

BATH ORGANIC GROUP : Minutes of Annual General Meeting

2 pm: Saturday 18th September 2021

Held at the BOG Community garden

1. Approval of minutes

Minutes approved

2. Report on activities in the past year

2.1 Chair's overview

Chair **Dan Smith** reported on BOG's activities over the year September 2020-2021: continued stall holding at Bath Farmers' Market; bought a new shelter for tools; continued juicing apples with help from Orchardshare, with juice now available to buy; removed 'Treebog' structure; continued laying hedge on public footpath boundary; created a new meadow; welcomed new volunteers; held a summer feast; Marion East working with MP Wera Hobhouse to try and remove problematic events fee.

Thanks given to Goodgym who provided assistance on various garden tasks throughout the year.

2.2 Farmers' Market report

Events Co-ordinator **Marion East** read a report prepared by **Kate Mills**. The Farmers' Market has been a success this year, adding a significant percentage of BOG's income.

2.3 Events report

Events Co-ordinator **Marion East** read a report on events which took place at BOG this year: we had a small wassail; Wera Hobhouse MP and local Councillor Sarah Warren joined us at the summer feast; Bath in Bloom judges were impressed with our entry and awards are due in October; University of Bath gardening club due to visit 4.30pm 20th September; American students will soon return to Bath which may provide a source of new volunteers; Marion has contacted Bath Welcomes Refugees with an invite to the garden.

Marion's full report:

During this strange Covid year a group of us have continued to meet all during the winter and into the Spring, we got a lot done! Tidying and clearing, going to the tip, dismantling the old compost loo, creating new wilding areas and generally keeping the garden going. It has been a lifeline for many and an important marker each week. Socially -distanced of course and with our own flasks of coffee!!

As we opened up a bit more we have welcomed a number of new members and this is so good for our continuity and progress.

Our first big event was the 30th birthday celebration in June when young and not so young members gathered together to celebrate 30 years of BOG. We were able to invite MP Vera Hobhouse and Cll Sarah Warren as our special guests. And Pauline made a marvellous cake. It was a really lovely day.

Our next event was Bath in Bloom on 8th July when we were judged as part of the Neighbourhood category. The garden looked wonderful and the sun shone. We haven't heard how we did yet but the judges were impressed.

We have kept the market stall going, we have hosted the Good Gym group, we have welcomed back the American students and had a visit from the Bath University Gardening Club. Unfortunately our letters to the council about the £90 fee we have to pay for public events have not yielded any positive response, so we are still unable to invite schools or organise other public events. We will pursue this.

And as you can see our AGM and Autumn Feast and auction have brought together many of our new and older members.

So in spite of Covid it has been a successful year.

3. Treasurer's report

Treasurer and membership secretary **Dr. Lyn Barham** gave an overview of her report on BOG's finances:

- We have 'broken even' this year, maintaining a reasonable asset reserve which serves as a contingency fund
- Some members are voluntarily paying extra for their annual membership payment – we will maintain our 'basic rate' at £10 in an effort not to exclude anyone from becoming a member or retaining their membership – chair **Dan Smith** adds that anyone facing difficulty making payments is welcome to speak to him or committee members to discuss

Report was approved unanimously.

4. Appointment of Auditors

Dan Smith was appointed auditor by unanimous committee vote

5. Committee elections

Committee was re-elected

Carla Saunders was appointed Minuting Secretary, taking over from **Josh Ryall**

6. Any other business

Treasurer and Membership secretary **Lyn Barham** gives an overview of new digital membership system Membermojo, and gives notice that any members *not* paying by standing order will receive a reminder to pay for this years' membership on October 1st.

7. Close of meeting