

**GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023: at 7.30pm**

Present	Gerry (Chair), Beverley, John W, Ray, Michael, Carolyn, Rob, Vicky		
Apologies	John F, Helena, Ashley		
Minute Taker	Beverley		
REF	ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	<b>Meeting venue</b>	Methodist Hall	
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting (September)</b>	Approved	
3.	<b>Actions from last meeting</b>		
	1 Induction & New Members	Members list has been updated. Known to be outstanding currently in terms of induction are Visha and Lyn's friend Christina.	
	2 Mail Chimp	Tony M now has access to Mail Chimp.	
	3 Other Matters Arising	The gas heater has been taken from FreeCycle.  The visit to Cherry Trees has been postponed to April 2024.	
4.	Repairing/ resurfacing paths	The paths are becoming trip hazards. Retarmacking would be too expensive.  RT has the opportunity to buy seconds of 600x600 slabs from the company which provided the patio slabs. He proposed doing one path per year. The slabs will require bedding in. He will report back on the cost to the Finance Meeting. We would need to seek external sources of funding. The Building Team will fill in patches with sand and cement.	RT
5.	AGM	The agenda was agreed. RB and MT will need to be reappointed as directors. BN will be named on list of Committee Members as Mental Health First Aider. It was agreed that next year it would be good to have some of the new, younger, members appointed to the Committee. Also, deputies should be identified for JW/RB and AB. VR confirmed that she is available to take the minutes. CW and BN volunteered to help Nicki with refreshments along with Pat. Access from the hall is from 7pm, with the meeting starting at 7.30pm. <b>Action: RT</b> to check on Companies House as to when he was first appointed as a Director – and hence when his current 3 year term is up.	RT
6.	<b>East Wall willow tree and hedge</b>	The Building Team will remove brambles from the "wild life corridor" hedge. The new allotment holder was stopped from cutting the willow tree. A way forward would be to pollard this tree.	

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<b>7.</b>	<b>Finance report</b>	<p>Due primarily to an exceptionally high sales figure of £1,353 in September, the end of year position is better than expected. The closing balance is £9,745 (including £4,028 contingency) compared with an opening balance of £11,942.</p> <p>The Finance Committee is meeting 3pm on Monday 23/10 in the Potting Shed.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>G&amp;F Website and Communications</b>	No issues. GR will talk to AB about sharing workload.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Garden Report</b>	<p>It has been an excellent year in the garden. Putting weed suppressant on the squash area worked well (and could be used in future in the polytunnel or other areas). For the first time celeriac plants were bought in; these were very good and we will carry on doing this, despite the expense. Tender stem broccoli worked well and there were lots of French beans. Other successes included edamame beans, Padron peppers, blackberries and, of course, plums.</p> <p>There were too many main crop potatoes, with some damaged. Some pears have had to be thrown away. Raspberries finished early.</p> <p>The old rhubarb area needs to be cleared and one plum tree needs to be replaced.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Allotments</b>	<p>The agreements have all gone out and all bar one have been returned. There have been 2/3 changes this year.</p> <p>There are currently 2 vacant half plots. MT proposed that these be stripped and black plastic put down. A work day to do this needs to be organised.</p> <p>It was confirmed that allotment holders need to be people not organisations.</p> <p>One Parish Council wanted the agreement to be renegotiated every year. This will be discussed at the Finance Committee.</p> <p>MT has changed the padlock code as of beginning of October.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Building Team</b>	The Building Team has reset a coping stone, put a fence around and used timbers to reset the line of the wall.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>GR has cleared out the pond. He wants to cut back non native growth around the pond. The plan to deal with low water levels next summer is to top up by siphoning from polytunnel barrels. The mulch has worked well at the outside wall.</p> <p>Birds are coming back in, with the parakeets going for the quinces and sunflower seeds.</p>	

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<p><b>AOB</b></p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retention of documents – MT queried how long allotment agreements need to be kept.   <b>Action: GR</b> to check with AB about company retention regulations.</li> <li>2. Social calendar - It was agreed that there should be a party after the NGS Open Day on 4/8 instead of a Summer pot luck supper. OGM is 11/5/24. AGM is 7/11/24. VR will reissue the social calendar and produce A4 sheet for noticeboard.</li> <li>3. Choir visit - Bob S is bringing a visiting choir from Uganda to G&amp;F this Saturday, including children. It was suggested they could clean squashes.</li> <li>4. Harvest Festival – The Evangelical vicar has got Covid. Heather and Bob will say something instead.</li> <li>5. Bodging equipment – Sue Reeve will remove this.</li> <li>6. MIND – Sandy has suggested that young adults come and visit the garden in summer and autumn.</li> <li>7. Cherry Trees – CW has established the link with Cherry Trees. We will go and see them and they will visit the garden, with staff coming to our NGS Open Day.</li> <li>8. Surrey Plein Air Painters will be visiting G&amp;F on a Friday before Christmas.</li> <li>9. Woodchip has arrived.</li> <li>10. Wednesday Weeders will be finishing when the clocks go back. It was confirmed that it is not permitted to have an event at G&amp;F after dark.</li> </ol>	<p>GR</p> <p>VR</p>
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**Next Meeting: AGM Thursday 9 November 2023, 7.30pm, West Horsley Village Hall**

**Chairman:** Gerry Robbins **Minute Taker:** Vicky Rutherford

**Next Directors Meeting Thursday 14th December 2203, 7.30pm, Wesley Room, Methodist Hall**

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