



Notes for first meeting on Sunday 27 May at 1pm, Nightingale Garden

Acting chair: Julian H; **Minutes:** Rebecca J

Present: Charles M; Keith B; Judit S; Barbara N; Jane K; Justin G; Kate C; Rebecca J; Julian H; Bob B (part); Louise C (part).

Apologies: Caroline A; Peter D; Colin J; Angelo P.

1. **Why we are starting a group** – currently, the garden project is part of QECF, which provides insurance, a bank account and through which we can apply for funding. Benefits to having our own constituted group focussed on community gardening include
 - a. For greater ownership and wider involvement in decision making.
 - b. To define better our membership and aims.
 - c. To have more-direct access to a dedicated bank account.
 - d. Better for fundraising – a clearer description of what the group does in its own constitution.
 - e. The new shed won't be insured by the City Council so we could do with itemising it on an insurance policy.
2. **Membership.** We have about 19 people who have completed forms and another 8, or so, who we think are eligible but haven't seen recently or we are waiting to receive completed forms.
3. **Constitution.** Draft constitution agreed with changes below. No comments on it received beforehand.
 - a. **Changes to the draft constitution:**

Action: **Rebecca** to look at it and make any small changes as a result of today's discussion. Keep it as a draft to allow absent members to look at it further and so we can update it with more details about managing the new bank account.
 - b. **Membership fees:** agreed to start the group without having a membership fee; this encourages people to join and is low barrier to joining. Also, less work to manage.
 - c. **'Weekly fundraising':** agreed to make a new, more obvious, kitty tin for donations to the group (and empty it more often).

Action: **Rebecca** – has made two tins. **Julian** to start new accounts.
 - d. **How to work:** we might need more meetings when we start and then reduce them in number. To try to schedule when most committee members can attend but other members are also very welcome.

4. Election of officers and committee:

Officers have a more formal responsibility to the group and its finances. Committee members can share the work of the group. But all members are very welcome to get involved in anything, including joining the committee.

- a. **Co-chairs:** Bob B and Justin G (to decide between them who will chair each meeting);
- b. **Secretary:** Rebecca J.
- c. **Treasurer:** Julian H.
- d. **Membership Secretary:** Keith B.
- e. **Other committee members:** Jane K; Kate C; Louise C; Judit S.
- f. **We can also have a sub-group to think about events and catering:** like Louise, Judit, Barbara, Rebecca.

5. Garden activities and events (including dates for diary):

- a. **Bank account.**
Action: **Julian** to research a free and easy-to-use account. Previously, Lloyds looked good and there is a branch on Cherry Hinton Road.
- b. **Insurance:** QECF have recently renewed their insurance, which covers our gardening. In the medium-term, it would be good to buy our own to cover the new shed. We have £300 from Aviva, on its way to QECF, we could use for the first year.
Action: **Rebecca** to look into and report back to the next meeting.
- c. **New shed:** we have funding, via a £5K donation to the garden (thanks to Sam at QECF), from Hill builders. About £4500 of this remains after other garden expenditures. We have an estimate for the shed and we are waiting for a second estimate for the shed base. Both to be ordered via the Council to save VAT. Aim for the shed base to be laid after half term. Then order the shed. Probably 6 to 8 weeks lead-time, includes installation.
Actions: **Rebecca** to chase after half term. **Rebecca/Julian** to tell members about the costs before ordering. **Julian** to write up for the next meeting.
- d. **New noticeboard.** Like the black one by the garden gate. Offered by Guy. We are waiting for it to arrive and it will need installing somewhere inside the garden.
Action: **Rebecca** to chase after half term. Think about where and how to use it.
- e. **Geodesic dome kit:** a Member has kindly offered to donate a kit. Rebecca is researching a source of sticks. Aim for sticks to make one no more than 4 m (base) and 2 m high. To be used for a range of activities, for example, temporarily in the garden for kids to play in (not climb) and at the Share Fair on 8 Sept.

