

GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING

Directors' Meeting 13th August, 2020.

Place:	Via Zoom
Directors Present:	Ray Beard, Ashley Brown, Nicki Douet, John Whitlock, John Fluker, Helena Stuart-Matthews, Robin Satow, Rob Treble
Chairman:	John Fluker
Minute Taker:	Nicki Douet
Agenda Item	
1.0 Apologies for absence	
Amanda de Haast, Bob Spackman, Michael Trower	
2.0 Minutes of last meeting	
Accepted as true record of proceedings	
3.0 Actions from last meeting	
3.1	<p>Documentation – Nicki to continue to ask for the documents from Su Johnston. Su has probably been quite busy with Catherine's wedding, which was a couple of weeks ago. Action: Nicki to contact Su again.</p>
3.2	<p>NT / Trees update – Sue Streeter and a NT colleague visited the garden. Responsibility for the following has been passed to the NT and therefore removed from the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The dead branches on the poplars hanging over the road; b) Double stemmed ash with ash dieback; and c) Oak Processionary Moth. <p>Mulberry tree – NT said it is OK to take it down. However, Robin suggested that the dead branches could be removed and more woodchip put around the base of the trunk. This was agreed.</p> <p>Birch tree with dieback – At north end of the allotments. Dieback is fairly high up so needs to be monitored. Rob Grist to be called in if any large branches need to be removed.</p> <p>Large birch trunk has been reduced to logs by Rob Grist's team.</p> <p>Rob Grist's team has also dealt with a Lime limb in NW corner.</p>

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3.3	<p>Wildlife / Pond update – Gerry Robbins has been monitoring pond water level – down 2” in 3 days. Seems too excessive for just evaporation – possibly a leak in the liner. Gerry has suggested partially draining, investigation & mending. Rob: Large amount of bulrushes, etc. that may be taking up a lot of water. It was suggested that water levels continue to be monitored for the time-being and a way forward be discussed at the next garden sub-committee.</p> <p>Alder trees planted a couple of years ago looking very poorly possibly due to lack of water. Bob Spackman has watered them heavily and asked Gerry to keep an eye on them</p> <p>Bird boxes – Gerry & Pat Robbins saw Eddie yesterday. Eddie gave them 16 bird boxes that he made and had been in the G+F garden.</p> <p>Stock doves – 2 chicks in the Ash tree box.</p> <p>Gerry, Pat and Robin checked under the metal sheeting– unsurprisingly in the heat there was not much sign of any wildlife.</p> <p>2 red legged partridges with chicks spotted in the garden.</p>
3.4	<p>Rules and Regulations Review – ongoing. Ashley has received a ‘fact sheet’ from the insurance company ahead of our renewal date in September.</p>
3.5	<p>Greenhouse staging – This item to be purchased next year and is included on the Treasurer’s Report so can be removed from the agenda.</p>
3.6	<p>Noticeboards x 2 – These items to be purchased next year and are included on the Treasurer’s Report so can be removed from the agenda</p>
3.7	<p>Tithe update – Nothing to report</p>
3.8	<p>Sale of produce update – Price list updated.</p> <p>It was agreed that surplus produce could be put in punnets and priced and put on a table in the car park for the ‘shoppers’ to buy. Action: Ashley to include in the newsletter</p>
3.9	<p>Covid-19 Guidelines – Ashley said he would review the current government guidelines with a view to increasing numbers. Robin suggested we should state that only up to 6 members should gather for a break at any one time either outside or in the Potting Shed. Action: Ashley to circulate a proposal</p> <p>Members needed a gentle reminder to book themselves on the G+F calendar Action: Ashley to include in the newsletter.</p>
3.10	<p>Sale of products – See item 3.8</p>

