

**Baldon Horticultural Society**  
**Minutes of the Meeting dated 14 February 2022 held via Zoom**

**PRESENT** - John Turner (JT), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Charlotte Martin (CM), Robin Weedon (RW), Louise Mallinson (LM), Catherine Dunne (CD), Peter Linley (PL), Jan Studzinski (JS), Susan Kean (SK)

1 **Apologies for absence:** Sue Wheatley, Ian Helyar, Mike Webster, Richard Nottidge

2 **Chairs opening remarks – see below**

3 **Actions from previous meeting:**

**Drive Repair** ( JT/CM) – JT explained that the yearly update of the management agreement had not taken place yet. He had been unable to arrange a meeting with the Town Council as the recently appointed Town Clerk had resigned and there were no administration staff there to arrange meetings. He had been in contact with the Chair who assured him that a temporary clerk would be in place by the end of next week and an administrative assistant would be starting tomorrow

**Seed swap** ( SK) – Thompson Lane was still awaiting the communal greenhouse to be built, weather permitting. SK will then set up a “seed swap” so people can take and leave seeds etc.

**Executive meeting** (JT) This had taken place in order to rewrite the Constitution (see below).

4 **Member’s Issues**

DT and CM explained that a plot had been left with rubbish and another plot holder (who is in possession of a key) who was taking it over was going to sort it out but still awaiting the previous plot holder to take his possessions away. At least one skip would be needed and discussion will need to be made whether to invoice the plot holder for the price of the skip. JT to meet with the person taking it on at the weekend to discuss. **Action – JT**

5 **Reports:**

**Allotment Officers:**

**Charlestown** - CM reported that there are now 7 on waiting list with no vacant plots.

**Thompson Lane** – LM reported that there are now only 8 on the waiting list with no vacant plots. All plot holders had now paid their rent. A large tree had recently been blown over in the woods behind the smallholder plots during the recent storms. The Tree Department at the Council were due to take down and make safe some further trees which were a potential hazard.

**Treasurer (CD)** Income Total £8,534.33. Expenditure Total £4,777.78. CM to put an extra line in for “bonds” so this amount is not included in the total. **Action – CD.**

**Secretary** - no report

**Health and Safety** - no report

**Show Secretary** - DT had contacted all the judges and booked four of them. The school had been booked. DT and RW to meet shortly to discuss schedule and sort out a committee.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6 Constitution Review and acceptance of terms of reference - JT**

JT explained that there is a link from the front page of the web site and the wording is too legalistic so a better idea would be just shows the mission statement and aims and that the mission statement would come from a link in the aims. JS suggested that the term “horticulture” should be replaced with “gardening”. Also mention of the show should be changed to “Autumn” rather than “September”. These changes were discussed and agreed unanimously. (See attached, revised documents). Sub committees must have a terms of reference as to what they can and can't do. Each site to have a sub committee, plus a show sub-committee and a projects sub committee. A small budget for the two site sub-committees: £500 per annum for each site – accepted unanimously.

### **7 Result of grant application for water butts and usage with regard to polytunnels**

JT put a bid in to community chest for water butts for £400 water butt kits x 10. This had been granted. The kits include a stand, water butt itself and attachments for downpipe, (slimline kits, 100 litres). Agreed to offer these for half price (£20) providing that the tenants set up draining on greenhouse or huts. Need a person at each site to show tenants how to set them up. Discussed the amount of water needed for polytunnels. DT said you can get kits for polytunnel use as well.

**Action – PL to see if Acorn can do a good price for Water Butt Kits**

**Action - SK to look into polytunnel kits and to draft an email to tenants**

### **8 Hoyle Court School Allotment Opportunity**

RN had recently visited Hoyle Court during a tree planting exercise and been shown a complete allotment and large polytunnel where a teacher who had been keen on growing veg had left and no one at the school left to do it. The location is close to Charlestown and the school has offered to pay for any willing volunteers' DBS checks if they wanted to get involved. RN will be going in to help plant trees as they are going to have a mini nursery. JT to visit with a member of the committee. **Action – JT/DT to arrange a meeting with the headmistress.**

### **9 Suggestions for Trips/Talks**

JT had recently met a member of Eldwick and Gilstead Horticultural Society. They have a monthly talk/meeting. In the past they have had guests such as Christine Walkden, Bob Flowerdew plus two major coach trips plus a weekend trip – Kew Gardens for the weekend. They charge £10 a year to be a member and for talks, they charge members £3 and non-members £5. It would be helpful to have a meeting with them to discuss affiliation or to get some ideas. **Action JT**

### **10 Any Other Business**

JS thanked JT for all his hard work on behalf of the Society.

## **10 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

As the Golf Club have to open specially for the meetings on a Monday it was agreed to change the date to Thursday when we can still use the room upstairs. Therefore:  
Next meeting - **Thursday 10th March 7pm** at the Golf Club.