

MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13th April in Stanwick Club meeting room

Present; Dave Cox (Chairman), Brenda Marshall (Secretary) Clare Annable (Treasurer), Janet Carrington, Andrew Bignell and Julie Paterson, (representing Stanwick Parish Council).

1. **Apologies** None

2. **Review of the AGM:** This was our first AGM following the lifting of Covid restrictions. It went very well with more people attending than in previous years. We also recruited a new committee member and some new members came along. We felt that holding the AGM in the village hall meeting room made it more accessible to people and would do this again even though it cost us £20. It was felt that community groups should be able to use the facilities free of charge.

3. **Review of the recent radio interviews:** We were approached only a few days before the interviews and we didn't have any idea that it was Community Garden Week! But Dave Cox, Andrew Bignell, Ian Edmunds and Hollie Chapman all took part. This meant that we had a cross section of members. The Chair, a new committee member, a member who helps a good deal, and a member who uses all the facilities such as the summerhouse and compostable toilet. It was good publicity for us although we haven't had any new applications for membership following the broadcast as yet. Thank you to all who took part.

4. **Financial report and membership renewals:** We have £983.33 in the bank and 98.03 cash, which totals £1081.36 This means that after deducting our budget figures (monies required for the coming year) and putting aside £200 towards the replacement of the polytunnel cover, we have £406.05 capitol left.

We now have 74 adult members and 19 children. This doesn't include the group members such as Stanwick Primary, Stanwick pre School, Hollie Chapman childcare and Acorn nursery.

The membership is a little down on last year but some people have moved away and some have not renewed simply because they didn't want a mini plot this year. We do have new members however and the mini plots are full once again.

The situation with the main car park gates was discussed at this point: The gates have been seen to be left open on various occasions by committee members, sometimes when the car park is empty! This has led to numerous deliveries of wood chippings being dumped in the entrance to the Pocket Park. If they are not required by any individual then it is hard work moving them. There is a sign on the gate saying 'no more bark chippings' but this seems to have been ignored. The other worry, probably more important, is that if travellers are looking for a new home then we have all of the facilities. We can't let any unwelcome guests come into the car park; it is for members and their guests only.

All of our members have been reminded that they must close the gates behind them and lock the gates if they are the last car to leave. We don't think that our members are responsible for this however, but the number will probably be changed in the near future to eliminate any non-

member's holding onto it. We will inform all members when this happens and they will be asked again not to share the number with any non-members.

5. **Progress on growing for our plant sale and watering rota:** We have sown a lot of seeds in the polytunnel, and also some of us have sown seeds at home as we are growing for the Jubilee celebrations this year as well as our plant sale. The red, white and blue flowers that we are trying to grow may not be ready by June, but we are trying to give them a good start. It was pointed out that the red marigold seeds that we bought have come up the normal orange colour, so it is not going to be easy!

With peoples holidays taken into consideration in the next few weeks we are a little thin on the ground and need more volunteers to join the watering rota and to help prick out seedlings when they are ready. Starting next week the rota is as follows:

Sundays...Clare Annable Mondays...Brenda Marshall Tuesdays....Dave Cox

Wednesdays...Free Thursdays...Andy Bignell Friday....Free

Saturday...Free

At the moment the seedlings don't need a lot of water, although there are some broad beans planted in the ground inside the polytunnel and there will be more plants inside later on that need watering.

Our plant sale will now probably be on 21st May 10-12 am and that will be advertised on social media.

Dave to action

Dave needs a poster to advertise this event.

Brenda to action

6. **Confirm that the next work party will be on 7th May:** It was decided that it was best to defer it until then as there was not a lot to do in the gardens at the moment. The date will need to be advertised.

Dave to action

7. **Stanwick Showcase, Saturday 30th April 10-12am (theme is green and environmental):** We asked if Julie knew if we needed to order the stands to go on the tables. She will find out. We will show photographs of our rainwater collection system, our albums of photos depicting the growth of the garden from the beginning. We can show that we are eco-friendly by having a compostable toilet, we do not use chemicals on plants, we use peat free compost, although it is very expensive comparatively and we don't like it for seedlings as it has large pieces in it and sometimes stones!, and we re-cycle pots etc.

Photos required and membership forms on the day.

Brenda to action

Clare and Brenda to set up the table, but volunteers welcome.

8. **Decorations for the Jubilee celebrations:** It was decided that we would decorate the garden the weekend before the bank holiday. We will be asking for volunteers to help with this. We have bunting and a red/white/blue clothed 'scarecrow' with be erected on a permanent frame so that we can re-dress it in the future to suit the occasion. Brenda can provide a fence post and possibly a post spike. Andy volunteered to put the frame together, with help from Dave and Roland Carrington. Brenda has collected some of the clothes together but if anybody has a royal blue long sleeved cardigan or jacket (ladies) that they could donate and red or blue gloves that would be great.

9. **Our part in the walking Carnival:** This is on Saturday 4th June, time to be advised. We will be taking part and everybody will be dressed up in something, even if it is just a hat. Janet is painting boxes that three of us can put around our necks to carry bunches of herbs from the garden, tied in ribbon, to give to spectators around the village. If we have some sunflowers to give away by June then Dave will push a wheelbarrow around with them in it. We will need 'Stanwick Community Garden' labels for the boxes.

Brenda to action

We will ask for volunteers to tie the herbs up nearer the time.

Brenda Marshall will be taking photo's at all the events over the weekend for the Parish Council records of the Jubilee celebrations.

We will be asked to contribute to the time capsule in the pocket park nearer the time and need to think about what we will put in it. Seeds still seem to be the best idea from us. That is what we put in the last time capsule.

10. **A.O.B**

Julie Paterson informed us that the Parish Council have obtained a grant to place pre-school play equipment in the social area. This will happen in October. It is going to be a small tractor. We all agreed that this was a good idea.

Brenda had received a request from the Rotary Club asking to use the Community garden for a meeting in the summer. It is thought that they just want to use the social area and Jenny Hodgson had already said that she doesn't have a problem with that. We decided that if the club wished to use the compostable toilet then they should become group members. Also any Stanwick residents among them could join as it is still only £1 per household.

Dave Cox mows the grass in the garden and around the car park. He commented on the cost of fuel for the mower and will be putting in a higher expenses receipt to Clare soon.

Thanks to Dave for doing the mowing.