

GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 13th July 2023: at 7.30pm

Present	Gerry (Chair), Beverley, John W, John F, Ray, Michael, Ashley, Carolyn, Rob		
Apologies	Vicky, Helena		
Minute Taker	Beverley		
REF	ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	Meeting venue	G&F Garden	
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting (June)	Approved	
3.	Actions from last meeting		
1	Vegetable Price Revision	Gerry has revised the prices as much as he can. He will look at the price list again in the autumn. Action: AB to upload new pricelist to website	AB
2	BBQ Summer Social	This event was thought to have been worthwhile. Ashley bought 16-18 burgers	
3	Ripley Farmers Market	Carolyn judged this to be reasonably successful. One new volunteer came to the garden the next day. In addition, quite a few people mentioned at the Open Day that they had heard about it at the Ripley market. The event is not that onerous, involving 3 people. The timing was discussed. If there is an NGS Open Day next year later in the year, it might be better to attend the market later. [As an aside, it was suggested that new volunteers could be asked where they heard about the garden during the induction process.]	
4	Garden Group Meeting	The NGS Open Day was thought through in this meeting.	
4.	NGS Open Day Discussion	We were lucky with the weather on the day and raised more money than expected (>£2000). The number of visitors was significant (207) but we were not overloaded. The designated path was a good idea. It helped having volunteers around the garden. Ray was bombarded with questions about compost. People found it difficult to park on the rough ground. Dogs were an issue. One Portaloo would have sufficed. 10.30-4 would have been better opening hours. Vantage Point was the only magazine quoted by visitors regarding publicity – helped possibly by the prominent position on the front page of Jottings. It was the only NGS garden open that day. The Open Day was a lot of work, but provided a good focus for the garden (and will be reported on in the next newsletter).	GR

GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 13th July 2023: at 7.30pm

4. cont.		<p>The committee was minded to do it again. Timing of any Open Day in future years was discussed. Early September was suggested – but will wait to see what the garden is like then and also visit Randalls allotment open at that time (could we pick the same day?). Gerry is expected to have to confirm any opening with NGS in early September.</p> <p>It was decided to charge the cost of one Portaloo against NGS proceeds.</p> <p>Action: GR to write thank you letters to Sylvia Taylor (about cups) and Dene Place.</p>	GR
5.	Induction and New Members	<p>Action: BN to put a list at the front of the induction folder (name, person inducting, date) to keep track of new volunteers</p> <p>Action: JW to persuade Ellie not to wear flip flops for safety/ insurance purposes.</p>	BN JW
6.	St John's First Aid Training	<p>This training has been organised by Tony Millership in conjunction with U3A cyclists.</p>	
7.	Finance report	<p>Income for the year is likely to be slightly less than average, with expenses slightly more. The patio has cost £1800 versus a forecast of £1200.</p> <p>WH Parish Council has asked if G&F need money for a project. Horsley Community Fund is also giving grants to £65k.</p> <p>Action: AB to make contact with both WH Parish Council and Horsley Community Fund.</p> <p>Action: AB/GR to attend Horsley Community Fund meeting on 19/9</p> <p>John W asked whether something can be done to the paths as they are deteriorating.</p>	AB AB/GR
8.	G&F Website and Communications	<p>John W will provide a gardener's report for the website, mentioning the Open Day from a gardening point of view.</p>	
9	Garden Report	<p>The garden looked brilliant for the Open Day, but the weeds are now growing. Weed suppression and squash planting has been successful. There have been no total disasters although carrots and calabrese could have been better. Too many projects were taken on last winter.</p> <p>There is a question over the size at which crops (especially courgettes) are picked – if small, then more needs to be grown. There are now quite a lot of members who come down for only 1 session per week – so we may need to plant more of certain crops.</p> <p>John W has talked to Helena about herbs and flowers. Jim Arbury has suggested one plum tree is removed – with the one next to it possibly having plum pox, a notifiable disease.</p> <p>Action JW to email Jim Arbury about the plum pox.</p>	JW

GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
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9. cont	Garden Report	<p>Someone from Royal Holloway looking at small farm crop diversity has asked for some information from G&F.</p> <p>Action: AB to forward the email from Royal Holloway to JW</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>AB</p>
10.	Allotments	<p>The half plot has been strimmed and covered with black plastic. It is still vacant. In September one or two people might want to downsize.</p> <p>It was queried whether the water supply pipe should be given protection.</p>	
11.	Building Team	<p>The patio has had a good christening – from members and on the Open Day. There is a small section to finish off, when the building team is back.</p>	
12.	Wildlife	<p>Gerry has reestablished the path, clearing weeds by the hedge. He queried whether it was worth clearing the path all the way down or whether it could be left. He thought the hedge was OK.</p> <p>It was brilliant to have entomologists at the Open Day. Graham will send a list of species when compiled – one species had only been discovered 20 times in Surrey.</p> <p>Gerry has purchased a new pond dipping net.</p> <p>Action: GR to write a wildlife article for the newsletter.</p>	<p>GR</p>
AOB		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horsley Farmers Market donation of £400 – suggestions were mesh and a new bottom half of the shredder (£205) 2. Surrey Wildlife Trust Community Celebratory Evening – Amanda, Helena and Gerry are going. 3. Nets – please label before putting in shed (message from Vicky) 4. Padlocking gate – if in doubt lock up if there is a car in the carpark. This should be put in the newsletter. 5. Auditor Brian Manners – John W is doing a veg box. 6. Lost property from Open Day – AB has bangles 7. Query over whether sum-up needs to be returned to NGS 8. Is there a problem with diptanks – message from Vicky 9. West Horsley in Bloom – G&F got silver gilt, while WHP got gold. G&F unlikely to enter again. 10. Agenda in pdf on 1 side – thanks from Rob 11. Ash die back survey – lady from Hatchlands said that ash tree on left of gate would need to come down in the autumn. 12. Wheel of Care boxes – GR will stick on G&F labels 	<p>AB</p>

Next Meeting: Thursday 10 August 2023 7.30pm, Potting Shed

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