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3.11	Finance sub-committee – Met on 30 th July. Action: Amanda to circulate minutes
3.12	Trailers – Pink trailer: Rob: Electrics not compatible and the brakes not working. Action: Bob Spackman to check Small trailer – believed to be with David Pile
3.13	Pest control – any sign of activity? Rats – Rob: each sweetcorn patch has 4 rat bait boxes just inside each corner. Some corn near the edges has been eaten. Netting around the edges may help. Rats eating beetroot, potatoes and pears. Deer - Gerry Robbins chased 2 Roe deer out about a week ago. John W said there was no evidence of damage by deer. Deer fencing increased to 7' in the SW corner. Ashley reported that Tom had emailed re deer ticks and the fact they carry Lyme disease so we should warn members. This is the first time we have had deer in the garden and it was thought the gate had been left open overnight again which is how they got in. Action: Ashley to include a note in the newsletter about deer ticks Mole - May need to be dealt with. Butterflies: Inside the mesh as they have laid eggs inside the frames.
4.0	Finance Report (Ashley)
	Treasurer's report was circulated to committee members and will be published on the website with the meeting minutes.
5.0	Garden Update (John W)

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	<p>Overall it has been a good year. It has been most successful year in providing for the tithe. Best potato crop ever with very little waste.</p> <p>Monitoring what we crop has been a problem.</p> <p>Autumn onions not so good so this year some will be grown from seed and smaller number of sets.</p> <p>Some more unusual crops planted – pak choi, cima di rapa, mooli radish, black radish.</p> <p>Soft fruits have been fantastic although lack of water for raspberries.</p> <p>Flowers have been amazing and Helena has raised over £1000 so far this year.</p> <p>Purchases – Need more potato sacks and more piping to make longer/higher hoops. 50m = £57 incl. VAT. Ashley agreed to this spend.</p> <p>Weeds – Robin said that there has been a rapid build-up of weeds between the lime trees; being accumulated quicker than it is decomposing. It was agreed not to spend any money on material for bins but to investigate using what we already have, i.e. chicken wire and metal sheeting.</p>
6.0	Allotments (Michael - Apologies)
	Nothing to report.
7.0	Website & Communications (Ashley)
	<p>Gerry has provided a wildlife update with photos that is on the website.</p> <p>Carolyn is doing a great job on our Instagram account.</p>
8.0	Building Team (Rob)
	<p>Continuing to refurbish the coping stones. Now working on the North wall.</p> <p>1.5m section of the wall in the NE corner needs repairing as a tree fell on it. Only sand & cement required, approximate cost £50. Ashley said to include it in the wall repair costings.</p>
9.0	Bird Ringing – Enquiry from Brian Austin & David Scott
	<p>The committee agreed that this is not appropriate for the community garden and to decline this offer.</p> <p>Action: Amanda to write to Brian Austin</p>
10.0	New members – Time to review current 'lockdown'?
	<p>Ashley said that we have had a few enquiries asking about joining. It was agreed that we should allow new members to join.</p> <p>Action: Ashley to reply to the enquiries</p>
11.0	Allotment Week

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	Robin explained that the National Allotment Society runs this event every August. This year was 10 th – 16 th ; we need to note the dates for next year.
12.0	Apple Pressing?
	It was agreed that this would have to be cancelled this year as it is impossible to socially distance whilst pressing apples. Action: Ashley to update the website
13.0	Allotment dogs
	Reminder in the newsletter that allotment holders must keep their dogs on a lead. Action: Ashley to include in the newsletter
AOB	<p>Gypsies – Nicki said to be aware that gypsies had moved onto the overflow car park at Hatchlands yesterday. Bailiffs were there this morning and expected to move them on today.</p> <p>Padlock – The number is being left visible when the padlock is open. Reminder to all to 'spin' the numbers after opening. Action: Ashley to include in the newsletter</p> <p>Grant – WH Parish Council have given a grant towards replacing the original polytunnel.</p> <p>Defibrillator – Ashley has been in touch with Effingham & Ripley Community First Responders who said we should have spare pads with the machine and provided a link to a website. Action: Ashley to purchase a spare set</p>

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 10th September, 2020, 7:30pm – Venue TBC

Chairman: Amanda de Haast

Minute taker: John Fluker