

## **MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Stanwick Club meeting room

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

**1) Apologies:** Janet Carrington and Sam Roberts

**2) Matters arising from the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

- All of the raised beds are now overgrown due to the time of year and to neglect. If people turn up for the work party on Saturday we will try to clear them for the winter. Re: the school raised beds .Dave has asked one of the reception teachers to circulate our work party date amongst the parents and she is was very willing to do so. He will also try to find out, through her, if there is going to be a gardening club next year.
- Lawnmower: Dave is waiting to see if there is a bargain to be had out of season before purchasing our new mower. The pocket park have still got fence posts and timber in our container and we have asked when it will be moved. They will be reminded as we will need it out of the way to do a stocktake. At present we have to climb over it to get to some items.
- Finding somebody to do some weeding for payment: So far we have had no response from those we have asked. We are still looking.
- Area around the scarecrow: Due to lack of 'manpower' we have not been able to proceed with our plans for the area. However it was decided that if we can keep the weeds down it looks fine as it is. It does need mowing twice a year but looks lovely when in flower.
- Drafting rules for plots inside the polytunnel. It was suggested that squashes and pumpkins are too big for the small plots and encroach on others. There is also no need to grow these inside.

**3) Treasurer's report: -**

We have £2,807.20 in the bank, which includes the £400 for the new lawnmower. We have £292.60 in cash. We are still receiving regular donations from a very generous member and we are most grateful for these.

**4) Recording the recent damage to the tap and mini plot produce:** We had some problems during the summer holidays from children age range 7-11. One group of boys were playing with the water and were quite rude when spoken to about wasting water. When they had gone it was discovered that they had actually broken the tap by turning it upside down. The Parish Council have had to replace the tap and now we have a lock on both taps in the garden. On another occasion a different

group, boys and girls, were playing with squashes from peoples mini plots and throwing them on the ground and smashing them. They were seen by our treasurer, although too late to stop it happening. A couple of the children owned up to being there and they felt really bad, especially when it was explained how long it had taken to grow these plants. But they were not necessarily the ones who did the damage. Perhaps some more involvement in the gardening would stop this sort of thing happening.

- 5) **The Scarecrow Festival:** Pre-school are organising the scarecrow festival. The idea being that scarecrows will be made and displayed outside people's houses. They will then sell maps which each scarecrow on so that they can be viewed. Some of the scarecrows are being made by residents of Raunds so will not be on the map. We are very happy for those to be erected on the Community garden. Pre-School will put a banner up on our fence and display a scarecrow at the front to advertise. We will dress our resident scarecrow appropriately on Saturday. She will once again become 'Scary Mary' . If anybody has anything to add to her outfit for Halloween or for Christmas please join in the fun.
- 6) **Fill in the form for the Events Diary:** The Parish Council now have an events committee. The idea being that all local, non-commercial groups will put their events on a calendar so that we all know what else is happening on a certain day. We will also help each other out in different ways. For example, the community garden are helping Pre-School to promote their scarecrow festival. There is a form to fill in and Dave will action.
- 7) **The Christmas Fayre:** This will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December this year and as we have so very few people able to set up and run this stall, it is with regret that we will not be able to take part this year.

8) **A.O.B.**

- It was decided that it was silly to have two taps with different codes so the original tap padlock code will be change to the same or similar to the new one.
- It has been noticed that some of our block paviments have moved and are loose. Photos have been taken and the contractor will be contacted.

Following this meeting we co-opted a new member onto the committee... Val Fisher  
Welcome Val, we all hope that you will enjoy working with us.

Next meeting to be arranged

