

GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 13th February 2025

Present Gerry (Chair), Beverley, Ray, Michael, Rob, Helena, Stephen, Jane, Mark			
Apologies John Whitlock, Anne Butler			
Minute Taker Beverley			
REF	ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
Welcome		Anne Butler and Jane Hunt were welcomed as new directors	
1.	Minutes of Last Meeting (Jan)	Stephen provided a correction to the Finance Report. The first sentence should say "Brian Manners completed and signed his independent examination of our 2024 accounts."	GR
2.	Matters Arising not covered elsewhere	None	
3.	<p>Garden Report: February is a very quiet month in the garden. We have had a good range of vegetables available to members through January. However, as the weeks progress this range will reduce, apart from hopefully more PSB becoming available, and eventually some cauliflowers. The polytunnels are full of salads and, if the temperature doesn't drop too low, chard, spring onions, possibly turnips and kohlrabi, will crop in early spring. We have had problems with rodents (probably rats) eating our winter cabbages. This is the first time that has happened in all the years we have gardened at G&F. We have had to crop them all and bring them into the potting shed.</p> <p>As a result of the garden itself requiring little attention, a great deal has been done on the paths and areas around the greenhouses and polytunnels. The garden is looking well prepared for spring sowing and planting. We hope to sow the first seeds to go indoors this weekend. However, it looks as though it may be too cold to retain any of the sowings in our polytunnel. Seeds will go to a number of our members' houses, conservatories and heated greenhouses.</p> <p>The winter pruning of the fruit trees has been completed. It was pleasing that so many members helped with this. The pruning has been heavier than last year.</p> <p>The perennial flower garden border is being renovated. Replacement of the flower garden will take two years. A number of flowers cannot be dug up as the roots are too big.</p> <p>Virtually all the seeds have been procured. A stock take has taken place. We expect seed potatoes very shortly.</p> <p>The next time we meet will be the start of the outdoor growing season.</p>		
4.	<p>Company Secretary Issues: The resolutions to appoint Anne Butler and Jane Hunt as co-opted directors were signed by Gerry and Beverley and will be entered into Companies House.</p> <p>It was agreed that directors should declare any personal financial interests or other conflicts of interest when discussing items at a Directors' meeting.</p> <p>Action: MT to circulate clause 81 of the Articles of Association about conflict of interest. <i>(Done)</i></p>		MT
5.	<p>Finance Report: Sales to members during January totaled £375 compared with £376 in January 24. The decline on December sales of £535 is normal for the time of year. A £20 donation was received in respect of a community prize won by Grace and Flavour at the Horsley in Bloom competition.</p> <p>Total expenditure in January was £1,923. The main items were £834 for pollarding of lime trees and £872 cost of sales, being primarily seeds for 2025 and manure. Other costs included replacement of rotten fruit tree posts and wheel barrow repairs. Lime pollarding should now suffice for several years ahead.</p>		

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	<p>Following previous decisions at AGM and January Directors' meeting, £5000 was transferred to a Grace and Flavour deposit account at UTB for 6 months. These funds are from harvest sales to members and other income received in advance. The interest earned will help pay for future costs.</p> <p>Our current account balance at the end of January is £6,893.</p>	
6.	<p>Website, Communications etc.: The new website is ready to go.</p> <p>It was agreed that there will be 1-2 pictures per page. Low resolution pictures will not be loaded. Only around 9 pictures per year will be in the photo gallery (although all will be stored on the hard drive). 2023 was the last year in which photos were added to the old gallery.</p> <p>Action: Mark to check that all banners show the potting shed as completed.</p> <p>Action: Mark to monitor usage of the new website.</p> <p>The next newsletter will coincide with the move of the website from staging to live (towards the end of the month) and include a request for plants for sale for the next Open Day, the launch of the new website and headline figures for NGS 2024 charity donations. Following the move to live, the links to forms will need to be checked.</p> <p>Action: Mark to email John W to ask him to provide a veg of the month update for the launch.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
7.	<p>Allotments Report: The fruit trees in the allotment have been pruned heavily. The list of fruit trees has been updated and will be on the new web-site.</p> <p>One person has downsized to ½ a plot. Plot 16 was dormant last year but will be cultivated again this year.</p> <p>The top of the poplar tree sucker near the manure has been cut down. Cutting the root could be a job for Tuesday/Thursday volunteers.</p> <p>The pruning saw has turned up.</p> <p>Seven of the directors are now allotment holders.</p>	
8.	<p>Building Team Report: Rob has asked for 3 quotes for water tank covers – aluminium, in two halves with handles. The cost is likely to be around £300 for 3 covers. They will be painted to deter theft.</p> <p>The brambles next to the wall have been removed and black plastic will be laid along the wall.</p> <p>The black poplars in the carpark will be removed and later the pea cage will be removed.</p> <p>Laurel cutting will need to be delayed until early autumn.</p>	
9.	<p>Wildlife Report: The mixed hedge on the east wall is being trimmed to reduce overhang and shade on the polytunnel. Trevor has been asked to help.</p> <p>The bee slope will now be built opposite the entrance to the southern polytunnel.</p>	
10.	<p>Health & Safety: No accidents to report.</p>	
11.	<p>Car Parking on NGS Open Day: The ownership of Dene Place will change. Gerry has emailed the manager and confirmed that the local management will not change and that we can still use the field as a carpark on the Open Day. There is still a concern regarding the availability of equipment/labour to mow the field.</p> <p>Action: Rob to talk to Trevor about discussions on mowing with Dene Place and report back.</p>	RT
12.	<p>AOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The toilet is 8-9 years old and is wearing out. A direct replacement would be £740. It was agreed that it will need replacing relatively soon, but not necessarily this year. There needs to be some thought regarding raising money. Gerry has agreed to the Parish Council's request for a VED 80 sign for 8th May. He has also agreed to the Garden Society doing a seed sowing session (not a Tuesday or Thursday). 	

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| | 3. The water butt halfway down the potting shed has split. Ray has found another one near the compost bins. | |
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Next Meeting: Thursday 13 March 2025 7.30pm, Wesley Room, Methodist Hall, WH

Chairman: Gerry Robbins **Minute Taker:** John Whitlock