

Chair: Bob and/or Justin

Notes: Rebecca

1. **Welcome and apologies:**
2. **Minutes from the last meeting** (on website): to agree. Any changes needed?
3. **Annual review.** See brief report attached to the end of this agenda. Any changes needed?
4. **Election of officers:** we like to keep the working of the Group very easy and informal. The following are happy to stand again:
 - a. Keith as Membership Secretary.
 - b. Julian as Treasurer.
 - c. Rebecca as Secretary.
 - d. We need at least one Chair.

Our committee for last year included Jane K; Kate C; Louise C; Judit S, with others meeting to plan social events. Anyone like to propose any new roles and stand for them, and/or new ways of working?
5. **Finances and fundraising:**
 - a. **Bank account etc:** Treasurers report from Julian. Need to fund the insurance in September (Rebecca will look for cheaper deals).
 - b. **Possible new spending ideas?**
6. **Membership and Tempo time credits:** we like to welcome people 'when they have space in their lives to come along and are in the mood'. We have at least 31 members who have signed forms. We are recording time credits for about 29 people.
7. **Networking:**
 - a. **Cambridge Community Growing Group.** Second meeting to be held on Sunday 19 May from 12 to 3pm, so roughly at the same time as Nightingale garden session. Does anyone want to go along?
8. **Updates on larger projects:** First, massive thanks to everyone involved over the past year – we have achieved so much, and it is appreciated by garden users.
 - a. **Club hut:** as what we think is a very pleasant surprise, Guy, Ian and Bridget from the Council think we can afford to replace the club hut with a new structure as part of the green-roofed veranda project. We could have a new hut with two wide doors and more floor space, get it insulated, have a 'kitchen' area. What do people think? Guy is expecting designs for the veranda soon too. It could, maybe, happen in Autumn 2019.
 - b. **New planting:** the Super Pollinator seed has been ordered and should be with us for sowing soon. We can also make some new small planting beds near the horse. To decide what to

grow – they could be pollinator themed or maybe mini forest gardens.

- c. **Polytunnel:** in April 2019, we made an application via the City Council for S106 funding for an accessible polytunnel in the lower area by the waterbutts; this would be up to £1500, which we would handle via the Group's bank account. We will find out by June 2019.
- d. **Improved path to the garden.** In April 2019, we also made an application for S106 funding for a better path to the garden, which would be managed by the Council. We will find out by June 2019.
- e. **Impact of pavilion being demolished/compost toilet:** the timetable for demolition isn't know yet, probably after 21 July 2019. See also 'club hut' above. Mac thinks we will lose access to electricity and pavilion toilets but not lose our water. We could buy some solar lights for lighting but would need to find other ways to provide hot drinks and washing up. Guy is fairly confident the Council could provide a locked temporary toilet for the garden during the re-build. He would prefer this to us having a compost toilet, for health and safety reasons.
- f. **Workshops:** Caroline, Lois and Rebecca have been working up some ideas for dyeing and painting/printing with plant materials. They will be trying some out at the Queen Edith's school fete (see below). Our aim is to do some dyeing in the garden, outside session hours, over the summer (when we are more confident).
- g. **Gardeners World.** Rebecca has chased them.
- h. **Flymo/McCulloch prizes:** Julian made a poster and it went to the allotmenters. To think about facebook, e-bay, Gumtree etc.
- i. **Policies and procedures:** no progress made recently.

9. **Decisions to make, volunteers required:**

- a. **Pond surveying:** it didn't really happen. Any enthusiasm?
- b. **Dates, times and venue for Group meetings:** does 1pm in the garden work for people? Could we have more/fewer meetings?
- c. **Midsummer Day Get Together.** We pencilled-in a bring-and-share early evening get together for Friday June 21, 2019 [the weekend of the Jo Cox Great Get Togethers]. If people are still keen we should do some gentle planning.
- d. Sunday 21 July: **Brass Band in the park.** Julian and Rebecca aren't available that day. We could cancel the gardening session and just enjoy the music alongside other park users or

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volunteers could open up the club hut for tea? What do people think?

- e. **Summer in the Botanic Garden:** we have pencilled in either Saturday 27 July or Saturday 31 August. We thought it might be nice to meet at the garden to wander around as one or more groups and have a picnic tea. Any preferences and ideas?

10. Events in 2019:

- a. Saturday 18 May, 1 to 4pm: **Queen Edith's School fete.** There will be a plant sale and 'Colours from plants' activity by Nightingale gardeners. Do come along to support us. Probably about £2 to enter, or say you are helping us.
- b. Thursday 30 May, 3pm for 4pm to 6pm. The **Eden Project Big Walkers** are coming to Cambridge. They will be at Orchard Park at 11am, Empty Common at 1pm and then walking to Margaret Wright Orchard (in Abbey) for tea. Rebecca is helping them set-up and serve tea there. Let her know if you'd like to come along – especially if you'd like to bake. They came to Nightingale two years ago for an evening meal.
- c. **Midsummer Day**, Friday June 21, 2019. See above (9c).
- d. **Veg Fest:** the Veg Cities project from Cambridge Sustainable Food are organising a Cambridge-wide Veg Fest on the weekend of 20/21 July 2019. As part of this, Rock allotments will have an open morning on **Sunday 14 July from 10 to 12 at Baldock Way** and we can promote Nightingale at a bring-and-share/abundance stall. Contact Rebecca if you'd like to help.
- e. Sunday 21 July: **Brass Band in the park.** See above (9d).
- f. **Summer in the Botanic Garden:** either Saturday 27 July or Saturday 31 August. See above (9e).
- g. Saturday 7 September: **Skip Day.** QECF are organising. They will like volunteers.
- h. **October half-term:** it would be good to think about something unless we are nervous about building work.

