

## GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING

Directors' Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

<b>Place:</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Directors Present:</b>	Ray Beard, Ashley Brown, Nicki Douet, John Whitlock, John Fluker, Helena Stuart-Matthews, Robin Satow, Bob Spackman, Michael Trower
<b>Chairman:</b>	Bob Spackman
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	John Fluker
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>1.0 Apologies for absence</b>	
Amanda de Haast, Rob Treble	
<b>2.0 Minutes of last meeting</b>	
Accepted as true record of proceedings	
<b>3.0 Actions from last meeting</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Documentation</b> – Nicki has collected the documents from Su Johnston and delivered them to Ashley. <b>Action: Completed.</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Mulberry tree update</b> – Robin confirmed that the dead branches will be removed and more woodchip put around the base of the trunk when more woodchip is delivered to the Garden. <b>Action; John W will chase Rob Grist for a delivery of woodchip.</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Wildlife / Pond update</b> – There will be an update on the pond after the Garden sub-committee meeting. However it is certain that a great deal of clearing of the vegetation in the pond will be needed as it has become too extensive and is clogging the pond. In the meantime the water level will continue to be monitored. It was confirmed that the stock dove chicks unfortunately appear to have been predated.
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Rules and Regulations Review</b> – Ashley has corrected, updated and completed the 'fact sheet' from the insurance company ahead of our renewal date in September. We do need to put in place procedure for evacuation in case of fire to a place of safety/meeting place which was suggested should be the car park. A risk assessment questionnaire has been sent out and comments are awaited. It will then be circulated. Bonfires are a potential problem and because of the requirements of the insurance company they really need to be kept within the confines of the walled garden. A vacant patch in a corner would be best and the ash will need to be damped down when the bonfire is finished. We must not let the material for the bonfire pile up for months. <b>Action: Bob will purchase a Health and Safety at work notice for display in the potting shed and Rob has produced a skills assessment form and copies of that will be printed off to be kept in the potting shed so that they are available for use.</b>
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Summer Pruning</b> – Ashley and John F have started again as there have been considerable growth spurts. About a third of the fruit in the central avenue has already been done and they will continue on Saturdays until it has all been completed including the plums. They will then deal with fruit trees in the allotment/car park area. Beverley will be asked if she would like to repeat her pruning of the fruit trees along the southwest wall. The fruit and the trees a generally growing well.

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<b>3.6</b>	<p><b>Tithe</b> – This is the eleventh and final week on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The response has been very positive with particular excitement caused by the supply of gooseberries. The tithe will have cauliflower this week for the first time.</p>
<b>3.7</b>	<p><b>Sale of produce on Saturday morning</b> – £35-40 taken. Pretty good results and more customers expected in the future so well worth carrying on whilst we have excess produce.</p>
<b>3.8</b>	<p><b>Covid 19 Guidelines Update</b> – Members need another reminder with regard to social distancing, not blocking paths and to book themselves on the G+F calendar to deal with any track and trace that might be required. It was also agreed that the maximum number permitted in the polytunnels should be restricted to two and a maximum of six in the potting shed or in any gathering outside for a tea break. Social distancing applying in all cases. <b>Action: Ashley to include in the newsletter.</b></p>
<b>3.9</b>	<p><b>Bird ringing</b> – Amanda has sent letter to Brain Austin. <b>Action: Completed</b></p>
<b>3.10</b>	<p><b>Finance Sub-committee meeting:</b> Met on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Amanda to circulate minutes shortly. <b>Action: Now completed</b></p>
<b>3.11</b>	<p><b>Trailers</b> – Pink trailer: Bob still to check electrics and the brakes (and tyres?). <b>Action: Bob Spackman to check</b></p> <p>Small trailer is with David Pile.</p>
<b>3.12</b>	<p><b>Pest control</b> –</p> <p>Rabbits – No sign of any recently so rabbit traps need to be removed from all parts of the Garden and allotments. Robin has recovered most of them already.</p> <p>Rats – This year the sweetcorn does not seem to have suffered as much from as much damage from rats as usual except the patch in the southwest corner (but this could be bird damage). Rats still eating beetroot and fallen pears (but the latter could also be bird damage).</p> <p>Parakeets and other birds e.g. magpies - Quite a bit of damage this year to sweetcorn although netting has helped. They are still managing to get in from the top as the netting does not completely cover the sweetcorn. Overall however a much better result for sweetcorn than last year.</p> <p>Butterflies: Still a large number of cabbage white butterflies appearing inside the mesh out on brassica beds. They appear to have been laid as eggs while the brassicas were in the polytunnels or the frames prior to planting out.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Finance Report (Ashley)</b></p> <p>Treasurer's report was circulated to committee members and will be published on the website with the meeting minutes.</p>

