

Chair: Bob

Notes: Rebecca

1. **In attendance:** Barbara, Bob (Chair), Julian (Treasurer), Immy, Ingrid, Lois, Peggy, Rebecca (Secretary). The meeting was quorate (officers plus one member).
Apologies: Angelo, Colin, Kate, Keith, Josephine, Judit, Justin, Stepan.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting** were agreed.
3. **Annual review** (see end of agenda) was accepted without changes.
4. **Election of officers:** all the existing officers were re-elected:
 - a. Bob and Justin as co-chairs
 - b. Keith as Membership Secretary.
 - c. Julian as Treasurer.
 - d. Rebecca as Secretary.

We work rather informally, without a committee as such, which seems to work well. Immy has a particular interest in working with young people and could act as our youth co-ordinator.

5. **Finances and fundraising:**

- a. **Treasurers report:** a copy of the accounts was tabled and is in the club hut folder. We have a balance of £222.05 in the bank account. Since May 2018, we received £193.30 in donations via the kitty tin and £281.00 in personal donations. In September 2019, we need to pay for insurance and have sufficient funds for this. We are likely to need to fund part of the club hut re-build (see below) and can look for suitable grants. Action: Rebecca to research cheaper insurance. Rebecca to research grants for the new club hut. If you'd like to make donations direct into the Group bank account, ask Julian for details (also e-mailed out previously).

6. **Membership and Tempo time credits:** We have at least 31 Members who have signed forms. We are recording time credits for about 29 people.

7. **Updates on projects, decisions made:**

- a. **Club hut:** we agreed that this could be very good for the garden and Group. It will also generate a lot of extra work, especially for Rebecca and Julian, which might mean other activities need to be delayed or made easier to do. An initial design was tabled: to consider a 'shed' on the existing footprint but maybe a little longer to line up with the front of the toolshed. To have a more flexible interior, with a larger floorspace, more cupboards and a double door at the front for better accessibility. Action: Rebecca/Julian to contact Guy and, when we know more, to convene a design working group.
- b. **New planting:** Action: Lois, Peggy and Rebecca to look for places for some flowering shrubs: after the meeting, we found places (which need preparing) for two viburnams (one is ready to plant), a hebe (both need growing on a little) and also a winter flowering honeysuckle (to purchase). To also think about new beds in the horse area – Lois and Rebecca are keen on researching mini forest garden/guilds of plants that will be sustainable (i.e. learn from permaculture). They could include fruit trees, bushes and perennial veg.

- c. **Polytunnel:** Wait to see if this is funded. Design it alongside the design for a new club hut (and lean-to).
- d. **Improved path to the garden.** Wait to see if this is funded.
- e. **Impact of pavilion being demolished/compost toilet:** this will depend on the timing of the demolition in relation to the club hut being replaced. Enthusiasm for solar lighting. Preference for chemical toilet provided by Council rather than a compost toilet, for practical reasons. **Action: Julian to research, buy and install some simple solar lighting for the toolshed.**
- f. **Gardeners World.** **Action: if we hear back from them, Rebecca report back to Group.**
- g. **Flymo/McCulloch prizes:** **Action: Rebecca to take flyers to Botanic Garden meeting. Already on Facebook. Bronwen to advertise on gumtree or ebay.**
- h. **Policies and procedures:** **Action: Rebecca to aim to finish her drafts.**
- i. **Pond surveying:** not much enthusiasm. Maybe make a plan for next year.
- j. **Dates, times and venue for Group meetings:** we think three or four general meetings would now be sufficient, with additional ad-hoc focussed ones. To set the times to suit the daylight and warmth. 1 pm isn't very lunch-friendly so we could try out 4 pm ones in warmer months or in different venues. **Action: cancel 14 July meeting. Schedule time and place for 22 September meeting.**

8. Calendar of events (and cancellations) in 2019:

- a. Saturday 18 May, 1 to 4pm: **Queen Edith's School fete.** Do come along. £1 on the door for adults, or say you are helping us. There will be plants for sale, donkeys and Raptor Foundation (owls and stuff). **Action: Caroline, Julian, Lois and Rebecca to do an informal 'colours from plants' activity. To learn from this and consider doing workshop(s) with natural dyeing during over the summer in the garden.**
- b. Sunday 19 May 12 to 3: **Cambridge Community Growing Group.** Meeting at Botanic Garden. **Action: Rebecca to attend on behalf of the group and report back.**
- c. Monday 27 May bank holiday: **no garden session** (Rebecca and Julian will be on their plot instead).
- d. Thursday 30 May, 3pm for 4pm to 6pm at Margaret Wright Orchard (by football ground). The **Eden Project Big Walkers** are coming to Cambridge green-space projects. **Action: Let Rebecca know if you'd like to join them at the Margaret Wright Orchard.**

- e. Sunday 2 June: **Rock Allotments plant sale** in the morning. At Baldock Way.
- f. Sunday 9 June: cancel garden session (Rebecca and Julian have a street party).
- g. **Friday 21 June Summer Solstice Get Together.** Bring-and-share snacks and soft drinks in the garden. Action: Rebecca tell national website (DONE), QECF (DONE, 'great idea'), including via the events listing (DONE). Rebecca to contact local supermarket(s) etc for donations. Convene a working group nearer the time, maybe in the week of 3 June.
- h. **Sunday 14 July, 10 am to 12, Rock Allotments Open Morning at Baldock Way.** As part of Cambridge Vegetable Festival. All welcome and free. We can promote Nightingale volunteering at a bring-and-share/abundance stall. We will cancel the 14 July gardeners meeting but have the garden session. Action: Contact Rebecca if you'd like to help out.
- i. Sunday 21 July: **Brass Band in the park.** We will just **cancel the garden session** and **enjoy the music** (Rebecca and Julian aren't available).
- j. Saturday 27 July, afternoon. **Summer in the Botanic Garden:** a very informal group meet-up in the Botanic garden. If the weather isn't friendly, we can try Saturday 31 August instead. We can arrange this nearer the time.
- k. Mondays 5, 19 and 26 August: probably **cancel garden sessions** (Rebecca and Julian are unlikely to be available).
- l. Saturday 7 September: **Skip Day.** QECF are organising. They would like volunteers.
- m. Sunday 22 September: **Nightingale Gardeners Group meeting.** See below.
- n. Sunday 6 October: **Silver Sunday** 'celebrating older age and changing the stories on loneliness'. We could do something, including with other local groups. Review later.
- o. **October half-term:** it would be good to think about something, unless we are nervous about building work.
- p. Sunday 17 November, (last meeting of the year).

9. **Date of next meeting:**

- a. Sunday 22 September, time to be decided