

## MINUTES OF STANWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Wednesday 6th March 2019

Held in Stanwick Club

Present; Dave Cox (Chairman), Brenda Marshall (Secretary) Clare Annable (Treasurer), Janet Carrington, Jenny Hodgson (Clerk to the Parish Council) Guest: Christopher Brawn.

1. **Apologies:** Carolyn Brawn
2. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of January and following the AGM on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February were accepted as being true copies.
3. **Matters Arising not appearing on the agenda:** The groundworks in the garden have been completed and TAP construction have been paid. We were thanked for paying promptly, but all agreed that the job was completed to our satisfaction so there was no reason to delay payment.

A baton with hooks has been installed inside the container to enable us to hang tools up safely.

Completed by Carolyn and Christopher Brawn

The small hand tools are now stored in plastic boxes in the container.

Completed by Janet Carrington

Mini Plots...Plot 2 is now occupied by our newest member who will occupy it until the end of February 2020.

The Guidelines have been updated.

The Health and safety statement is now pinned up inside the polytunnel.

We are in touch with the Greenpathway group and have offered them the use of the new planters behind the polytunnel. We will ask them if they would like to fill them up themselves ready for planting in the spring.

The article for the press is still ongoing.

Clare Annable to action

Our open day is on 11<sup>th</sup> May, the times will be 10.30am-2.30pm.

The closing mechanism for the rabbit proof gate is ongoing.

Dave Cox to action

The gate has been catching at the bottom but has now been fixed.

Completed by Christopher Brawn

It was reported that the gate is still being left open at times.

4. **Financial report:** There has been a problem with the handover of our bank account from John Chatley to our new treasurer Clare Annable. This seems to have arisen because the Co Op bank, who we have been with since the beginning, has closed all local branches and the nearest one now is in Leicester. John has had great difficulty in contacting them. It was decided that we would now close this account and open one with a new, more accessible bank. Clare will arrange to collect the rest of the paperwork asap and organise John and Dave (the current signatories) to close the account and set up a new one. Our treasurer reaffirmed that any expenditure over the allocated budgets for different areas should be agreed on before making a purchase. Immediate expenditure should be minimal, but have some plans to grow plants for the Open Day. We have quite a lot of compost left for sowing seeds, but we need to purchase the seeds and some plug plants.

5. **Confirm decisions made on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, regarding water collection system, Tesco money, planting etc.:**

Water collection: We will consider a raised tank similar to the one on the allotments.

We will look at some alternative systems before setting anything in motion. It was suggested that we might obtain a free survey from a supplier with the idea of having the system installed by others and therefore somebody else will take responsibility for the polytunnel whilst it is being done. We will contact the supplier of the polytunnel to see if they suggest a particular system. It was agreed that it should be a simple system so that it did not attract thieves.

We looked at the five year plan again (This was the plan that we voted in at the AGM.) with regard to spending the Tesco money. Tesco gave us £2,000 to spend on tangible items, for the benefit of the garden.

The next big item on the plan is a shed/summer house/container for use as a shelter from the elements and shade on hot days. Also as storage for over wintering bulbs etc. It was pointed out that this may attract undesirables to enter and lock themselves in. It was thought that we should consider this when purchase is imminent. We may consider purchasing a second hand shed so that it doesn't need to be insured and not store anything of value in it. One comment was that we don't have any trouble of that nature in the polytunnel.

We may consider having a hard standing laid so that we are ready for a shed in the future. We decided that we would not make any firm decisions about any other purchases until after the water collection/irrigation system is in. Then we can see if we have any money left over.

We have only spent some of the Parish Councils match funding money so we will be returning the rest ASAP.

The mini plots will be advertised now.

The new tenants, or tenants who renew, will rent from the end of this month to the end of February 2020. This is a change due to the fact that people want to start growing early in March. We have a couple of plots that have been vacated already and we have one new tenant as mentioned previously. We agreed that they would be let on a first come first served basis with Stanwick residents having an advantage. Unless we are inundated with applicants.

We agreed that the area behind the trellis in the sensory garden would have retaining boards installed; weed block put down and filled with the slate that we were given by Tesco. We may need to buy some more slate.

Retaining boards will be put along the back fence as well to help prevent the weeds growing through. It was agreed that a flowering cherry tree will be planted in the corner.

