Greening Wingrove Members’ Meeting

9th November 2024

Present: Ann Lesley Benson, Augustine Beamish, Barbara Palmer, Clive Marsden, Dave Webb, Gerry Hunwick, Katy Sillem, Jo Ellis, Phil Rigby, Norman Nur, John C. Whitworth, Lyn Brown, Linda Robson.

The meeting started with an update from the Chair, KS, on the recent activities of Greening Wingrove. There had been several successful events and more were planned. Partnership agreements with Northern Slice, Bonsai Billabong and the beekeeper were close to being formalised, pending legal feedback. GW had been working with Urban Green to help to maintain the park; UG had supplied plants and bulbs. GW were also seeking a formal tenancy agreement with UG. However, the future of UG was in the balance and GW needed to be organisationally strong to make the case for its continued presence in the Bike Garden, and potentially for community asset transfer.

There were three motions for discussion:

1. Accessibility policy – presented by Katy Sillem.

This policy sought to formalise the current informal agreements in which some Members are currently able to access the grounds only outside operating hours, and set out mechanisms for how the BG could be accessed.

Members were complimentary about this proposal. It was suggested that it might be safer to have a key safe with a number that could be changed on a regular basis, rather than a number of key holders. It was also suggested by some that the building might have to be open when the grounds are, to give access to the toilets – but others suggested that, since the park itself remains open in this situation, this was not a requirement.

The motion was passed by majority vote.

1. Bookings policy – presented by Katy Sillem.

KS noted that this policy was presented as a draft. Therefore no vote was taken on it.

Members commented that the body of the policy was excellent. There was a discussion over the practicalities of partial bookings and a discussion over whether garden bookings are practicable without access to the building. The only criticism was that the table of booking types could have been simpler.

1. Motion relating to the relationship between GW and Northern Slice – presented by Dave Webb.

Members approved of the general principle of seeking to regularise the relationship between GW and NS. However, since GW are already working on a partnership agreement between the two organisations, it was thought that this motion was unnecessary. Members expressed their appreciation of the work done by NS to develop the Bike Garden as a community space and to keep it open. Some members wondered: whether the current lease was being breached by any current activity; whether the current insurance arrangements were adequate; whether it was appropriate for NS staff to be on the Board. No decision was reached on any of these points.

The motion was rejected by majority vote.