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*Minutes of Committee Meeting held on*

*Tuesday 1st August 2023*

*At 3 Smithfield Way, Blairgowrie, PH10 6UF*

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| ***1*** | **Those present :Cllr. Bob Brawn, Cathy Doe, Pat Lumsden, Morag Reid, Jean Smith, Avril Wilson, William Wilson** |  |
| ***2*** | **Apologies from:** Mary Birch, Cllr Caroline Shiers |  |
| ***3.*** | **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved by Jean Smith. Seconded by Pat Lumsden. |  |
| ***4.*** | ***Matters Arising:***  ***Blueberries:***Awaiting dates from Lesley. Pat happy to organise volunteers as she did last year.  **Pop Up Shop** - Coupar Angus shop booked for one week commencing 9th March 2023.  **Water Usage at RCG** –Not totally exempt from paying water rates but estimated to be around £200 per year.  **Watering Rota** for baskets up and running well.  **Inventory of equipment to be done**. Keith had collected chain saw from Ian Cruickshank and it will now be added to our stock.  **Hanging Baskets:** William had tried to contact TJB on many occasions to no avail. Also tried Tayside Contracts. Finally D.G..Landscapes were contacted and agreed to take down the baskets for the sum of £550 and deliver them to the Community Garden on 11th September 2023. However, they were not prepared to take down the ones on the bridge so a cherry picker or mobile scaffolding would be needed. Meantime TJB contacted Williamand he is to get in touch with them re cherry picker nearer the time needed.  Whilst discussing the hanging baskets it was agreed they should be emptied in to our compost at the Garden, cleaned and stored properly so that they are ready for use in the Spring of next year.  **Projects for next year:** The Meeting Place. Pat and Nicky had measured up and had drawn up a draft plan but it was agreed the way forward presently is to ask the people who use the Meeting Place what they would like to see there and what changes, if any, they would like to take place. With that in mind a questionnaire has been drafted and once agreed , the Committee will take turns at completing the questionnaire with the people who frequent the Meeting Place at different times of day. This will take place once the schools go back.  **Treasurer’s Report.**  *Money in Bank £2845. This healthy balance is due to over £2000 already received from the hanging baskets with more still to be collected.*  *£501 Restricted Funds*  *£133 from Mitchells for purchase of plants*  ***Tasks and Priorities List*** *= as attached.*  ***AOCB:***  ***Benches at Coronation Corner.*** Two new benches had now been installed at Coronation Corner. It was suggested that the old bench be moved to the back of Coronation Corner and a further new bench put in its place. Moving the older bench could cause problems and the suggested site for the new bench is not very suitable. As not all the Committee had viewed the benches in situ it was suggested everyone have a look and this will be discussed again at the next Committee Meeting  ***Volunteers Christmas Outing:*** After some discussion it was agreed a lunch would be more appropriate and the end of November a good time before Christmas menus came out. Avril to approach Littles with regard to a two course menu around this time for approximately 20 people.  ***Open Spaces Meeting***: Jean reported on interesting meeting connecting with other factions dealing with Open Spaces in and around the Town and what is being done and why.  There is a planter at Hill Kirk which Jean has agreed to look at and give advice accordingly.  Jean was also advised that when applying for grant funding it is always useful to mention we are in the Open Spaces Group.  It was agreed Jean would continue to attend Open Spaces meeting as her interest in the Community Garden Management Team and Cathy would attend as a Blair in Bloom representative,  Bob Brawn then explained the opposition to the non cutting of grass at Carsie and Rattray Common. He had been to meetings with the residents and agreed that action should be taken.. At Carsie it has been suggested one strip of biodiversity land be left along the treeline with the other area to be cut.  At Rattray Common there is a dispute as to where the biodiversity area is. Drying area is full of weeds and weeds are also growing in drains. The whole area needs to be managed. Children and animals are experiencing ticks and bites. Bob is liaising with the Council and Residents.  ***Volunteer Update:*** Jean will forward update on plans for the Community Garden in order Cathy can send to all volunteers.  **Memorandum of Understanding between BRDT and Blair in Bloom.**  William requested this document and any other official document be put on the Website.  ***Bulbs to be ordered:***  White for Westfields  Coloured tulips in Ardblair bed  Narcissi for Christmas bulbs.  Jean to research and suggest the order.  **Rattray Community Garden:**  Jean reported that the Rattray Community Garden Management Committee had had a number of meetings discussing the way forward for the Garden. They will approach other groups to invite them to get involved with the Garden  A draft plan for having events at the Garden over the next few months has been put in place such as a Harvest Festival in lateOct involving competitions such as best blueberry jam, best apple pie, etc. A talk by Paul from Balhary Gardens on composting is hoped for and possible another talk on raised beds.  BRDT Christmas do may well be held at the Garden and the planting of the bulbs for the Christmas tubs could also be considered. January could see a tool exchange with other organisations joining in. There is a quiz planned for February but thankfully not at the Garden but indoors at Rattray Bowling Club.. There will be a lot to do at the garden such as general maintenance in turning over of the ground, possibly planting fruit trees, and a soft fruit cage erected.  Coupars could supply cardboard. Nick Charles to be approached to build a herb spiral near the greenhouse and Something Special may consider growing flowers commercially at the Garden.  Lots of ideas to be worked on and Jean will report back at the next Committee Meeting.  Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 4th at 6.30pm. Venue to be advised. | *PL*  *AW*  *WW*  *JS*  *AW*  *JS*  JS  CD  JS |