- f. **Horse:** we have acquired an old wooden playground horse from the Council. We need to paint it and install it somewhere so it is safe.
Action: **All** to think about how and where to install and decorate it. Not urgent.
 - g. **Bring and share lunch idea** – enthusiasm for this (Sunday 24 June at 1pm). **Action:** **All** - Think about this further – how wide do we want the invitation to go? Could easily work with Tuesday social walkers. **Rebecca** to ask walkers and make a poster for the garden gate.
 - h. **Brass band in the park** (Sunday 2 Sept): roughly at same time as the garden sessions. Enthusiasm from the group to offer teas again but, this time, ask for more volunteers and expect lots of people.
Action: **All**. Think more about this. Could split any cash donation between the garden group and Maggie's Wallace Cancer Centre at Addenbrooke's.
 - i. **Cover for garden sessions where Julian and Rebecca are away.** We get more people coming on a Sunday compared with Monday, including more-experienced gardeners. Julian and Rebecca try not to miss them. Sometimes they can't make Mondays due to work, including Monday 25 June. Agreed to cancel this session rather than look for at least two volunteers to lead the session.
Action: **Rebecca** put notice on garden website. Put cancellation note up on the garden gate the day before.
 - j. **Covered area with green roof:** Rebecca made an application for S106 funding which 'hasn't been turned down yet'. Guy Belcher is very supportive. Might hear by the end of June. There are other funds to which we could apply. The project will require careful design and will be quite expensive if we want to do it well.
Action: **Rebecca** report back when we know about S106 funding.
 - k. **Membership:** have made a good start.
Action: **Rebecca** to record contact details from all membership forms so she can contact people and think about an efficient way to contact all members. **All** - to continue to invite people who seem like regular attenders and enable them to complete printed forms.
Rebecca to work with **Keith** on a way to manage the information.
6. **Any other business:**
- a. **Pole lathe** – Kate C wondered if we could have one.
Action: **Kate & Justin** to research costs, materials and storage space. Not urgent.

- b. **Compost toilet:** Jane K (and others) have wondered if we could have one in the garden. Could be within the new shed or in a separate hut. Supplement loos in the pavilion.
Action: **Someone (not defined)** to research cost, hygiene and maintenance implications. Not urgent, but keep under consideration when we are designing the interior of the new shed.

7. **Dates for your diary** (see also QECF what's on guide: <http://queen-ediths.info/events/>)

- a. Sunday 24 June: **Great Get Together weekend:** Bring-and-share lunch, maybe 1pm (see above).
- b. Monday 25 June: **Rebecca and Julian will be away for work** –no garden session (see above).
- c. Monday 9 July and Tuesday 10 July evenings (times TBC): **Cubs in the garden.**
Action: **All.** Speak to Rebecca if you'd like to help.
- d. Sunday 22 July, 1 pm: Second **Nightingale Gardeners** group meeting.
Action: **All.** Tell members about it. **Rebecca** to invite by e-mail.
- e. Sunday 19 August, 2 pm: **Abundance in the garden** – spare produce and preserves. Probably will just do our usual gardeners tea. Review at next meeting.
- f. Monday 27 August: **Bank holiday.** Could do a special tea but we have the Brass Band the next week. Review at next meeting.
- g. Friday 31 August (TBC): **Bat walk in the evening** with Guy (and overnight moth trap)
- h. Saturday 1 September (TBC): **Moths in the garden with Guy.** Review at next meeting.
- i. Sunday 2 September: **Brass band in the park** – could do a special tea (see above). Review at next meeting.
- j. Saturday 8 September: **Queen Edith's Share Fair and Skip Day** at Wulfstan Way shops –
Action: **All,** contact Rebecca if you have good ideas and would like to help:
<http://www.nightingalegarden.org.uk/sharefairs/>

8. **Date of next meeting:** Sunday 22 July, 1 pm in the garden.

To update on finances, progress with bank account, new shed, estimates for insurance. Review membership and upcoming events. Think more about fundraising.