

BWGA Agm 10th March 2012 @ North Star Inn

Bohemia Walled Garden Association AGM Saturday 10th March 2012
10.00 a.m. at The North Star, Clarence Road, St. Leonards

Present Bob Hart, Susan Thomson, Sally Hick, Darren Windley, Christine M'Baye, Anne Benham, Steven Whitfield, Roz Cran, Mary Dawson, Michel Guille, Juliet Wickham and Kristine Alexander.

Apologies Matt Windley, Kevin Towner, Lesley Bruce, Shelly and Karl Horton, Georgina Desbrulais and Amanda Jobson.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Chairman's Report concerning this year's achievements was read. After clarification of the division of responsibility between the Council and the WGA in respect of the walls, it was approved.

Treasurer's Report for the year ending December 2011 was given by Juliet Wickham, which was approved.

Matters Arising

The chair proposed the election of additional members to the committee: - Safety Officer plus two other positions to share the load. A Safety Officer was particularly needed to make risk assessments when the garden is open to the public. Hasting Voluntary Association will shortly be running a training course for this role. The idea was unanimously approved.

With regard to accidents which will inevitably happen from time to time, some concern was expressed that parents be made aware that they are responsible for the safety of their children in the garden, and that perhaps a list of first-aiders should be made. Rather than proliferate the number of signs in the garden, it was agreed that the agreement, signed by all plot holders regarding these matters, would be included on the website, including a list of first-aiders. Mary Dawson agreed to make a list of first-aiders.

Election of the Committee

The following committee was elected:

Chair: Bob Hart (nominated by Steven Whitfield and seconded by Mary Dawson)

Secretary: Susan Thomson (nominated by Mary Dawson and seconded by Juliet Wickham)

Treasurer: Michel Guille (nominated by Juliet Wickham and seconded by Steven Whitfield)

A vote of thanks to the outgoing Treasurer, Juliet Wickham, was proposed by Sally Hick and seconded by Ann Benham)

Minutes Secretary: Sally Hick (nominated by Roz Cran and seconded by Juliet Wickham)

Safety Officer: Darren Windley (nominated by Susan Thomson and seconded by Roz Cran)

Darren agreed to take on the role of Safety Officer and attend the training course (if

possible) but not the committee meetings.

6th Member: Christine M'Baye (nominated by Mary Dawson and seconded by Sally Hick)

7th Member: Mary Dawson (nominated by Christine M'Baye and seconded by Roz Cran)

Voting for all the above committee members was unanimous.

Items for discussion

Fees for plot holders The current fee of £1 per meter (free to schools) will cover the basic outgoings of the WGA. It was pointed out that, though the fee seems very low, it is higher than the fee for an allotment meter for meter. It was proposed that the fee stay the same for 2012 by Susan Thomson and seconded by Mary Dawson. The proposal was carried.

Proposed projects for the garden Several projects were identified: Repairing of the wall, repairing of the outside steps, improving the availability of water from the pond, development of the borders. These are of varying degrees of difficulty and cost, but the chair proposed that it would be a mistake to merely tackle the easiest first. The cost of repairing the wall was now approximately £70,000 including V.A.T. and contingency fees. He suggested that funds be divided and 'ring fenced' possibly under the headings of 'restoration', 'horticulture' and 'arts'.

It was also suggested that once a project was agreed, a project manager should be nominated, thus alleviating the burden of work now undertaken by the Secretary.

These were felt to be good ideas and needed to be on the agenda for the new committee.

The Sundial Christine M'Baye reported that she had made several designs and found the most popular with plot holders. She will be holding workshops for members to create the numbers and hopes to finish the whole by the end of April. Four dates will be arranged, for three people at a time. These sessions must be booked in advance with Christine.

The Paths All but the lower paths are covered with wood chippings which need periodically replenishing. Susan, Michel and Lesley have used their own vehicles for collecting materials, but it was unanimously agreed that the WGA will pay for delivery in future. Steve Molyneux has offered to deliver to the steps of the garden one load of wood-chippings for £48 including V.A.T. It was proposed by Mary Dawson and seconded by Darren Windley that we accept the offer and possibly order more if needed. It was unanimously agreed.

Newsletter It was agreed to continue producing a quarterly newsletter.

Committee Meetings It was agreed to hold bi-monthly meetings unless circumstances require more frequent meetings.

Public Events It was agreed to hold open days for the following events. Bohemia Village Fair 9th June, Heritage Open Day 9th September, Hastings Week October.

Mary Dawson agreed to register the WGA for Heritage Open Day (not including the Ice House)

It was also agreed to assist with the setting up of St Peter's Book Fair 21st April, as the organisers kindly donate part of the takings to the WGA.

The meeting was closed at 11.50

The next committee meeting will be held on 23rd March