

Chair: Bob and/or Justin

Notes: Rebecca

1. Welcome and apologies:

Apologies: Judit.

Special thanks to Judit for all she has done for the garden and our very best wishes in her new life in the South of England.

2. Minutes from the last meeting (on website): to agree. Any changes needed?

3. Finances and fundraising:

- a. **Bank account etc:** Treasurer's report from Julian. Current balance £196.97.
We renewed the insurance in September; £155 which is £70 cheaper than last year.

- b. **Possible new spending ideas:** What do we think about getting a third good wheelbarrow?
Around £35.

4. Membership and Tempo time credits. The time credit scheme is funded locally until at least March 2020.

5. Updates on larger projects:

- a. **Green roof veranda:** in August 2019, Guy finally received drawings from the structural engineer, and has sent them out for estimates. Then we will know what funds are available for other work. No timetable yet for the build. Hopefully, over the winter 2019/2020.
- b. **Tool shed:** to review lighting needs. We have some portable solar ones. Can get LED rechargeable lights for about £20.
- c. **Club hut:** we sought estimates and decided it wasn't affordable to replace the club hut within the veranda funds. We can improve it instead. Some things are best done before, during, or after, the veranda project. Some we can do ourselves (volunteer time allowing), especially if we have funds for materials. For some, we will need to find contractors.

What do we think about the following ideas?

- i. Re-cladding the front;
 - ii. Adding a serving hatch or new door, which could be a 'stable/Dutch' door;
 - iii. Adding windows;
 - iv. Adding a ramp up to the existing door;
 - v. Adding ceiling insulation;
 - vi. Changing internal fittings for easier movement, washing up and comfort.
- Any other ideas?

- d. **Polytunnel:** Guy at the Council can order a polytunnel for us with \$106 funds granted in June 2019. We need to sign an agreement with them and then Guy will order it. Probably in early Spring 2020.

We'd like to convene a small **polytunnel working group** to discuss what size, what fittings, what to use it for, how do we make using it sustainable?

For example, we could grow produce or ornamental plants; use it for baby plants and over-wintering; use it for learning. See also next section about '**produce**'.

We will need to recruit a small group of volunteers to erect it, maybe on a Saturday. Let us know if you are interested.

- e. **Improved path to the garden.** In June 2019, S106 funds were allocated to improving the path to the garden. This tends not to happen speedily but is good news. We don't need to do anything.
- f. **Impact of pavilion being demolished:** no dates have yet been set for demolishing the pavilion (last estimate was October 2019) or for when it would re-open. We are hopeful of a temporary toilet being provided. We will need to work around the loss of electrical power; we will probably bring hot water to the garden.
- g. **Flymo/McCulloch prizes:** the lawnmower has been sold: £50 into garden funds. We still need to find homes for the other three items. Any volunteers to help advertise them online?
- h. **Policies and procedures:** no progress made recently. Any volunteers to help Rebecca, maybe over winter?

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

- a. **Produce from the garden.** It would be good to discuss our motivations for growing produce: for example:
 - i. to learn how to grow produce;
 - ii. to eat the produce;
 - iii. to demonstrate to park users how produce grows;
 - iv. to share produce with park users;
 - v. for aesthetics...

This can help us decide what to grow and where and how to do it best.

A discussion of this would be useful for polytunnel planning too. For example, we might need a watering rota and also to share more information on what and how to water.

One model is Incredible Edible, where all produce is promoted for sharing with anyone coming to the garden but they often select easier to grow plants, especially perennials, which don't need so much watering.

- b. **New projects and planting:** ideas are always welcome. For example:

Agenda for Sunday 22 September 2019 at 4 pm, Nightingale Garden

- i. we could add some different varieties of **artichoke plants for cropping**.
 - ii. We could replace the small strawberry bed with more **raspberries**.
 - iii. We could establish a new **rhubarb bed** in a dug-out narrow bed.
- c. **Dates and times for Group meetings:** Because of the imminent pavilion re-build, we propose to **cancel the November meeting (17 November 2019)** and have ad hoc project-focussed meetings until the Spring. Then to have fixed, regular dates for meetings in March, an AGM in May and one in September (see below). All at 4pm.
- d. **Winter close down:** for regular Sunday and Monday garden sessions.

To propose to have the last one on **Sunday 1 December**.

For those who like to meet up at least once a week, we could think about organising cinema trips or meet-ups in local cafes. Maybe on Monday afternoons. **Anyone like to volunteer to help schedule activities?**

- e. **Workshops:** **ideas for next year are always welcome.** For example, we could do natural dyeing, including with the Rock Road Library textile group.

Anyone like to volunteer to take a lead on them?

7. **Dates/events in 2019:**

- a. **Sunday 13 October:** garden session cancelled (Julian and Rebecca are unavailable).
- b. **'Something social to eat our winter squash'**, which doesn't need to be soon after harvesting. **Any ideas?**
- c. **Tree dressing day on Sunday 1 December?** Could be the last session of the year. **Any ideas?**

8. **Dates/events in 2020:**

- a. Sunday 12 and Monday 13 January 2020: propose to be the **first sessions for the new year**.
- b. Sunday 8 or 15 March 2020 at 4pm. **Spring Gardeners Group meeting.** **Any preference?**
- c. Sunday 10 or 17 May 2020 at 4pm. **Gardeners Group AGM.** **Any preference?**
- d. Sunday 20 or 27 September 2020 at 4pm. **Autumn Gardeners Group meeting** **Any preference?**

9. **Any other business:**