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<b>5.0</b>	<b>Garden Update (John W)</b>
	<p>Not much to report. Best (biggest) cauliflowers ever. Generally a pretty good year the only "disasters" this year have been of the too many or too big variety. So not really disasters at all.</p> <p>At the garden sub-committee meeting it was agreed that we would again have a work party or parties (Covid 19 permitting) to collect bean poles and pea sticks. Robin will coordinate with Surrey Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>There one or two isolated areas (e.g. the bed with artichokes near the north wall) in which weeds have become a bit out of control and these need to be recovered. Paths also need regular hoeing.</p> <p>Changes will be made next year to the method of support for the outside tomatoes as the present method has proved unsatisfactory.</p> <p>The polytunnel that is due for a change of its plastic cover will be dealt with in April.</p> <p>To replace the fruit tree/trees that have died it has been decided that we will purchase Williams pears.</p> <p>This winter to try to solve the weed waste problem we will build lots more weed bins using pallets rather than trying to make a few super bins.</p> <p>We will be obtaining more manure sooner rather than later.</p> <p>In order to brighten up the entrance John W then suggested that we might consider an entrance flower bed like the one he saw at Ripley bowling club. However as this would be on the verge it would be outside the land leased to us and would be on land owned by the County Council. Robin has now checked the lease plan and confirms that the roadside verge is not leased to G&amp;F nor owned by NT.</p> <p>Finally Gerry has had a go at fixing the electronic scales but they are defunct. Most seem happy with the old mechanical scales so we will not be replacing the electronic ones.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Allotments</b>
	<p>New agreements: All out some back. Some also paid.</p> <p>Waiting list: Four people on the waiting list, but John and Helen Paterson are relinquishing their allotment so soon there will only be three on list.</p> <p>Parish Council Agreement re-negotiation this year for the next three years to commence shortly. Both clerks have been contacted. Michael and Ashley will work out figures and have a meeting/ meetings with the Parish clerks thereafter</p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Website &amp; Communications (Ashley)</b>
	<p>John W has nearly completed the head gardeners report and will send it to Ashley as soon as it is done. With regard to the photo gallery we will try to select a best of selection for each year so that people do not have to trawl through a whole gallery. Nothing-else to report except that the newsletter will go out shortly.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Building Team (Rob in absentia))</b>

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	<p>Coping stone refurbishment completed. Rebuilding the north end of the west wall where it was damaged by the lime tree was completed today.</p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>AGM – When and where?</b>
	<p>Currently we have a provisional booking at WHVH on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November but the way Covid guidelines are going this is looking more and more unlikely to take place. It was agreed that it was probably best in the circumstances to opt for a Zoom meeting. This should work as usually about forty attend the AGM and the maximum that Zoom can cater for is ninety nine. It was suggested that we could simplify the meeting by just dealing with those matters that we were legally required to deal with i.e. accounts and elections. This would all be monitored over the coming days bearing in mind that we must give 21 days notice of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: Ashley to organise Zoom meeting and Amanda to cancel WHVH provisional booking (now done).</b></p>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Handbook – This needs complete review/updating</b>
	<p>Nicki is looking at all comments so she should be e-mailed with anything further. John W said that we should strike out all mention of membership cards as these are no longer issued. .</p>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Security</b>
	<p>The Mower was stolen. Security measures will be improved to try to avoid a repeat of the theft.</p> <p>As a separate issue Ashley has received some complaints about the gate lock and alleged difficulties opening it. These seem to be caused by too much hand sanitizer in the lock (it will be oiled), the wrong combination being used or not using the correct technique (the silver end of the shackle must be pressed to cause the lock to open)</p>
<b>AOB</b>	<p>In the absence of the stolen mower Robin was asked by Bob if he could bring his mower down on Saturday but he could not as he was leading a HCPS walk on Saturday.</p> <p>Helena said that Lynn had seen a TV programme about growing lemon grass, ginger etc and was enthusiastic about us trying them. She was offering to look after them. Whilst a nice idea, it was felt by others who had seen the same programme that it was probably not practical as it would involve the heating of a greenhouse and constant attention moving plants about.</p> <p>Ray mentioned that in the southwest corner of the Garden there were a number of black currant and red currant bushes which might be viable and perhaps could be sold to members as we do not need them. It was agreed that they would be checked first. (This has since been done and they are not viable and have been removed).</p> <p>With regard to the quinces in the Garden it was agreed that as there were not many they should all be retained by the Garden and Robin would use them to prepare jars of preserve which would by their sale maximise the benefit to the Garden.</p> <p><b>Action: Ashley to include this decision in the newsletter</b></p>

**Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, 7:30pm – Venue: Zoom**

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Chairman: Amanda de Haast

Minute taker: Robin Satow