Janet and Roland Carrington to action

**6. Review all other notes made on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (at our onsite meeting):**

We looked at planting along the fence behind the benches and thought that we would plant some low growing shrubs such as Hebes there as they don't require much maintenance.

We agreed to dispose of one of the compost bins as we don't use three, and to tidy up that area a bit more. Carolyn has already tidied it up considerably.

We discussed the rockery/tyres. It was not on the adopted plan and the majority decision seemed to be to move them. However it was felt that it may be best to leave them at the moment and not to plant them up until a permanent position has been decided on, after the water collection is installed.

The area around the new sign...It was agreed that we would plant lavender along both sides of the triangles and alongside the bench. We will have to grass in front of the tap but the rest of the triangles will be planted with perennial groundcover plants such as Phlox.

In the future we could put something on the back of the new sign. Best suggestion so far is a sticker saying 'thank you for visiting'.

We will purchase some grass seed to tidy up the grassed areas. The big dips in the grass area in front of the herb garden will be levelled using the top soil in the car park.

Christopher and Carolyn to action

We have had a quote from the 'weed man': He was asked to quote for treating the slabbed areas only but has kindly offered to treat the whole area for the same cost of £70 per annum. This is payable in two £35 payments, one in spring and one in autumn. He will do the work whenever weather permits and conditions demand. He will top up several times during the year for no extra charge and we don't need to contact him for that at all. When he has treated the weeds do not be tempted to pull them out for 3 or 4 weeks even if they are brown. The treatment needs to get to the roots. Please don't be worried about any 'drift' going onto your plots as he is qualified, and the substance is animal friendly.

**This quote was accepted**

The broken paving slab will be replaced.

Roland Carrington to action

The cut flower beds will have wooden edges installed in line with the mini plots adjacent.

We are going to begin to sow seeds in the polytunnel next week with a view to selling plants at the open day.

Purchase of seeds...Clare Annable to action

**7. Review the co-ordinator system:**

We discussed this because there are not enough of us to have an area each any more. But we will leave things as they are for the time being. John Chatley will continue to look after the fruit cage, Carolyn Brawn the raised beds and polytunnel, Brenda Marshall the sensory garden, Clare Annable the herb garden, and Dave Cox any other vegetables and sunflowers. This doesn't mean that they have to do all of the work themselves, and we will all look after the shrub area and cut flower areas as a team anyway.

8. **Pop up banner:** We agreed to leave this until we have summer photos of the new pathways. But we did agree to have a new banner made for the front of a table when holding a sale in the village hall or church. We think it should be around 4ft long, but we will check the size of the tables.

Dave Cox to action

9. **Decide which dates to hold meetings if we are not going to meet every month:**

We decided that it was not necessary to meet monthly, however it was thought that at this time of year it is best if we do. So we are going to have management meetings through April and May, then reconsider the summer meetings. We may hold some in the garden and we will consider the day to suit the majority of committee members.

**10. A.O.B.**

11. **Open air Church services:** We agreed that this would be a good idea as it involves a section of the community. However the Rev. Jon Aldwinckle cannot do the first service of the season so we will try to do a harvest service in September.

We have had an inquiry from a Stanwick resident about membership. Brenda will look out for an email.

Lisa Watts has visited the garden with a view to painting some stones for us. These will be large enough to not be confused with the type that people remove and 'hide' somewhere else. Some photographs of her work were shown to the committee and it was unanimously agreed that she is very talented. She will do the work for nothing but we offered to pay for some materials. This should come to around £20-£25 and for this she can paint an image of a pond and a few smaller 'stepping' stones for decoration.

**The next meeting will be held at Stanwick Club on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.15pm**

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Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

Held in Stanwick Club

Present; Dave Cox (Chairman), Brenda Marshall (Secretary) Clare Annable (Treasurer), Janet Carrington, Jenny Hodgson (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1. **Apologies:** Carolyn Brawn
2. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March were accepted as being true copies.
3. **Matters Arising not appearing on the agenda:** The retaining boards along the back fence and the planting of a flowering cherry tree has been **completed by Janet and Roland Carrington.**

The purchase and sowing of grass seed has been **completed by Carolyn and Christopher Brawn.**

The weed man has completed a first spraying of pathways. This will take time to work and he will top up as and when necessary. Please do not be tempted to weed the paths for a few weeks, the weed killer needs to get to the roots.

