planting it! The plants are now flowering in the garden.

**10) Review the Coronation event:** We still have the decorations up so the scarecrow needs to have a change of clothes for the rest of the summer. Janet's husband will take down the bunting.

The day itself went quite well. We gave away quite a lot of seeds and had quite a few visitors. We think that more people came to us as the treasure hunt in the pocket park was going on at the same time. We are happy not to do more than two cake sales through the year. The next one will be at Christmas. The pocket park are doing some more car boot sales and have asked to borrow our flasks for hot drinks as we will not be doing anything on those days. We are very happy to do this as all of the groups in the village should support one another.

The left over seeds are in the container. It was noted that there is still a lot of the pocket parks timber in the container, which we have to manoeuvre around when getting the mower out. We will ask how long this is going to be there.

**Andy to action**

**11) Review the plant and cake sales:** As mentioned in the treasurers report this went very well. The people who baked for the occasion were each given £10 towards the ingredients, but should be thanked for their generosity as this wouldn't nearly cover the costs of electricity and ingredients.

**12) Any other business:** Janet asked if raspberries were ready to pick for jam making for the Christmas sale. The fruit in the fruit cage is grown for this purpose.

**The next meeting is to be arranged.**