

MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE
Wednesday 1st August 2018
Held in Stanwick Club Meeting Room

Present: Dave Cox (Chairman), Brenda Marshall (Secretary), John Chatley (Treasurer), Carolyn Brawn, Clare Annable (Taking Minutes), Jenny Hodgson (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1. **Apologies:** Janet Carrington
2. **The minutes of the meeting held 4th July 2018** were accepted as being a true account.
3. **Matters Arising:**

A design from the pop-up banner will be drafted and circulated for approval by the committee. **Action Dave - On-going from 4 July Meeting**

We have been informed by the Parish Council that the insurance monies have been received for the stolen rotovator. We have a maximum of £489.00 to spend on a lawn mower and a strimmer. We will need to have our own insurance for these items as they will be handed over to The Community Garden after purchase. **Action Dave - On-going from 4 July Meeting**

A discussion has taken place with STEPS and it was agreed that the suggestion of buying plants at our Open Day for their village tubs would be more appropriate next year.

The charity box for surplus vegetables is now in place.

Carolyn will be manning a stand for The Community Gardens at the Church Fete on 11th August. She will be having an activity with a prize, along with selling redcurrant jelly and jam (homemade by herself and Janet with fruit from the Gardens) and pelargoniums.

Action Carolyn

4. Financial Report

The Treasurer produced copies of the financial report showing a balance of £770.90 at 31 July 2018. It was pointed out that we are hoping for a significant increase on that from the Waitrose 'Community Funding' token system that ran during July.

The original spending budget for the various garden areas, sensory, herb, shrubbery etc., has not all been spent, with roughly half having spent some and two having spent all.

5. New tap and hosepipe purchase

The committee was very pleased that the Parish Council approved our request to adapt the tap nearest the polytunnel for hosepipe use by Committee Members on a temporary basis. This is pending future water meter costs and meeting their conditions set out in their letter of 25th July, which has been circulated to all committee members. The Committee would also like to thank Neil Young for not only fitting, but kindly supplying the new tap at no cost.

6. Rainwater collection and irrigation

It was suggested that we look at ways to collect rainwater over the coming winter months, possibly with a wooden rail around a meter high against the polytunnel with guttering fixed to the rail to collect water in barrels. It was agreed that Carolyn and Clare would speak to allotment holders 'Dave' and 'Pete' as they have some experience of this and report back to the committee.

7. Contact is now established with the Church re cut flowers.

Brenda has discussed cut flowers with Fiona from the Church and this will be set up for next year as the flowers are not at their best now due to the recent hot, dry weather.

8. Funding

The Parish Council have given their permission for hard permanent paths to The Community Garden and an application for funding for this was sent to the Big Lottery - 'Awards for All' on 23rd July 2018. They have confirmed receipt and state that it will take approximately 10 weeks for a decision.

Waitrose 'Community Funding' scheme has seen a box for the Community Garden in the front of their shop at Rushden during July. We should receive a significant cheque in due course.

Carolyn has requested the local school/nursery to provide a letter of support for the Community Gardens as this may be requested at some time in the future from funding organisations.

9. Progress on purchase of lawnmower.

This subject is was discussed under Matters arising and is outstanding.

10. AOB

Stanwick Races will be having their presentation at the Village Hall on 7th August where we will be presented with a cheque. Dave will be attending on behalf of The Community Garden.

There has been advice from the Parish Council to ensure that the double gates at the front of the site are kept closed if no-one is on site as there have been problems within other Parishes with illegal parking/camping. After discussion, the Clerk to the Parish Council was asked if they could make people aware of a suggestion to keep the gates closed at all times (need not to be locked while on site) as a further deterrent.

The Scarecrow Festival was discussed again and it was felt that we could come up with something simple. it was suggested that we discuss again at the Open Meeting in September.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th September 2018 on Site (weather permitting) and will be an Open Meeting.

MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE
Wednesday 5th September
Held in the Community Garden

Present: Dave Cox (Chairman), Brenda Marshall (Secretary), Janet Carrington, Roland Carrington, Christopher Brawn, Marie Smale, Gill and Colin Ellis, Jenny Hodgson (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1. **Apologies:** Carolyn Brawn, John Chatley, Amanda Hutchings, Wilma Harris, Clare Annable, Jon Aldwinkle, Hollie Chapman, Richard Cade.
2. **The minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2018** were accepted as being a true account.

3. Costings for water collection and irrigation:

We considered Clare's findings and costings for the collection of water and visited an allotment to view a method already in use. Clare estimated that the materials would cost as follows (rounded up)....

2x2 Battens for securing guttering - 2 x 4.8m @ £4.50 each incl VAT: £10.00

3 x 3m guttering at £5.09 each £16.00

1 end stop £3.00

Brackets 9 x £2.50 =£22.50

15 x 2 - 30 barrel connectors @ 3.50 each £105.00

Screws and sundries £10.00.

Bark path for the area behind the polytunnel up to the fence = under £200.00.

TOTAL £367.00

These figures do not include the cost of the water barrels, which to purchase would be between £25-£30 each, but we might be able to acquire these over the winter.

We have a balance of £876.54 in the bank at present so it was decided to go ahead with this project as and when we are able to.

We will need to use paving slabs under the barrels to support the weight and we need lids on the barrels. Christopher Brawn and John Annable have volunteered to help construct the system and Roland and Janet Carrington have volunteered to install the bark path.

4. **Feedback from the mini plot holders:** Most seem really pleased with the plots, although the heat wave has been challenging and some plants were lost. Two plot holders have been inspired to apply for allotments and we have had one who has dropped out due to lack of time. Overall this has been a successful project. It was agreed to advertise any vacancies in the spring.
5. **Feedback from the Church Fete:** We took £82.10 after paying for the stall so it was a great success. Thanks go to Carolyn Brawn for organising it. We had a marble game which was very popular, sold fruit jams and jellies made from the fruit grown in the fruit cage, some potatoes and Geraniums and pickled beetroot grown by Janet and Roland and pickled by Janet.

- 6. Funding Report:** Clare has supplied a list of funding applications that have been made and the current situation with each.
Tesco 'bags for life'...we have to assume it is unsuccessful and it was agreed to leave it now until next year and apply again then for a new project.
RHS funding application was unsuccessful due to the high number of applications.
Cllr Helen Howell from ENDC kindly donated £250.00 from her Stanwick and Hargrave Ward community fund which went towards bark chipping paths.
Waitrose Community Funding will be sending a cheque for £330.00 in the next 2-3 weeks from their token scheme.
Awards for All/Big lottery Fund Application for hard/decorative paths is currently under consideration. We should hear by the end of September.
Stanwick Parish Council have kindly offered match funding of £1000.00 towards the paths if necessary.
Thanks go to Clare for all of the hard work put into these applications.
- 7. Small budget to be considered for a decorative feature/ornament for the sensory garden:**
It was thought that we should give more consideration to the type of thing required. We could also ask locally if anybody has a suitable ornament/bird bath/statue that they could donate.
- 8. Autumn/Winter planning, maintenance of the raised beds:** The raised beds are being looked after and will be tidied up before winter. Weeding and cutting back will continue and then we will require volunteers to wash pots ready for next year.
- 9. The Scarecrow Festival:** As of the 5th September we did not know if there was going to be one. However, we would like to do something if there is one and would require some volunteers to help to make the scarecrows, and some inspiration!
- 10. There is a vacancy on the management committee:** Please consider if you could fill this role.
- 11. There is free manure available to all:** Horse manure is being left in black sacks by the gate on a regular basis. This is free to anybody who wants it. It is quite fresh so don't use it if you are planting in the next few weeks.
- 12. A.O.B.** Thanks go to Carolyn for purchasing the new hosepipe, which has to be stored securely and we have now put a lock on the tap nearest the polytunnel. **It is only to be used by committee members.**

Committee members please note: The next management committee meeting will be held in Stanwick Club meeting room on Thursday 4th October **NOT** Wednesday 3rd due to a clash in the booking