

Minutes of Clay Farm Community Garden AGM held at 17.30hrs in the Garden Building on 3 October
2024

Present: Carol Wright (CW), Chris Taylor (CT), Liz Cox (LC), Bruce White (BW), Jane White (JW), James Hems (JH), Carol Holloway (CH), Richard Price (RP), Claudio Pagostin (CP) and Frank Missler(FM).

Apologies Diego Magrini (DM), Julian Querino (JQ), Serena Michell(SM) and Cate Gatti (CG).

In the absence of the chairman, Carol Holloway kindly chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. CW reported that, for personal reasons, Julian Querino was standing down as chairman.
2. Minutes and matters arising: There were no matters arising
3. Annual Report: CW presented the Annual Report. The Garden and building have still not been transferred from the developers to the City Council. The Feasting table is now in situ but shading will be needed. Over the year there were many events in the Garden including food trucks, a Xmas event, Wassail, in tandem with the Community Orchard, pumpkin carving, yoga and several parties for young children. Connected Lives hosted three of their summer events in the Garden. Corporate volunteer days were very welcome and all the other events, watering and maintenance work was carried out by local volunteers. Some vegetables were supplied to the Food Hub.
4. Financial Report: CW presented the financial report. Donations and pitch fees are the main sources of income. The bank balance is currently £4502.84(including £441.72 held on behalf of Clay Farm Food and £51.92 for PPG). CW is considering whether to apply for another City Council grant but completing the application is very onerous.
5. Membership forms, website updating and social media: Diego will continue to host the website, at no charge to the Garden Group, and will continue to deal with any technical issues. The content will be dealt with by CT and CW. It has been agreed that Facebook and Instagram should be allowed to lapse and an automatic message stating that it will not be manned has been placed. What's App will continue. CT and BW to meet and sort out the groups on What's App.
DM was unable to attend the meeting and the Allotments were represented by CP. He reported several demands from the allotment holders as follows: a) Access to the store for tools – agreed.
b) Access to the greenhouse for growing seed – agreed, with the proviso that everything must be labelled and watered by the owners.
c) The Garden should charge for membership, £20 p.a. was suggested, and this money could be used to buy more tools and equipment for use by the allotment holders. This was rejected because there is limited space in the store, there are safety and training considerations with the use of some tools and equipment and, more importantly, the Garden had decided that membership was free.
6. Table shading: BW had a volunteer who had drafted a proposal to take planting onto the top of the table. The design was agreed. The aim was not total coverage but just enough to shade. Estimated cost £1000. One possible source of funds was a National Garden Scheme grant specifically for Community Gardens. LC and JW agreed to make the application, although they would need to liaise closely with the volunteer and BW for costings etc. BW is checking with Colin Walker about how much weight the table will take. It will probably be

necessary to check with the Council if any changes are being made to the structure itself. CH offered to contact her son, who works in this area for advice.

7. Licence and Maintenance Plan: there has been no further information from the City Council. BW had sent an email to Guy Belcher requesting a single point of contact at the Council and support and funding managing the Garden' key annual tasks.
8. Future events and fund raising:
 - Sunday 27 October Pumpkin carving led by CW.
 - Thursday 28 November Thanksgiving Food Truck
 - Sunday 8 December Eco Market, CT and FM will deal with this. CT has a source of micro seeds etc. LC to give CT the Garden table cloth.
 - Thursday 12 December Xmas Food Truck and church choir. Mulled wine (£3) and apple juice (£2). DM to organise an occasional licence for this event. The fire pit would be allowed. JW and LC to arrange mince pies and gingerbread (£1).
9. Garden planting and repairs: Mud kitchen to stay by the wall. Perhaps move one of the benches to the grassland area. Need to buy plants for the pergola, the usual seeds, long handled tools, battery screwdriver and the front trellis needs sorting out. Planting under the lime tree was a problem because of the poor soil. Some of these items could be included in the application to the NGS. CT is developing a plan for signage at either end of the garden and the building. The herb spiral will be located near the table. BW will arrange servicing of the mowers. Guy Belcher has offered to try and find funding for the signage and litter and dog bins. There have been problems with the bollards. A separate key box for the bollard is needed. One of the bollards has been damaged and BW has discussed the replacement with Colin Walker. It was agreed that there should be a schedule for changing the door codes once a quarter and this will be communicated to the Management Committee of the Allotments, John Parrott (City Council officer) and the Garden Group Committee.
10. Election of Committee: Chairman JW, Secretary LC, Treasurer CW and SM, CG, DM, BW, CT and FM to form the committee.
11. AOB: RP thanked everyone for making the Garden such a special place. He asked about the speed limit on the adjoining road. This has not yet been adopted by the Council. LC to write to Councillor Philippa Slatter, asking that the road be adopted as soon as possible and a speed limit enforced. CH was thanked for chairing the meeting.

The meeting ended at 18.34hrs.