11. Any other business:

12. **Date of next meetings:** roughly every 8 weeks with a break over (summer and) winter:

- a. Sunday 14 July, 1 to 2pm. Clashes with the Rock allotments open morning. Shall we cancel and miss out a summer meeting, or postpone to another date?

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- b. Sunday 22 September, 1 to 2pm (before Oct half term).
- c. Sunday 17 November, 1 to 2pm (last one of the year).

Brief annual review for May 2018 to May 2019

Meetings and events: we have had seven, well-attended, formal Group meetings since May 2018. Thanks to everyone who has come along and supported us.

- Two Monday afternoon visits to the Botanic Garden in November 2018 and April 2019.
- Two evening visits from local cubs, with Alison from the RHS.
- A very successful worm- and compost focussed afternoon in October 2018.
- A summer 'Get together' bring-and share lunch; a summer abundance stall; an Xmas chestnuts and crafty afternoon and an Easter tea.
- We decorated two trees for the St James Tree festival and volunteers have helped out at other events there, including the pumpkin picnic.

Finances, donations and fundraising: We are very fortunate that many people bring us tools and resources, including lots of tree stakes this year. Thank you to our wider community for their support.

- In June 2018, we were successful in our funding application for a green-roofed veranda.
- In July 2018, Flymo donated a new hose to us.
- In Autumn 2018, we won an online competition and have some prizes that we can't easily use in the garden but are trying to sell.
- Our major regular expense is the insurance, which was purchased in September 2018 and will need renewing in September. Julian and Rebecca fund the website and e-mail expenses.
- We have spent all the funds that were in the QECF bank account. We have a new Group bank account, which is working well.
- In March 2019, we bought a skip load of soil conditioner with Group funds. Rebecca has bought a few plants this year but not with garden funds.
- We get a steady, roughly £20, donated every few weeks via the collection tin, which goes into the bank account. We have also had some extra donations from members direct to the bank account and have sufficient funds for the insurance this year.
- In April 2019, we applied for S106 funding for a polytunnel. We also applied for S106 funding to improve the path surface from the car park to the garden.

Achievements: just to keep the garden going, working well, looking good, well-watered and welcoming garden users is a huge achievement – everyone contributes in their own way – thank you!

Since May 2018:

- We have built and installed the woodstore and tool shed and it has made a massive difference to the way we work. We also have new raised beds and wigwams.
- The painted horse and bench have been really popular.
- We were donated a geodesic dome kit and it was very popular at the Share Fair event in September 2018.
- Bike racks have been installed by the garden gate.
- We have a 'proper' garden sign on the gate, showing when the garden is open.
- More of the garden is under perennial planting now and we have more spaces to grow produce including fruit bushes and potatoes. We planted a new apple tree in Winter 2018 and have plans for more trees and fruit.

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- In October 2018, we started a new Friday afternoon Little Nightingales group, which has been very popular. It is weather dependent and seasonal but might evolve into an all-year group when the new pavilion is functioning.
- In October 2018, we signed up to Tempo time credits, which is working well.

Membership: we have an increasing number of members, although some people are coming less often, usually for work or health reasons. It is important that people feel they will be welcomed back whenever they are able to join us.

Networking: we have good links with:

- Empty Common and Clay farm via Peter and Becky.
- Rock Road Library gardens and Wulfstan Way via Rebecca and Bob.
- Queen Edith's School via Rebecca and Emma.
- Local allotments via Justin, Kate, Rebecca, Julian, Bob and Lois.
- To other gardening groups via Sandie at the Botanic Garden.
- To other family and youth groups via Bronwen, Ingrid and Immy.
- Others are involved with Garden Organic, community orchards, conservation groups and the new local co-farm.

Other issues:

- We took a break over Xmas and have cancelled more Sunday and Monday sessions than in previous years, mainly to give Julian and Rebecca more of a break. If this isn't acceptable to the Group, we will need to work out how to run the sessions in their absence, which will involve more keys and bit of informal training.
- In May 2019, we had some Saturday-night vandalism in the garden, alongside vandalism in the park. This is the first for many months and coincides with vandalism in other local green spaces and playgrounds. It was reported to the Police and Council, quickly repaired, and Guy will replace the apple trees in the Autumn if they don't recover. Rebecca is part of discussions about 'preventive action'.
- We had some exploratory e-mails from Gardeners World to see if we could host their presenters for a community project in the garden.