

Stanwick Community Garden Group

Minutes of the AGM 2020

Held on Wednesday 19th February 2020 in Stanwick Club meeting room.

Present: Dave Cox (Chairman), Clare Annable (Treasurer), Brenda Marshall (Secretary), Carolyn Brawn (Committee), Janet Carrington (Committee), Christopher Brawn, Roland Carrington, Lucy Spears, Bryony Trafford Smith, Jenny Hodgson (Clerk to the Parish Council).

Apologies were received from Hollie Chapman and John Chatley

The meeting was opened at 7.15pm by the Chairman, Mr Dave Cox.

A report by the Chairman of the last twelve months activities was read out. . (See appendage 1)

A report on the management of the fruit cage was supplied by John Chatley and was read out.

(See appendage 2)

The audited accounts for 2019 were accepted without question and were voted for unanimously. A summary has been circulated previously. The full accounts can be viewed on request.

All officers and members of the committee stood down.

Nominations and Proposals: for Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary

Dave Cox was the only nomination for **Chairman:** proposed by Brenda Marshall and seconded by Janet Carrington

Brenda Marshall was the only nomination for **Secretary:** Proposed by Dave Cox and seconded by Janet Carrington

Clare Annable was the only nomination for **Treasurer:** proposed by Janet Carrington and seconded by Dave Cox

The nominations of the officer's posts were all voted in unanimously.

Nominations and Proposals for Committee members

Janet Carrington, Carolyn Brawn and Lucy Spears

The above were proposed by Dave Cox and seconded by Brenda Marshall

The nominations of the committee posts were not opposed and were voted in unanimously

We welcomed Lucy Spears as a new member and to the committee.

The committee for 2020-2021 consists of:

Chairman....Dave Cox

Treasurer....Clare Annable

Secretary....Brenda Marshall

Committee Member....Carolyn Brawn

Committee Member....Janet Carrington

Committee Member....Lucy Spears

This leaves one vacancy for a committee member.

The Chairman continued the meeting....

- 1. Review the Constitution and amend the date of the renewal of membership fees to the end of February as decided at the last management committee meeting:** The alterations to the constitution including adding reference to the raised beds and the mini plots were voted on and the vote was unanimous in favour. This will be prepared by the Secretary, signed and circulated in due course.
- 2. Review and approve the five year plan:** It was noted that most of our five year plan has been achieved in two years, quite a feat! We now need to develop a new 5 year plan which will be mainly about maintenance. Particular reference was made to the life span of the polytunnel as it is five years old already. We will find out the expected lifespan and the cost of the original to obtain a realistic costing for when it needs to be replaced. Regular expenses include the timber treatment of the summerhouse, which needs doing after 6 months and then every year after that, insurance, mulch, replacing tools, weed control and sundry items.
- 3. Funding, future plans:** The type of funding that we have been very lucky to have had in the past was specific to our aspirations to have paths, a summerhouse, and a compostable toilet. We could not have used this money on maintenance. Therefore we will have to look at raising money in different ways in the future. We need to build up a contingency fund for large items, and have a regular income for our annual overheads. We have our big open day on Saturday 16th May when we will officially open the summerhouse, but we can't really raise more money than we do already from this event. There were various suggestions such as asking for a donation when groups, outside of membership, use the summerhouse and running workshops for a small profit. Asking other groups to participate is going to be encouraged also. Finding a sponsor would be another route that we could try. We have some regular, annual income from membership fees and the mini plot fees, but that will not be enough on its own.
- 4. Review the guidelines:** A quick discussion took place and it was agreed to amend the guidelines to say that using collected rainwater is a priority over using the taps. The secure

tap can only be used under the supervision of a committee member and the compostable waste should be placed in the brown top bins behind the polytunnel.

The guidelines for mini plot holders will be amended to add the same and to point out that there are a small number of tools available for their use inside the polytunnel.

The arrangements for use of the summerhouse and toilet will be decided at our next committee meeting.

- 5. Annual review of membership fees:** It was agreed that the fee of £1 for membership and £5 for a mini plot would remain the same.

- 6. Review current works and progress of the same:** We are having some paving put down in front of the summerhouse and toilet so that you can walk right up to the doors on solid ground. The contractor should be starting in a few days, weather permitting. He will be using the left over blocks from the other pathways and we have still got enough money left over from the funding to cover this work. The toilet shed has had the toilet fitted but the urinal is still awaiting a suitable finish to be put on the back panel and the flooring to be laid. We already have some accessories for the toilet but we will need some signage and the key box containing keys to both buildings will be put on the side of one of the buildings..

