

## FINTRAY GARDENING CLUB

Minutes of AGM and meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in The Northern Lights.

**Present:** Ian Thompson, Belinda Miller, Mel Roberts, Maureen Ross, Rita Moir, Jay Turner, Richard Taylor

**Apologies:** Julia Hussein, Alistair McEwan, Ali Johnston.

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes:** 2022 AGM minutes approved by Belinda and seconded by Maureen.

### AGM

Ian thanked everyone for their work during the last gardening year. The plans for 2023 are presented below and so will be available for the community on the Fintray Gardening Club (FGC) webpage, <http://www.fintray.btck.co.uk/FintrayGardeningClub>

### 2022 Summary

Many thanks to the Committee and the all volunteers for your help this year. Each year it's terrific fun and the impact is for all to see. Once again, we are looking forward to the upcoming gardening year.

Here are a few of our achievements in 2022:

- Scotland's Garden Scheme, Garden Open Day was a terrific success. It was a fabulous day with 5 village gardens open to the public, as well as plant sales and tea and cakes in the Village Hall. We were lucky with the weather, but everything else was down to hard work and planning. We raised £1422 of which £569 went to the Garden Scheme charities and £853 to the Fintray Community Association. Thanks to all the volunteers on the day including the SWI, but particular thanks to the gardeners who opened their gardens. I know how much effort went into making them and the village look fab...something that was commented on many times during the day. We should be really proud of this achievement and will aim to repeat the Garden Open day in a few years.
- Added plug plants to the meadow.
- Annuals planted around the village, at the Mill and the church.
- Maintenance of all the new planted areas, plus the orchard (weeding, watering, pruning).
- We had another fantastic crop of plums and currents from the orchard with Plum Czar finally producing its first crop. Thanks to Alistair for pressing the excess apples to produce top quality juice.
- Annual village clean up in April.
- New design for the Hatton Court entrance. Since the hard winter of 2020/2021 when we lost the shrubs due to frost, over the last 2 years we have just added colour using wild flowers. This was always a temporary measure until we could come up with a new design. Well, we now have a new design and a big thank you to Dawn Pond for producing it. It should be in place for spring 2024.

...there's probably more, so sorry if I've missed something!

Many visitors to the village comment on Fintray being an attractive place to live and we should be rightly proud of this. This takes effort and it's thanks to the local community groups which help keep it this way.

Ian - Chairman

At the end of previous gardening year, the FGC had no obligations, or outstanding issues. The club has no physical stock but retains £87.60 held within the Community Association (CA) bank account. The FGC committee was dissolved.

The new Committee was elected:

**Election of members:**

	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair - Ian Thompson	Richard Taylor	Mel Roberts
Deputy Chair - Mel Roberts	Rita Moir	Ian Thompson
Schools Liaison - Ali Johnson	Jay Turner	Maureen Ross
Horticultural Advisors - Belinda Miller and Maureen Ross		

The FGC remains an affiliate of the CA. FGC will continue to present an annual budget to the CA and the CA will continue to hold funds on FGC's behalf. A budget will be drafted in due course. The FGC opening cash balance for the new gardening year is £87.60.

AGM closed.

## **GARDENING MATTERS MEETING**

### **School**

It was agreed that we should engage with the school more, for them to utilise the meadow and orchard as a learning resource. **Action:** Ali to liaise with school on this.

### **Entrance to Hatton Court**

The Council has agreed to fund the majority of the hard landscaping and plants for the new design. The Community Council has also agreed to provide £500 towards the scheme. However, please be patient as the work may not begin for some months while costs are ascertained by the council and contractors appointed.

It was agreed that the current state of the Hatton Court entrance was poor and it is an important part of the village as it is seen by everyone passing through the village.

**Action:** Ian to arrange for someone to strim and keep these areas cut until they are replanted.

Ideas for plants to include in the new scheme were discussed and suggestions included lavatera, large shrubs, small trees, berry bearing shrubs and sedums. It was also suggested that if the new planting could be deeply mulched, it would keep weeding down to a minimum.

### Annuals

The annuals have now been planted up in the village planters, beds, at the Mill and at the church for the summer display. Thanks to everyone who helped with the planting and also for maintaining these throughout the summer and autumn. Thanks also to the council, for providing the annuals each year for free.

### Watering of Planters on Main Road

We normally use the outside tap in the unit by the Play Park. However, due to a leaking sink within the building which is currently unoccupied, the water is switched off. **Action:** Belinda to ask the residents of Newe Cottage if we can use their outside tap for the time being.

The grassland meadow at the Recreation Area is improving every year. Plug plants have been added in the last year and more will be added this year.

### Village Clean Up

This will occur next April. In the meantime if anyone fancies some ad-hoc litter picking, the litter pickers are stored outside Roddy's at 1 Lairds Park.

### AOB

Richard raised the issued of elder growing around the old church gable end which is unsightly and limits access to the church. **Action:** Belinda to remind the council to cut the elder down.

**DATE OF NEXT EVENT / MEETING - TBC**