

Minutes of Grace and Flavour OMG 14th May2022

In the Potting Shed at 1pm

Amanda De Haast opened the meeting with her Chairman's report and thanked everyone for attending. She stated that this was our half term report and a requirement of our status as a CIC (Community Interest Company). It would be a short meeting just covering the key items of Finance and the Garden. Those that wanted more detail were directed to attend our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10 November.

Amanda further stated that in the past six months we have all been triple jabbed and though a fair percentage of us have had Covid it has not affected us too much and within a week or two it is business as usual. And business as usual is what has been going on in the garden. Over the winter, there was much tidying up, and a good spring clean saw us more streamlined and John's desk was "rediscovered" and cleared. We are all urged to help him keep it that way by not dumping 'stuff' on it. Tools have been checked, sorted, repaired and oiled (thank you Bob) and John has spent hours poring over seed catalogues on our behalf. Endless barrows of manure have been wheeled around the garden in order to maintain our 'no-dig' ethos and the weeds have taken a battering, though they are now fighting back.

One of our main projects at the beginning of this year was the preparation of the new soft fruit area which is now complete with all the fruit bushes planted (a good news story): the bad news being that at the end of this year we will have to move the cage to the new area and tackle the bindweed it's left behind in the old soft fruit area.

Amanda announced that sadly Nicki Douet has decided, after 10 years of fantastic work on the committee, that it is time to stand down, but she will remain an active member of Grace and Flavour and it is Amanda's intention to thank her formally at the AGM. Amanda was delighted to report that Beverley Nash has agreed to join the committee.

Amanda asked that everyone should take care when working in the garden as we have had a couple of incidents recently which highlight the awareness everyone needs to show while moving around and working in the garden. Please put tools away correctly and be mindful of the environment we all work in. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt. We are always receptive to ideas that will improve everyone's safety. Protective goggles can be found hanging up by John's desk. And everyone should check what the situation is with regard to their tetanus booster.

Amanda said that it has been lovely to see some new members join the garden and asked members to keep spreading the good word. A couple of the new members came from our attendance at the WI Link Tea in early March where we were complimented on our display stand.

Amanda said that full thanks will be given out at the AGM but that she would like to take this opportunity of thanking the watering team – they potentially were going to be the stars of the show this summer but thankfully Wednesdays downpour has temporarily delayed their stardom.

Amanda then requested Ashley to update us on our Finances and Ashley's report is attached to these minutes.

Amanda thanked Ashley and then asked John for his garden report.

John said that his report would be very brief and first discussed future projects:

1. Adding an additional asparagus bed. This has been temporarily deferred
2. Adding more rhubarb. This has been completed.
3. New soft fruit area. As Amanda mentioned this has been completed.
4. Reduce potato planting. 25 kg less are being planted this year (Cara).
5. Use more weed suppressant. Achieved.

He then moved on to problems:

1. The storms this winter damaged one polytunnel cover. A new one is required (a grant application has been made to WHPC for funding for a replacement cover) .
2. The late frost caught the plums and the potatoes and whilst the potatoes should recover the plum crop may not.
3. Poor germination of celeriac and spring onions. Both resown but may be late for celeriac.

John then discussed successes of which he said there were many including cauliflowers, asparagus, spinach and salads.

Finally he said that the issue at the moment was striking a balance between planting and weeding and there was a lot to do of both but we were managing to keep on top of both at the moment in most areas.

Amanda then summed up and informed the meeting that if anyone wanted to know what the allotment and building team reports may have included, please read the minutes of previous committee meetings on the website or the copies held in the potting shed (in the red folder on shelf). Gerry's wildlife report is included quarterly on the website.

As mentioned, the AGM will be on Thursday 10th November at West Horsley Village Hall, 7.15 for 7.45pm. In the meantime there are a number of social events happening which are listed on the website or on our noticeboard. The next one being Saturday 2nd July, the Summer Evening Social.

Amanda then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.