**Crossgates Greenfingers**

**Meeting minutes 27 July 2022 @ Poly Tunnel**

**Apology** – Ruth

**In attendance** – Liz, June, Lorna, Liz SC, Diane, Cynthia & Gordon

**Welcome from the Chair**

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all in attendance & those not here for all the hard work that is being put in. The village looks great and it is all down to our volunteers. The Community Garden is looking excellent and a number of people have commented on how good the Village looks.

**Installation of Water & Electricity @ Poly Tummel**

Gordon gave a report on where he was with both projects, now that we had received the further information from Muir Dean Trust. He indicated that he had met with Ross from the “Woodlands” Trust and reported on their discussions.

**Water**

We have been granted the funds from the Muir Dean Trust to allow us to put water into the site. Having now discussed this with Ross, I know that she is supportive of this action provided we undertake this in a manner that is suitable & acceptable to the Trust. We agreed that, subject to agreement from The Woodlands Committee, we should look to site the water pipe as close to the fence, behind the Containers that is acceptable to Scottish Water. This will ensure that if, in the future, they have plans to tar over the car parking area or other improvements there would be no impact on the pipeline, or the tarred area should there be an issue with the Pipeline. I have requested a meeting with Scottish Water to discuss the route of the pipe, together with any other issues/suggestions they may have about installing the system. Once I have had this meeting I will contact you again with a report on all that they say. Any changes that they request will be advised to the Woodlands for consideration by their Trust. Once I have the Trust’s agreement I will then look to obtain the necessary permissions to allow us to proceed. As I indicated, if we are in agreement, we would run the pipe underground, approx.. 1 meter to comply with Scottish Water requirements, and bring it up to the surface between the White Container and the Poly Tunnel. At this point we would need to construct a “home” for the equipment that is above ground to ensure that it is protected from any frost that may occur at any time in the future. Having read information from Scottish Water they will require a stop cock here together with insulation for the pipe. As I see it this should be something no bigger than 2x1M.

 Before we commence work, but after the meeting with Scottish Water, I will need to look into the Legal issues that we have to overcome in order for us to fully comply with legislation. I will revert to the Woodlands Trust following the meeting with what needs to be done to accomplish this.

 Once the pipeline has been establish for a period we would then give consideration to the removal of some of the IBC’s as I suspect they will no longer be required.

**Solar Power**

 We also have the funds to provide Solar energy to this area of the site. It is my intention, with The Woodland Trust’s approval, to place Solar Panels on the roof of the shed, with battery storage being established in the area at the end of the shed closest to the Poly Tunnel. I will also look to place a couple of electrical sockets in the storage area and in the main shed. The benefits of this will be to allow both of our Team’s to be able to charge batteries for tools, or just to have the ability to make a cup of Tea or Coffee while working at the site. In the harshest of winter periods, it would also allow us to direct heat into the Poly Tunnel to protect any plants that we have. Ross intimated that I should take advice from Neil as she has discussed the issue with him. She is going to let me have his contact details.

**Institute Water**

The tap that was put into the Institute has been switched off and the Council do not want to turn on until we have a lock on the tap to ensure that the water is not left on. Diane offered to ask Jimmy to have a look with a view to placing a padlock on the tap to ensure security. A combination padlock to be sourced.

**Ian Macdonald**

Jean MacDonald had donated money that was donated at Ian’s funeral for a plaque and perennial plants. It was agreed that we would place a plaque on the “Cart” at Baxter Road in memory of Ian. The undernoted is the proposed wording which is to be agreed with the Community Council & his wife.

Ian MacDonald – 20/2/1945 – 30/8/2021

In Memory of Ian MacDonald, Vice Chair of Crossgates Greenfingers & Community Council, who was an inspiration to others and served the Community over many years. This “Cairt” was special to him and he took pride in the floral display throughout the year. Missed and loved by many.

His Wife, Jean, also has a bench that one of Ian’s friends would like to donate in memory of Ian and it has been suggested that this be located at the Poly Tunnel to replace the “bits of wood” that we have there as seats.

**Finance**

Cynthia reported on the financial state of the Group.

Bank Account has - £1745.94. From this we are committed to pay £550 for the Institute tap.

This leaves us with £1195.94 available.

Cynthia also has Cash amounting to £383.87. Which she is holding to cover the cost of the Plaque for Ian and the Perennial Plants

**Plans for Next Year**

Regarding he donation from Jean Macdonald - she would like some of the money to be used for the purchase of Perennial plants. It was agreed that this was a good idea and that we should also purchase a large number of Spring Bulbs to supplement where these Perennials are planted and also distribute elsewhere throughout the Village.

2023 – It was agreed that we would plant out the Village during the FIRST WEEK OF JUNE it would be appreciated if all members could get this in their diaries now and take note of this when planning holidays. It makes life so much easier if we are all around. We need to keep in touch with the Brownies and the School looking for their assistance again.

During November this year Gordon will come up with a Plan for next year and circulate details.

It was agreed that by the turn of the Year we would remove the Barrel on SpringHill Brae next to 1 Curling Knowe.

**Other matters**

Gordon to speak to Kevin about weeding at Jim’s Planter & the 2 Beds at the Doctors.

Those businesses that no longer sponsor the Group but have signs up, we are to remove their signs.

Institute Barrells – Remove and if possible replace as their life comes to an end.

June - Hosta’s need to be replanted

Standpipe - This needs to be returned to Scottish Water by 27th October 2022

We should investigate a night out for Christmas for the Group

**Holidays / Watering**

Members of the Group have the following holidays

Liz SC - 30 Aug – 7 November

Lorna – 29 Aug – 14 September

Cynthia & GB – 9 August – 22 August, 5 September – 26 September, 19 October – 2 December

Can we have volunteers to cover the following weeks where we have no cover?

8 August – Liz SC

15 August – Liz W

22 August – Liz SC

29 August – Gordon

5 September –

12 September

19 September

26 September

3 October – Gordon

10 October - Gordon

17 October –

24 October -