

Chair: Bob and/or Justin

Notes: Rebecca

1. **Welcome!** The agenda could have been very long (we seem to be busy!) so some things have become a 'for info' list and can be discussed in AOB or have been moved to November or later.
 - a. Thanks to everyone. Heroic watering this summer – and the rest...
 - b. On twitter, the garden was recently described as 'the most creative open space in Cambridge'.... Congratulations!
2. **Apologies:** Barbara, Judit, Izabela
3. **Minutes from the last meeting:** to agree. Any changes needed?
4. **Finances:**
 - a. **Bank account etc:** Treasurers report;
 - b. **Insurance:** 12/9/18: purchased from Zurich (with Aviva donation): £220.83 for a year from 14/9/18; covers events up to 500 people.
5. **Membership:** no changes since last meeting.
6. **Things/activities that need a decision soon-ish – including new suggestions:**
 - a. **NEW Apple trees:** R&J have two grafted trees (done by Susanna at Trumpington orchard) from an early ripening cooking apple tree in R&J's garden (maybe 100 years old); on vigorous rootstock. Thinking about one for the orchard area in the garden and one in the park (RJ waiting to hear back from the tree officer); also have various apple trees (at Emma's house) on dwarfing rootstock donated earlier in the year (need to work out which ones are suitable for garden and also school garden). Some could be stepovers... any ideas?
 - b. **NEW Bulbs:** the council didn't donate any this year; do we have enough? Do we want to spend funds on more? Supposed to be a shortage this year due to bad weather so will need to do soon;
 - c. **NEW Decorating – but not urgent!** suggestions: blue chairs, brown bench, old picnic table, plant-plaza, storage shed, wood-store; others?
 - d. **NEW Hazel coppicing** (Barbara): spoke to a garden user... in community orchard they grow hazel for coppicing for poles. Anywhere suitable at Nightingale? Maybe in gaps between the native hedge by the long fence?
 - e. **NEW Lean-to polycarb greenhouse:** we have one, need to find a suitable location. Could be along the metal lean-to (with new flat back) or against the back of the new shed;
 - f. **NEW 'Little library':** for book swapping; might be nice under the new veranda (extra weather protection) – one of our talented artists could decorate it?
 - g. **More fruit bushes** (Caroline's idea) maybe dig out some deeper beds in the Autumn (a way to get some more clinker for the green roof too)? What fruit and where to source?
 - h. **NEW Perennial wildflower turf:** Guy has offered to buy some to replace the annual bed sowing or not so successful perennial meadow sowings; Ed will help install. What do we think?

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- i. **NEW Polytunnel** (Rebecca): would we like one, use one, water one? Our small one on the allotment cost about £600. Where would we put it?
- j. **NEW Potato order**: we can order discount Kings seeds at any time via the allotment but the allotment seed potato order goes in by 30 Sept. Do we want to buy a bag of two of the same kinds (Arran pilot and Charlotte) for next year? About £2.50 each?
- k. **NEW Scarecrow (Barbara)**: mostly for fun. RJ likes the idea. Think about when, where and how;
- l. **Storage shed**: will need to paint, put guttering on, make a soak away, make water butt stands, get 6 wheelie bins (Amey Cespa) and paint them, drill taps and connect to guttering; fit out with wood/shelves etc. What do we think about painting the outside and maybe decorating it?

7. Forthcoming events for 2018:

- a. **Thursday 20 Sept 2018**, 7pm, St John's church, Hills Rd. **QE Community Forum open meeting**. QECF is looking for ideas and people to carry them out;
- b. **Tuesday 23 October 2018** time TBD: St James church are planning a **pumpkin picnic** – might be fun to go along as volunteers? RJ has offered to do apple spirals;
- c. **Sunday 28 October 2018** (end of half term holiday), probably from 1pm: **'Wriggly worms'**. With Master Composters (Garden Organic). Probably not with cubs (Emma W not available). Promote to QE school. Bring and share lunch including pre-cooked garden pumpkins/squashes for soup (re-heat) and roasted with couscous, maybe from 1pm. Other activities from 2pm. Becky, Lois and Rebecca gathering wormy ideas. Mainly for families. Will have a planning meeting sometime beforehand;
- d. **Sunday 2 December 2018**, probably from 11am: **Tree Dressing Day at Wulfstan Way**: could be solar lights, yarn-bombing, storytelling or anything else. To be organised by Queen Edith's Community Forum. RJ keen on the yarnbombing. We could do similar event in the garden in 2019 (or in 2018, if the Forum decide not to go ahead).