The broken paving slab was replaced **by Roland Carrington.**

Seeds have been purchased and sown in trays in the polytunnel **actioned by Clare Annable**

A poster has been designed to advertise our open day and will be put in the local press.... **Dave Cox to action.**

4. **Financial report and update on renewals:** Nat West is still setting up the new bank account, so we are still with The Co Op bank at the moment. We currently have a balance of £2,548.97. We have paid back the unused match funding money that we were given by the Parish Council, so we still have some funds to spend on planting etc.

After the completion of the water collection system we will have £1,647.16 left from the Tesco monies. A discussion took place about how to spend the rest of this funding, bearing in mind that we need to use it for something 'something tangible and that is of benefit to the community'. We agreed to ask TAP Construction for an estimate of how much it would cost to put down a 'hard standing' across the back of the garden on the right, behind mini plot 7. This could be type 1 mot, with a block paviour edge, using the blocks that we have left, with a view to topping it up later with something more attractive, or completely covering it with a shed or container at a later date. **Clare Annable to action**

We made the decision at the last meeting that the tyres would need to be moved. We decided to move them to the other end of the social area and thought they would be best in the left hand corner arranged in a triangle shape. The subject of watering them was raised but we agreed that, if planted out with rockery plants, that they would not need too much water.

An update on renewals was given. We are still waiting for four members to renew their membership.

- 5. Progress on the water collection system:** The water collection system has been installed but needs tweaking. When finished it will have cost £352.84.  
This was installed by **John and Clare Annable** and a **big thank you goes to them for doing this.**
- 6. Update on Mini Plots:** The eight mini plots are all now taken. Bringing four new members to the garden. At least two of those new members have expressed a desire to help with chores in the garden, such as watering, which is very good news.
- 7. Update on planting and raised beds:** The Lavender has been planted alongside the new triangular flower beds near the sign.  
We still need to plant the ground cover plants in that area.  
We have been given a new Hydrangea to plant when weather conditions permit, as last years died.
- 8. Up and coming events:** The Stanwick showcase event takes place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April. We have a table and we hope to promote the Community garden on this occasion. We also have a table booked in the Village Hall for Race Day, on Easter Bank Holiday Monday. This will also be to raise awareness about the Community Garden and more flyers will be needed, some membership application forms and we are also hoping to have some more photographs of the gardens progress in the albums by then.  
**To be actioned by Brenda Marshall**  
It was noted that there will be road closures on the day so to get there early. The stall/table should be up and running by 9.30am
- 9. Our Open Day:** We may need to sow some more seeds to sell on the day. The food stall is in Hand as Janet will be organising it. Wilma Harris has kindly lent us some bunting. Brenda Marshall will have some mounted photographs to sell in aid of the garden.  
An email will be sent out to ask members for cake donations and/or help on the day. We have one more meeting before the Open Day so we will make it a special meeting for this.
- 10. AOB:** We were very pleased to be asked if Pre School could hold a hold a 'scarecrow workshop' in the garden and social area on August 27<sup>th</sup>. We have already seen little groups of children from Pre School tending their raised bed. Pre School are holding a 'race night' in Stanwick Club the evening before our Open Day on 11<sup>th</sup> May and will remind people to come to see us.  
**Lisa Watts** is painting some stones for decoration in the sensory garden. She has completed two and has sent photos of them to us. She is going to complete a third before delivering them. They look amazing.  
The pedestrian gate is sometimes being locked and on occasion the chain is wrapped around really tightly. Everybody has been asked not to lock this gate, but it is probably habit now to do so. We agreed to put a sign on the gate asking people not to lock it at any time. There is a lock on the allotment gate so our access does not need to be locked.  
Dave has now got the lawn mower and strimmer up and running and has done the first cut of grass.

A banner to go along the front of the tables in the village hall is going to be made, hopefully in time for the Race Day stall.

**To be actioned by Dave Cox**

We will purchase some small shrubs to be planted along the fence behind the two benches. Weigela has been suggested interspaced with another shrub.

The top soil mound in the car park will need to be moved fairly soon. We will take what we need and then the pocket park will have the rest of it.

**The next meeting will be a special Open Day meeting and will take place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May in Stanwick Club at 7.15pm**