MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL HEYS ESTATE COMMITTEE AT THE GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDENS ON TUESDAY 21st JULY 2026

Present: Councillors Fernyhough (Chair), Dolan, Ford, Hockenhull and McQuillian

In Attendance: Colette Fellows, Clerk to the Council
Kate Fitch, Outreach Officer

ACTION

4. Apologies for Absence
It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for the absence from Cllr Browne and the Garden Manager Oliver Groos be accepted.

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests
No disclosures were made.

6. Planting of the Tree for the late Cliff Taylor
Cliff's widow, Terrie Taylor along with family and friends planted a tree in special remembrance. Cllr Fernyhough spoke on behalf of the Parish Council reflecting on Cliff's contributions to the preservation of the Walled Gardens, along with the restoration of the glasshouses.

7. Business Rates
The Business Rates Relief (for Supporting Small Business) was protected before 2023, since then we have seen revaluation and protections phased out, the Walled Garden has gone from £0-£600-£2600 over a three-year period. Notes with information was circulated before the meeting, members have requested the Clerk investigates other similar properties, community buildings with such facilitates as a comparison. **CF**

8. Walled Garden Finances
8.1 The Clerk provided an overview of the current financial situation.
Budget to date 27%, against a run rate of 25%.

8.2 The Clerk presented the financial position of the Arnold Stansby account for 2026/2027.

9. Handyman list of works
The handyman list of work to be completed to be circulated to members. **BR/CF**

10. Gardener Managers Report
10.1 The Gardener/Manager (G/M), Oliver Groos, progress report (attached).
Unfortunately, the G/M was unable to attend due to annual leave, and members have requested the following be explored.

- Revised plan for wildflower planting (not so much in the kitchen garden, more strips in grassy areas
- Grow the volunteer groups and have specific/defined roles. Use all avenues of communication (noticeboard/website/social media.
- Permissions for Geese removal.
- Water supply in the Kitchen Garden for watering purposes to be investigated, there seems to be some water holes in and around.
- To note some of the recommendations made by the Green Flag Report (item 12)

10.2 The G/M made a recommendation to members reference the current alarm situation and set-up. It **was resolved** to accept the recommendation. **OG**

11. Outreach Officer's Report

The Outreach Officer progress report (attached). Members thanked Kate for her continued work to diversify and bring new groups together at the Walled Garden.
The Outreach Officer explored the idea of forming a constitution, Cllr Fernyhough has requested the information be circulated to members for discussion at the next meeting. **KF**

12. Green Flag Report

The Green Flag report and recommendations for improvement were discussed. Members were disappointed with some of the findings. They have asked that the Garden Manager reviews the recommendations and implements improvements where possible. **OG**

13. Glasshouse Repairs

Due to the complexity of repairs and financial implications members requested the following at the meeting of members on 26th May 2026.:

- Contact members of the original working group to ask questions about the heritage site and build for further advice. *The Clerk provided an update at the meeting.*
- Visit RHS Bridgewater Gardens to survey the glasshouses. *Cllr Fernyhough visited and updated the Committee.*
- Cost to take down the Fountain Café. *This has been requested of all companies who quoted to replace. No estimates received to date.*
- Cost from White Cottages to replace the Janet Richards Glasshouse. *This has been requested by the Clerk as an action for Oliver Groos (G/M) as Oliver dealt with them in March.*

Cllr McQuillian will support the Clerk in putting together a Business Plan to present to members of the committee to repair or replace the Glasshouses. **JMcQ/CF**