

Chair: Bob and/or Justin

Notes: Rebecca

1. Welcome.

Apologies: Colin, Keith, Josephine, Immy and Ingrid

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

3. Finances and fundraising:

- a. **Bank account etc:** Treasurers report from Julian. Need to fund insurance in Autumn.
- b. **Cambridgeshire Lottery:** do we want to apply to be a group?
- c. **Possible new spending ideas:** compost toilet/shed; large volume of soil conditioner; polytunnel.

4. Membership and Tempo time credits: Immy, Ingrid and Stepan have joined the Group since the last meeting. We have around 25 people registered for time credits. Rebecca keeps records of each session and is reporting them every month.

5. Networking:

- a. **Cambridge Community Growing Group.** New group established by the Botanic Garden last November. On 23 Feb 2019, Stepan and Bob were due to be going to the second meeting but it was postponed due to illness. No other activities and dates have been announced.

6. Updates on larger projects: First, massive thanks to everyone involved over the past few months – we have been really productive, and visitors thank us every day.

- a. **Flower survey:** Gill has completed her survey for 2018 – it shows the effect of adverse weather last year. Rebecca has a bit more work to do on it...
- b. **Green-roofed veranda:** nothing is happening fast. Supposed to happen in Spring 2019.
- c. **New planting:** after soil conditioner, can sow two new perennial meadows, plant up the triangle bed, three new raised beds and sweet pea bed.
- d. **Pond surveying:** to link with RHS theme this year. We have made a very informal start on it. Would be good to get some dates with Gill and Immy in the diary for slightly more formal sessions. Probably Sunday afternoons?
- e. **Polytunnel:** if we had one, would people use it? Could we keep it watered?
- f. **Compost toilet:** at least two teachers at QE primary are very keen to come and pond dip. Everyone is nervous about losing loo access when the pavilion is demolished, which could be important to incoming groups too. Should we have another think about an 'Emergency' compost toilet? We have done some preliminary costings and plans.

7. Decisions to make, volunteers required:

- a. **Gardeners World.**
- b. **Flymo/McCulloch prizes:** need to sort this out. If no-one wants them, we should try to sell them. Anyone like to volunteer to put them on Gumtree, ebay or similar?
- c. **Policies and procedures:** Rebecca has started on these... there is probably not an urgent need if we aren't applying for grant funding.

Agenda for Sunday 10 March 2019 at 1 pm, Nightingale Garden

- d. **Chelsea Fringe** (last week in May 2019): any ideas, and volunteers to lead on them? We could also offer help to other activities.
- 8. **Planning ahead for events in 2019:** ideas welcome. Note of caution, the park pavilion might be demolished in June 2019 and we might not have a new building until early 2020. We don't yet know how this might affect electricity and toilet access.
 - a. **'Spring in the Botanic Garden':** Rebecca has requested from Sandie some suitable Monday dates for an afternoon visit. If we go during weekdays, Sandie had offered us a tour.
 - b. Saturday 18 May, 1 to 4pm: **Queen Edith's School fete.** There will be a plant sale. Julian and Rebecca have offered to do 'something else', could be with Nightingale Gardeners, could be part of Chelsea Fringe, could link with the new school veg garden and compost bins, Could link with the re-vamped woodland area, Veg Fest etc. Maybe put up the dome. Ideas and volunteers very welcome.
 - c. **Midsummer Day**, Friday June 21, 2019. We pencilled-in a bring-and-share early evening get together [the weekend of the Jo Cox Great Get Togethers]. Good to think about logistics...
 - d. **Summer in the Botanic Garden:** we thought it might be fun to meet on a Saturday lunchtime or afternoon for a picnic.
 - e. **Veg Fest:** the Veg Cities project from Cambridge Sustainable Food are keen to do a Cambridge-wide Veg Fest on the weekend of 20/21 July 2019. We said we could host something, in principle, or work with others. The local allotments might do an open morning on the Sunday. It could also be an opportunity to go to other people's events and network.
 - f. **October half-term:** we could plan to do something linked to RHS Wild in the Garden. This year's theme is ponds. Like we did with 'worms' in 2018.
- 9. **Other events for 2019:** [Julian and Rebecca aren't organising Abundance stalls this year – we will encourage informal sharing at allotment and at Nightingale].
 - a. Saturday 11 May: **Plant sale at Rock Road Library.** They often like extra volunteers.
 - b. Sunday 21 July: **Brass Band in the park.** At the same time as garden session.
 - c. Saturday 7 September: **Skip Day.** They will like volunteers.
- 10. **Any other business:**
- 11. **Date of next meetings:** suggest roughly every 8 weeks with a break over winter? How about:
 - a. Sunday 12 May 1 to 2pm (week before the school fete and before Midsummer's evening).
 - b. Sunday 14 July, 1 to 2pm (week before Veg Fest).
 - c. Sunday 22 September, 1 to 2pm (before Oct half term).
 - d. Sunday 17 November, 1 to 2pm (last one of the year).