

Minutes of meeting of Friends of the Rose Garden held on 18th July 2018

1. Welcome to meeting

There were 13 people at the meeting, which started with everyone introducing themselves. Those attending were:

Ken Eastwood
Derek Wilkinson
Maureen Wilkinson
Polly Gregg
Jill Greenwood
Andy Allan
Anne Taylor
Stuart Taylor
Karen Faulkner
Joyce Harrop
Yvonne Smales
Roger Smales
Helen Ryder

Neal and Fran Cameron, Susan Wood and Annette France were not able to attend.

2. The minutes from the meeting on 4th July 2018 were agreed as correct.

3. Feedback after last meeting

Karen said she had unfortunately been ill but had contacted Coley Nursery at end of Trough Lane. She had been recommended to contact Julie (who was currently on holiday). She had also contacted Woodbank nursery. Ken said he might also have a contact at Woodbank.

Helen has been on RHS website, which recommends using spent hops to improve the soil. She had contacted Goose Eye brewery, who had said their spent hops were currently going to Chris Herd. It was agreed that more information was needed on what form the hops are.

Helen had also been in touch with Timothy Taylor. They had a large amount of spent hops and it may be possible to agree for a tractor to collect them. The contact was Tim.

It was stated that if vegetables were grown it might be better to use hops.

Ken said it might be possible to organise a tractor and trailer. He queried what would be the best time of year to do this.

Helen said there was a need to enrich the soil before starting planting. Ken said he would contact Robert Goulding, a local farmer, to get advice on natural manure. He was concerned that as the Rose Garden is a public space, the manure should not be too smelly, nor would he want it to leak into the beck.

Roger then talked about the drainage sump at bottom at the bottom of the Rose Garden, which appears to be a settlement chamber, which probably flows out into the beck. It was queried if the water in it might be pumped back into the Rose Garden. Helen asked if Bradford Council watered the Garden. The general answer was no. It was pointed out that this had been a very unusual summer and probably in most years there would not be a need to water the Garden.

It was queried how much it would cost for Yorkshire Water to provide a water supply. Janet agreed to contact Yorkshire Water and ask for an estimate of the cost. It was agreed that the best place for any possible tap would be at the top of the garden, which might become the vegetable plot.

A query was raised about how much time would be spent on the Garden. Ken explained about the Garden being cleared of shrubs and the planting of a wildflower and grasses seed mix was a stop gap plan for this year. Unfortunately, due to the lack of rain the seeds had not germinated.

Derek said he used to be a gardener. He said the only way to get weeds down was to hoe little and often.

There was then a discussion on what plants would thrive with minimal care. Buddleias, rhododendrons and hydrangeas were mentioned as possibilities. Derek pointed out that roses could be hard work. Spring bulbs were also mentioned and Ken mentioned that in the future a spring bulb planting community day might be arranged.

It was also suggested re-sizing the central beds and then maybe planting wild ground cover roses or dog roses.

4. **Next steps**

Ken talked about the possibility of a community action day, and maybe planting some herb seeds. Helen emphasised the need to improve the soil and Derek said the ideal would be double dig.

Ken agreed to contact Chris Herd to see if he had any spent hops that could be used in the Garden and Helen agreed to get back in touch with Timothy Taylors to see if they would provide spent hops if a tractor and trailer was organised to collect them. Any hops or well rotted manure could be stored in the Garden, just below the top bed.

Stuart mentioned getting in touch with those on the allotment waiting list to see if they were interested in helping. He said he would be happy to be a contact for people on the waiting list and agreed to give his contact details to Janet to pass on to those on the waiting list.

Ann suggested having a set time for work in the Garden so everyone would know when they could come along. There was some discussion over how frequent they should be (weekly, fortnightly or monthly).

Ken suggested getting sorted with the hops and then setting a first date to meet up.

It was also suggested that Derek, with his gardening expertise, could provide direction for the work, which needed to be undertaken.

Derek said it would come down to how much volunteer time is available in the longer term. It was pointed out that there is some money in the Parish Council budget for maintenance.

One idea was to let the grass grow longer and cut paths through the grass with a wild flower meadow.

Helen said she would also ask about sponsorship from Timothy Taylor and Coley nurseries. Gardenius nursery, who supplied the Christmas tree, have also offered their help.

It was emphasised that the Rose Garden was meant to be enjoyed. Shrubs round the outside were mentioned, but in terms of high planting Ken explained that there had been problems with nuisance in the past, which was why the Parish Council had decided to make the Garden more open.

There was a question about the possibility of having raised beds in the Garden.

The intention to plant more cherry trees round the border was discussed. Ken said he had been advised trees would need to be ordered in November and planted in February. He suggested applying to the National Lottery Awards for All grant to fund this and also replacement benches and work on the paths and entrances.

In terms of where any new paths should go, Roger stated he was well aware of the routes people took across the Rose Garden. People often came down from the bus stop and wanted to access the flats on West Drive. He suggested that there was therefore a need for new entrance at the top corner with a path across to West Drive and one from West Drive to the existing entrance on Hebden Bridge Road. He also suggested a path from the ramp to existing entrance and felt there was a need for a new entrance by the dropped kerb. He also pointed out that the waste bins are in the wrong place. They need to be by the entrances.

It was suggested that any new benches need to be fixed to prevent them being moved. It was felt there should be more benches. Ken said in the survey about the Rose Garden, people had stated that they would be happy to help fund new benches. The general consensus seems to be that memorial benches would be acceptable but the garden should not become a memorial garden.

Ken felt there was a need to start work to show the community that something is happening. He stated the money given in memory of Reg Hindley had been used to buy the new Christmas tree.

Ken suggested the Friends start on small projects and then develop their plans. Karen suggested setting a date to meet and work on weeding. Roger felt it was important to start by improving the soil with well rotted manure and hops.

Sunday 5th August at 1 o'clock was agreed as a good time to work on the Rose Garden. Roger agreed to produce a flyer promoting this community weeding and planting event. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would provide funding for refreshments and cakes.

Ken said there were still a few tree stumps left and Keighley Trees have been asked to come back and sort them out.

John Garrick at Green Thumb was mentioned as a local company with expertise in maintaining lawns. The possibility of sponsorship was mentioned.

Ken said that Bradford Council are currently cutting the grass, but at some point the Parish Council will need to take over maintenance. The options would be to either go to tender and pay a company to do it, or buy a mower and use volunteers. There could be fairly short notice from Bradford Council for stopping this work.

It was suggested getting a quote from Lawn and Order, though it was felt there was no rush. Ken estimated a price of £650 - £850 for a commercial mower, which he stated could be stored in his garage.

Stuart asked about funding for maintenance and was told the Parish Council had allocated £1,300 from its budget for maintenance of the Rose Garden. It was stated this amount could be reviewed in future, if it was found not be to enough.

Ken asked if there was anything else that anyone was concerned about. The state of the walls was mentioned, but Ken said they could not really be worked on until the Rose Garden had been transferred to the Parish Council. It was pointed out that if a new entrance was made, the stone removed could be used to repair other parts of the wall.

Ken said it was not something to decide that evening, but he suggested that the Friends / Parish Council may want to apply for the Lottery grant, Awards for All, to provide the funding for work on paths and walls, as well as replacement cherry trees. Obviously prices would need to be obtained before a grant application could be made. He suggested discussing a grant bid at the next meeting. He stressed that community involvement, as shown by the Friends Group, would be a real positive when applying for grants.

There was a suggestion about meeting in Haworth Park to have a look round, but no decision was made on this. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be agreed at the community event in the Rose Garden on 5th August.

The meeting finished at 8.40 p.m.

Signed.....