

Minutes: Saturday 10 August 2019

1. **Attendees:** Dave Mikkelson, Anne Kenyon, Helen Johnson, Janet Hillier, Peter Sellek, Beryl Brand, Sylvia Mikkelson, Brian Smith, Pat Smith, Annemarie Gäbler, Darryl Collins
2. **Apologies:** Susan Isherwood, Betty Elsdon, Mike Waines, Jackie Burton
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 06/07/2019** were approved
4. **Matters arising not on the Agenda**
5. **Tennis Court Path**
Is now completed and a great improvement as there is not so much mud across the path. However water still collects and sits on the path as there is not drainage. SGS College will start planning the mural from September.
6. **Summer Fete**
A great group effort from all volunteers reflected in the success of the event and the good feedback received included that there were lots of free things to do. Income from the cake, raffle and plant stalls increased over last year making a total of £760 with no outgoings as all covered by donations. DM to write to David Thomas, Community Champion at ASDA for their support this year which has been generous in donations and in kind. A special thanks to AG for her baking. The Air Ambulance charity made £81.70 and were very grateful for the opportunity. AG thought we had the right number of people visiting the event for the capacity we have and made for a great community event. For next year's date BB felt we should check we don't clash with other events in Bristol and school holidays. FTC have already set 21 July for next years Filton Festival. DM suggested we move our fete to the end of June avoiding other local events to which all agreed.
7. **Garden Map**
The new maps are now installed. Students who designed them have been sent £25 voucher each in thanks for their work.
8. **RHS Inspection**
The judge this year took less time to look at the garden, he was impressed but more laid back than those in previous years. He asked why we keep entering as we have had distinction so many times. DM said it's because we can showcase the garden,

get encouragement and ideas of what we do right and any improvements we can have. All agreed that it is useful to have this input.

9. Trees to be replaced

The two elm trees at the back of the rockery will be taken down this winter. There are also four silver birch trees in the far corner (near the roundabout/dentist). As one is very diseased all four will be removed. Suggestions of what trees to replace them with were discussed but not decided.

The elm tree, which is part of [The Great British Elm Experiment](#) appears to be dying. DM has sent photographs to and asked the advice of The Conservation Foundation who run the experiment. HJ said the dwarf fruit trees are also looking a bit poorly and need to be inspected and we need advice on how to treat.

10. Biodiversity

At the FTC annual assembly an SGC officer gave a good talk on biodiversity. SGC need to plant thousands of trees to gain carbon neutral state and are approaching councils to find out where can plant. They are also concerned about how few insects there are now. Filton Community Garden is on the SGC list of projects where improvements are being made which is nice to know and can feedback that butterflies and birds have increased since the garden has developed. FTC are considering where in Filton more trees can be planted.

11. Reallocation of Community Beds

Community Beds now are being looked after by (from left to right):

Filton Saplings, Charborough Road School, Shield Road School, Filton Twinning Association, FACE, Jackie Burton, Jackie Burton and Filton Saplings.

Jackie and the Saplings each have two beds now. SGS College and the Scouts have given up theirs.. Charborough Rd teachers visited with children in July but said can only come out with the children if have 4 first aiders one of which a pediatric first aider so we don't know how the schools will continue to look after their beds. HJ to contact teachers to see if they would like to get involved in Filton Saplings to help the children work on the school beds outside school hours.

12. Financial Statement

The account looks fairly healthy. There will be payments to be made for bed edgings gardening sessions expenses, vertical garden and grasses. Pat Smith received a donation from a visitor to the garden which she passed to Peter Selleck (treasurer). Plus extra £10 from raffle takings.

13. Work to do in the Garden

Deadheading, weeding, watering as usual

Watering - Pat Smith thanked everybody for their input, although the water rota is on hold for now with the wet weather. HJ asked for Community Beds to be included on the rota especially when the weather is hot.

14. A.O.B

DM reported The Airbus BBQ was successful and they gave a lot of great comments They wish to repeat the event in the garden next year.

DM reported that graffiti has appeared on the tennis court wall opposite the boules court. He showed a photo taken of some young people doing it.

AG was astonished at how little litter there was at the Fete which means public respect the garden. Cheers!!!

Pat Smith passed MW's cake, raffle and plant signs back to Dave for use next year. These worked well with the 'fete' theme'

DC said Filton residents are asking for water drinking fountains and if we can consider having one in the garden.

DM - Kat from Cambodia, who wrote her dissertation on community gardens including ours has visited again and gave us some T shirts which DM distributed.

15. Date of Next Meeting 14 September