**Greenfingers Committee Meeting 26 January 2021**

Present: Gordon Black (Chairman) GB

 Cynthia Black (Treasurer) CB

 Patricia Smith (Secretary) PS

 Christine MacDonald CM

1. **Welcome**

GB welcomed Christine MacDonald to the meeting and thanked her for agreeing to apply for funding on behalf of Greenfingers.

1. **Actions from previous meeting**
	1. Christmas Tree – GB advised that Blair Adam Estate near Kelty should be able to supply a suitable living Christmas Tree for the traffic light container. Once the current Covid 19 restrictions are lifted and the Estate is fully open again he will contact the Estate to get an estimated cost.
	2. Young Farmers Contact – Lorna Woodward kindly supplied PS with a contact number for the Young Farmers. Once an estimated date is set for relocating the plants currently in the traffic light container to Lady Anne Court then PS will contact the Young Farmers to see if they can assist with this task. CM advised that students from Elmwood Agricultural College in Cupar may also be willing to help with this and other projects as the students need to obtain some practical experience.
	3. CB advised that she had posted a request on Crossgates Together Facebook page for a suitable local electrician to provide a quote for the replacement lighting in the Community Garden and that a local electrician will take a look at the lighting needs for this area and make recommendations for improvements.
	4. GB advised that he had arranged for a quote from a landscape gardener for building a higher edging around the two stumpery borders. This will provide a deeper bed into which new plants can be planted later on the year. He also suggested that the current boulders situated here should be left as is.
	5. GB informed the committee that he was aiming to get a paper on charitable status drawn up by the end of February. He will also draw up a road map showing how Greenfingers could change from a voluntary community group to a charity. The main drawback to becoming a charity would be the returns, declaration and accounts required by the Charitable Commission
	6. CB advised that no further reports of damage to any of the containers around the villages had been reported to the committee

*Action : GB to contact Blair Adam Estate once the Covid restrictions are lifted*

*Action : Committee to decide date when plants will be removed from the traffic light planter and PS to contact The Young Farmers to see if they can help on that date.*

*Action : CB to report back to committee with the estimated cost of replacing the Community Garden lighting*

*Action : GB to circulate a paper and roadmap on our charitable status to all members by the end of Feb 2021*

1. **Funding and Grants**

Funding and grant opportunities were discussed and CM informed the committee of possible additional funding opportunities.

*Action : CM to look into BIFA’s funding criteria to see if the plans for the stumpery revamp and the purchase of a lawnmower meet this criteria*

*Action : PS to provide CM with details of items to be secured in 2021 through grant applications*

1. **Memorial tributes**

The anonymously donated memorial bench and planters have arrived and are currently being stored in Diane Adamson’s garage until such time when they can be secured into their permanent position. CB advised that the bench will be placed in the Community Garden and the two planters will be placed in the institute area. She also told the committee that a second request for a memorial bench had been received from a Crossgates resident. However as the Community Garden couldn’t accommodate this bench due to lack of suitable space, she proposed that this bench be situated at the Institute and the one of the existing benches currently in this area be moved to the polytunnel area and situated beside the new shed. CB agreed to pass this information onto the Crossgates resident.

GB suggested that going forward only memorial plaques are accepted in the Community Garden and these could be hung from the wall of thegarden. Healso suggested that Greenfingers should agree a standardised format for these plaques.

*Action : Committee to consider a standardised format for memorial plaques at the next meeting*

1. **AOB**

**New Shed**

PS informed the committee that further to visiting the shed company and making adjustments to the size and window layout of the shed, a revised quote had been received from the company. A 20% deposit must be paid before the 1st February otherwise the cost of the shed would increase further as a result of the company revising their prices. CB agreed to arrange the deposit payment and also check if the doors of the shed were suitable for wheelchair access.

**Work at Fordell Verge**

PS informed the committee that Diane Adamson had arranged for the sleepers for the Fordell verge to arrive on 15th February 2021 and that preparation work at the verge needed to be completed before the sleepers could be laid. She reminded the committee that Foundation Scotland had requested photos of the progress of this project in addition to evidence of the expenditure.

**Community Garden**

CB reminded the committee that some of the plants in the CG needed pruning by the end of Feb/ beginning of March and that volunteers were required to carry out this work (Covid restrictions allowing)

**Environmental Policy**

PS asked the committee if the Crossgates Greenfingers Environmental Policy could be posted onto the Greenfingers website and put up in the new shed. Committee agreed to this request. GB also informed the committee that the Public Liability Insurance cover should also be put up in the shed.

*Action : PS to pass a copy of the Environmental Policy to Jenni Rutherford and request this is posted onto the website*

**Crossgates Together post**

PS informed the committee that Lorna Woodward has requested that the committee draft an article for Crossgates Together that would let readers know our plans for the year ahead, make a plea for more volunteers and generally promote the Group.

*Action : PS to draft a suitable Crossgates Together post and circulate this to the committee before the next meeting*.

Date of next meeting - TBA