- 7. Discuss arrangements for access to the compostable toilet and the new summerhouse:**

Many questions were asked on this subject. Should only members have access to both buildings? The preference was that anybody who wished to use the toilet should become a member.

Security being a big issue with both buildings...Should the summerhouse be used by booking only?

Should all members be able to access both keys and use both buildings as they wish?

We will need to draw up guidelines for use of both the summerhouse and toilet.

Our indemnity insurance will be looked at to see if it covers the proposed workshops and meetings.

It was agreed that we still have a lot of things to discuss on this subject and it was referred to the next management committee meeting which will take place on Wednesday 4th March in Stanwick Club meeting room at 7.15pm

AOB:

Question: can you use compost and manure on the mini plots.

Answer...yes

Question: Does the chamomile 'lawn' need mowing..

Answer...Yes it is recommended twice yearly. It was noted that the chamomile is the wrong sort, but we quite like the flowers that it gives us.

Question: Do we still have areas of responsibility?

Answer: Not really, now we have established beds etc. we each tend to all do a bit of everything.

It was noted that there are Broad beans and Pea seeds planted in the ground of the polytunnel. The idea being that we would have something growing in there for our open day and they would be finished in time for putting the tomato grow bags in there. It was mentioned that the soil may not be good enough but we will wait and see.

We have been told that Pre-School can no longer maintain their raised bed but will still use the facilities of the garden. We will maintain it for them and if they want to bring the children to look at the plants, pick strawberries, or dig up vegetables growing then they can.

Carolyn will grow flowers in any spare raised beds rather than vegetables.

The subject of allocation of raised beds will be added to the next meeting agenda.

The AGM closed at 9pm.

Chair's report

At last year's AGM I reported that we had been successful with grants and funding applications. The plan to add additional paving, create wider paths for easy wheelchair access and direct vehicle access into the garden, a new welcome sign and a rain water collection system were in progress or due to be completed. I am extremely pleased to say that these have all be fully completed and the garden is looking brilliant.

Last year I also said that the tenacious Clare was the driving force behind these successes – well, she has been at it again and secured further funding to enable us to install a brand-new Summer House and separate shed that has a compostable toilet installed in it. We are also planning to make use of the paving blocks left over from last year's works and have the areas in front of the summer house and toilet shed laid with them.

We hope that these further enhancements really help with enabling visitors and especially groups, to make more use of the gardens and / or these facilities. For example, the local school and nursery can use the summer house to shelter in, have lunch, carry out school work – especially as we have also purchased child-size plastic seats. The W.I. may like to use the summer house to hold flower arranging class, or the village Scarecrow festival to hold scarecrow building sessions? Just a few ideas really – the possibilities are numerous.

Our annual Open Day was another success in May. The plant sale is always popular, and the delicious cakes and savouries were plentiful and went down a treat too! We even had 1 customer wanting to place an order for 50 of Janet's fine sausage rolls! Unfortunately for the customer, Janet was all sausage-rolled out so politely declined the request!

Autumn 2019 saw the community garden host its 1st open air Church Service to celebrate the Harvest Festival. It was great to have this event here and hopefully more will be planned to take place this year – weather permitting – in the lovely open air surrounded by our beautiful garden.

The community garden attended most of the village events again last year where plants and produce were sold if available, and they are also a good way to keep everyone up to date and encourage them to visit the garden as often as they like.

The Mini Plots were successful again and we hope to continue in this manner this year. Once you get the gardening bug, it's hard not to resist!

Overall, we have had a really great and progressive year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved throughout the year, for their continued hard work. Their sowing, hoeing, weeding, watering, baking and making skills are brilliant. Without Brenda, Carolyn, Claire and Janet, along with their better halves, plus Colin & Gill – the

gardens would simply not look as good as they do now. I would also like to thank Jenny for her input throughout the year too.

The goal for this year is to really improve upon the number of visitors into the garden and have as many different parts of the local community utilise this fantastic site. Spread the word folks – let's get everyone into our wonderful little haven!

Dave

Stanwick Community Garden
Fruit Cage

Report for the 2020 AGM

The summer fruiting raspberries once again produced a good crop. The abundant growth was reduced and tied in at the end of the season ready for 2020.

The blackberry bushes suffered badly in the very hot and dry weather of the summer of 2018 and so produced little fruit in 2019. However the plants do now seem to have recovered and so it is hoped they will again bear fruit in the coming summer. Partly as an insurance against loss, some new plants were grown from cuttings and have been planted out, thus making full use of the space available.

There was again a plentiful crop of redcurrants which (I understand) made good jam.

The roof netting required some repair last summer (a number of plastic tags which secure the netting to the frame had perished and were replaced) but otherwise the cage remains in good condition.

John Chatley

February 2020.