

Monthly Meeting June 7 2014

Present Andreas (chair), Hamish, Charlie, Dasha, Vicki (admin), Kate (minute taker)|

Agenda

Approval of May's minutes

Trustees update - Vicki

EGM

Infrastructure -toilet

Ramp

watering system

kitchen progress

bins and entrance

Events - big lunch

Summer event

Event committee report

TERRA

Finance and general reporting - bank account

Other funding opportunities

Newham film office

Gardening report

Any other business - Trevor Mbatha's visit

Twitter feed

Calendar

Real action challenge day

May minutes

The May minutes were approved

Trustees Update

11 Railway Cottages, Bakers Row, London E15 3NF

www.abbeygardens.org

Vicki was introduced and her role explained. Vicki reported that she is currently chiefly working on fund raising, getting incorporated charity status for Abbey Gardens and the lease.

Vicki has sent off a bid to comic relief for a third of her salary.

She noted that Capital Growth is running Urban food week in the autumn. They will match fund the value of the crop, give a prize for the most creative use of the crop and actively partner projects with local traders. She felt this would tie in with our pumpkin harvest festival celebration.

It was pointed out that whatever we do must be beneficial for the garden and not take up a lot of volunteer time.

Vicki reassured the meeting that she would only undertake activities that would bring benefit to the garden and would co-ordinate and help with any extra activity required.

It was suggested that Vicki should communicate her activities through regular updates to the gardening group in as many ways as possible - by email, newsletter, on the website and leaflet displayed in the cabin, so that everyone knows what is happening.

Action - Vicki to produce updates

EGM There will be an EGM on Saturday July 5 to confirm Michael as chair elect a new trustee and review the constitution for incorporated status.

Infrastructure

Toilet It was noted that more work is needed on the toilet

Ramp The ramp was reinforced with mesh, but it was agreed that it still needed extra batons to be safe.

Watering system - the watering system is installed but the pipe has been cut by vandals twice.

Kitchen work on the kitchen is a source of controversy - there are issues over the exact nature of the proposal and the need to make it conform to health and

safety standards for food preparation. There is also a more limited budget than originally asked for and it was felt it might be better to use the money on another infrastructure project.

Andreas agreed to talk to Michael and the other trustees about the situation

Action Andreas to talk to trustees and Michael about the kitchen. No other work was allocated as the construction team were absent and not necessarily available to work.

Bins Debbie Mehejan has responded promising to remind the contractors to empty the bins twice a week. She does not have the budget to provide larger bins at this time. There has been no response about the entrance.

Events

Big Lunch the big lunch was succesful

Summer Event Dasha reported that the organisers of the summer event were struggling because there weren't enough volunteers to cover the full day.

Event committee report the lack of volunteers is making running events stressful and difficult for the organisers and may mean that events in future need to be scaled down.

It was agreed that the situation needed a wide discussion amongst members to review what is important for individuals about the garden and where events fit in

Action - the future of events to be raised and discussed at the EGM

TERRA Andreas is bringing a group of 20 European visitors to the garden on June 21. They will look round the garden and there will be a tour with an archaeologist. Andreas hopes to provide lunch for them at a charge to bring money into the garden. There will be some money for the garden from the visit. It was felt that it was too close to the summer event to put out a call for volunteers to cook, Andreas is planning to make a soup

Andreas expressed a wish that in future such visits could be mapped against the

dates for events, thus becoming part of the event

Action Vicki offered to support Andreas on the day

Finance and general reporting

Bank account There is £8,560 in the bank account

Other funding opportunities Vicki reported that she has applied for a grant from Comic Relief.

She has a strategy document from Fiona which she is working through

An application for Getting the Party started is going through for the summer event.

Newham film office Abbey Gardens is now listed as a site for films, but It is not clear whether Newham or Abbey Gardens would get the fees.

Action Vicki to investigate

Gardening Report

Hamish answered questions about planting -

50 pumpkins have been planted

Coriander has been planted beside the tomatoes

3 courgette plants have been planted

Hamish displayed a bucket of snails which he has removed from the garden to protect the pumpkin plants

Any other business

Trevor Mbatha of Newham strategic commissioning and community visited the garden. He offered to help in any way he could.

Action Hamish to forward Vicki Trevor's email so that she can keep in touch with him.

Twitter feed - we now have 400 followers

Calendar the calendar is now functioning on the website. Michael asks for people to send him any updates.

Vickie asked if we could add other relevant garden events that might be of interest.

Andreas would like to see the overview list of events back on the website.

Action - Andreas to discuss with Michael

Real challenge action volunteering day - Hamish has been approached about hosting this day giving 20 teenagers the chance to volunteer. It would involve paying Hamish for an extra day as it is on a Sunday. The garden would gain £100 worth of materials for use on the day but It would cost £120 to have Hamish there. Hamish is also not sure of his availability at the time. It was decided not to go ahead with the day.

Action - Hamish to decline if the group got back to him about the day

Next meeting EGM Saturday July 5 2014

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