

Chair: Jennie/Julian/Bob

Notes: Rebecca

1. **Welcome, thank you.** Apologies: Barbara, Betty, Clare H, Ester, Hsin-Liang, Immy, Ingrid, Keith, Lois, Macu, maybe Jennie B.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting 13 March 2022** (on website): to agree. Any changes needed?
3. **The last AGM was delayed to September 2021.** This report is for the full financial year from May 2021–30 April 2022 with a status report for other activities.
4. **Elections:** we try to keep things informal but also need to be ‘governed well’.
  - a. **Happy to stand again:** Rebecca Jones (Secretary); Julian Hickling (Treasurer); Jennie Brandon, Bob Billingham (Co-chairs).  
Standing down: Keith as Membership Secretary; Lois as Co-chair.
  - b. **New nominee:** Julia Leong (co-chair). We don’t need a membership secretary. Do we want/need a more formal committee?
5. **Annual financial review 1 May 2021–30 April 2022:** Brief Treasurer’s report from Julian (accounts circulated by e-mail and on website). In brief: Gardeners’ current account (on 30 April 2022) had: **£1,095.89.**
  - a. **Balance from allocated grants: £371.18** remaining; about £188.98 unspent as part of Kindness grant but should be spent soon (agreed with Grants); £182.20 unspent as part of polytunnel grant (can use for fitting out if/when we decided to use it more for plants and less for seating); Garden kitchen grant will be managed by Council (there is £300 owed to us for pizza oven – Julian needs to claim this).
  - b. **Balance from Friends memberships and donations (unallocated): £724.71;** we spent some funds on Learn and Grow (~£25.00); £370.41 on playhouse; £332.00 on the larch for the bench; £188.63 on insurance. The balance is enough for insurance in September 2022 and expenses. We have not pursued business sponsorship yet but have had one recent offer.
6. **Non-gardening volunteering – including working with local families.** Discussion to be led by Julia Leong, Rebecca (with David Lynch). Includes Little Nightingales... Learn and Grow... Gate opening... wellbeing-related events. How to encourage more of this without increasing workload? How to involve people volunteering in the constituted group and Friends group?
7. **Status report for 8 May 2022:** for information only:
  - a. **Membership.** On our formal membership list we have six officers; ~18 regular gardeners; ~18 people who garden infrequently but volunteer in other ways (and/or want to stay on the weekly e-mail list).
  - b. **Friends:** 56 on Friends list. Most have made donations of various sizes and frequency (one every month); some are former/infrequent volunteers and want to have less frequent e-mails. Haven’t been very actively recruiting recently.
  - c. **Friends newsletter:** currently working on the sixth issue (June–August 2022); two more planned for 2022 and then we might move to one every three months.
  - d. **Time credits.** 21 people have signed up for digital time credits. Aim to review this...
  - e. **‘Volunteering.**
    - i. **For gardening,** currently, we are running short sessions up to twice a week in small groups with volunteers ‘booking’ to say they are coming; Sundays and Mondays 2 pm to 4 pm. Rebecca has frequent contacts via e-mail or in person from people interested in gardening. Also a few from corporate groups. We could have longer sessions when toilets are available again (no knowledge of when this will be yet).
    - ii. **Gate opening:** have three sets of people doing it (1 day, 2 days and 4 days).

Agenda for AGM - Sunday 15 May 2022. 2pm with social meet up from 3pm.

- iii. **Other:** at events; at Learn and Grow; at other family-friendly activities.
- f. **Events:** this year has been very busy - with some events linked to Kindness grant. Good attendance (Learn and Grow; St Martin's Day – 11 Nov 2021; pre-Xmas New year and Easter get togethers ) to very high attendance (Moon festival – Sept 2021; Chinese New Year – Feb 2022). Events will be easier when have kitchen, power and toilet access.
- g. **Recent new projects in the garden (completed/on-going):**
  - i. Bench under tree;
  - ii. 'Better produce' ('no dig'; including planters in polytunnel; ongoing);
  - iii. Club hut inside cladding (ongoing);
  - iv. Dead hedge (October 2021);
  - v. Francesca's artwork for cards flyers and posters (August 2021);
  - vi. Friends group (from August 2021);
  - vii. Friends (play) house (end April 2022);
  - viii. Easter eggs (April 2022);
  - ix. Garden sketchers (from April 2022 on-going);
  - x. Kindness activities (to 30 April 2022);
  - xi. Learn and Grow (6<sup>th</sup> one on 12 June);
  - xii. Little Nightingales;
  - xiii. Mindfulness in Nature at Nightingale (7 May) – maybe more of them?
  - xiv. Minibeast trail (October 2021);
  - xv. Minibeast Mansion rejuvenation (2022);
  - xvi. Newsletter (from September 2021);
  - xvii. Robin trail (December 2021);
  - xviii. Xmas decorations in the polytunnel (December 2021).
- h. **Projects coming up:**
  - i. Need to revise the group's constitution (out of date) – will do by e-mail.
  - ii. Want to review time credits (Rebecca spending too much time on them for very few people earning/spending). Will do by e-mail.
  - iii. Decorating the Friends House. Julia has offered to co-ordinate a group.
  - iv. Construction of the garden kitchen (we hope we are close to contracting) – and decorating (could be mosaics).
  - v. Maintenance work: picnic tables, benches (including red one), Rosie horse (repainting). Might contact local business for volunteers.
  - vi. Midsummer party/picnic planning (Julia/Rebecca co-ordinate);
  - vii. Orchard in the park (need to co-ordinate with Tree team);
  - viii. Need to try out pizza oven (maybe with families and/or when the garden kitchen finished).
  - ix. Watering rota - for produce and new plants. Rebecca to co-ordinate.
- 8. **Matters arising from status report/any other business.**
- 9. **Next meetings:** Sunday 18 September 2022, planning meeting in the garden, 2 to 3pm with social afterwards. For 2023, aim for early March and mid-September planning meetings and Mid-May AGM.