8. Any other business – see just for info list too...

9. Date of next meeting: maybe Sunday 11 November 1pm. See some suggestions below for the agenda.

Just for information

- 1. **Awareness raising at events**: we have decided not to do Mill Rd Fair (tends to be oversubscribed and a fee to pay);
- 2. **Donations received since last meeting or expected soon**:
 - a. **Garden hose on reel**: arrived, installed, used once, blog post done;
 - b. **Social gardens survey**: RJ completed an online survey about insurance and won a mystery prize from Flymo/McCulloch – will arrive within a month.
- 3. **Potential partnerships and enquiries coming in to garden e-mail/secretary**:
 - a. **Maggie's**: hope to do things with them sometime;
 - b. **Botanic Garden**: via Sandie Cain, Outreach officer (RH needs to chase);

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- c. **Wulfstan Way gardens:** potential funding for water butts/mains supply; Sam Davies to meet with Ed and others to work out costing. NG can get involved via volunteers.
- 4. **Recent events in the garden or park:**
 - a. Sunday 19 August: **Abundance in the garden with Master Composters:** good. Could repeat next year or just have an abundance table (or plant plaza) in the garden and at every session – could make a sign for it;
 - b. Sunday 2 September: **Brass band in the park:** it worked OK to have a normal session with a bit more cake. Hopefully, they will do it again next year;
 - c. Saturday 8 Sept: **Share fair** – thanks to everyone who came along and helped out - or just had some chat.
- 5. **Social media:** RJ is still rubbish at Instagram, despite new phone; Becky has logins;
- 6. **Things/activities agreed and to do or to finish:**
 - a. **Bike racks:** RJ chased: 'any time now';
 - b. **Cob oven etc:** we'd like one - think about in 2019;
 - c. **Compost toilet:** still on the maybe list...
 - d. **Decorated bench:** just needs a varnish;
 - e. **Green-roofed veranda:** expected Spring 2019;
 - f. **Hotbin:** just needs straps and setting up;
 - g. **New black noticeboard:** chased again 16/7/18;
 - h. **Pole lathe:** visit made, learning done, plans found. Just need time and wood to make, probably after shed kitted out;
 - i. **Signs:** have 3 sticks of pallet painted and ready for writing (not quite sure where to put them yet); A5 di-bond sample spray painted with Liquitex acrylic ready for testing with sign-writer's enamel and pens; Di-bond A3 sheet will need spraying and painting; Black and white Liquitex acrylic pens arrived; black and white signwriters enamel and brushes arrived; RJ to try out sign-writer's enamel on Di-bond sample (just needs some time).
 - j. **Water supply:** we have a sticking percussion tap and also a leak into the inspection chamber. As soon as we found out we stopped using the water for drinking. Contractors have been and will return in week of 17 September.
 - k. **Woodstore:** need a roof; JH is thinking about putting a lockable gate on it.
- 7. **Workshops:** RJ has tried out some natural dyeing (including with goldenrod and buddleia), maybe informal workshops for Summer 2019;
 - a. **Park pavilion: initial designs at Share Fair** – not much detail yet. Probably build in Summer 2019 (need to remove our storage stuff from there asap; might be chance to get some pine cladding...).

Suggested agenda items for November meeting:

1. Planning ahead for events in 2019

Do we want to do anything around Xmas, new year?

RJ likes the Common Ground calendar of events:

- a. **May Day** (1 May – but a Weds in 2019) – maybe just a bring and share tea for one of the bank holidays?

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- b. **Arbor Day and Oak Apple Day** (29 May – but a Weds in 2019) – although we don't have oak in the park or garden...
- c. **Midsummer Day** (June 21 – Friday in 2019) – could be a bring and share 'little lunch' or 'little get together' on Sunday 23 June [weekend of the Jo Cox Great Get Togethers]?
- d. **Apple Day** (21 October – Monday in 2019) but there are so many apple days in Cambridge now – maybe we have 'bring and share apple cakes' on Sunday the 20 October;
- e. **Tree Dressing day** (first weekend in December) – 1 Dec is Sunday in 2019 – would be fun to dress the whitebeam trees, could also coppice the living willow and make things with it?

2. **Fundraising applications and ideas:**

- a. **WH Smith:** early Sept: RJ applied online for £500 for insurance and running costs; find out in March 2019.
- b. **BEDEC:** 10 Sept: RJ e-mailed photos of paint in use, in case they might donate some paint (not heard anything yet);
- c. **Cambridge area grants:** apply in Spring 2019 for insurance and maybe one-off community projects – any ideas?
- d. **Vegware Community Fund:** could apply for funding after first annual report and finances (post June 2019).