

MEETING MINUTES



◊ R A A S A Y ◊
WALLED GARDEN

Wednesday
11th March 2026
7pm

Present: Trevor Stratford (TS), Dave Barnden - RHCC (DB), Simon Letzer (SL) Hannah Moore (HM)

Topics	Keypoints	Action
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of 4 February 2026 – Proposed TS, seconded SL. HM to send to RHCC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM
Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotment Enquiry <p>Seki enquired about an allotment plot. As plots are currently allocated, he will be offered a temporary space in the area to remain fallow this year, with the option of a permanent space if he wishes to continue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM/SL
Name & Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends of Raasay Walled Garden – approved. Positions <p>Chair – TS (1 year) Vice Chair – HM (1 year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of Term <p>Agreed to follow best practice where possible: a maximum 6-year term, followed by a 1-year break, with staggered exits (TS, SL, HM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Minutes / RHCC Updates <p>Minutes will be approved by email after distribution, then sent to RHCC with a general update.</p>	
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank Balance & Allocations Current spend – see financial appendix. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHCC to be asked if credit accounts can be set up at Jewsons, Harbro and MacGregors to allow small purchases with minimal paperwork. TS has the final credit card information to complete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHCC
Progress Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing <p>Seeds, shrubs and flowers have been ordered. Strawberries and raspberries will be planted in Polytunnel 2 as soon as they arrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polytunnels <p>Adjustments to Polytunnel 3 are complete, and work has started on Polytunnel 1. Changes to Polytunnel 1 have created the equivalent of three additional beds. A large amount of rubbish was removed and the degraded plastic flooring is proving problematic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Areas <p>Polytunnel base wood is largely rotten, more so around the doors and will require phased replacement. An alternative to sarking is required for exterior beds. A set of basic tools are required for the garden along with some full sized gardening tools. The compost toilet has been cleaned and tidied.</p> <p>CDs have been placed in the orchard trees to deter birds in the hope of achieving a fruit crop this year.</p> <p>SL has begun levelling the bottom border. Due to injury, Kate cannot assist with digging the border beside Polytunnel 1, so this area may remain unchanged this year. The over-pruned hedge is showing signs of recovery. It is also the appropriate time to cut the remaining hedges. The recovered cold frame will not be reinstated at this point; the bricks will instead line the bottom border. The wooden apples and basket have been cleaned, and the apples sanded and oiled. The rose stakes have been removed for painting, and slate labels will be rewritten. TS will meet with Kate to cost a toilet roll holder and bins for the compost toilet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SL
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gazebo <p>Agreed in principle to support events during poor weather, provide shelter when the polytunnels are too hot, and cover the annual fayre BBQ. HM & TS to source and cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity Supply <p>HM to investigate options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stall Display <p>Galvanised flower buckets to be sourced and costed. Blackboards will be replaced and rewritten.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stall Area <p>Requires cleaning and tidying, to be addressed at the next working day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers <p>Volunteers will be invited to an informal garden catch-up to discuss improvements to the volunteer experience. Already, brief informal discussions have identified the need for someone to lead the sessions and the need for opportunities to learn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TS/HM HM TS/HM/KS HM/ALL
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bradán <p>A reply will be drafted thanking him for his feedback and time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHCC – Governance Email <p>A response will be drafted suggesting Sylvia (RDT) assist in developing meaningful, sustainable governance, drawing on experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM
Get Growing	<p>TS attended the first meeting and HM the second. HM will attend future meetings.</p> <p>There is potential for positive, mutually supportive collaboration, particularly where initiatives align with the Walled Garden business plan. Any seeds not required by the garden will be donated to the group.</p> <p>Get Growing will use the garden where appropriate and has been allocated a ½ allotment plot (DB to confirm access).</p> <p>HM will update them and attend the Monday event. A soil test may be required in the plot.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB/HM
Business Plan & Drawings	<p>Minor updates have been made to the business plan & this will be circulated.</p> <p>Final visitor & prep drawings were approved. TS will add all accessible paths before the next step of meeting with RHCC.</p> <p>TS has also updated the Polytunnel 3 drawings.</p> <p>DB will investigate options for the walkway ground cover.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM TS DB
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website <p>Updates are nearly complete. HM will share the link for feedback before TS finalises the design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter <p>Circulated with minor tweaks required. A sentence will be added outlining future plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HM/TS
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council Childrens Easter Event <p>2 April, 1:45–3:00 pm. Ideally, the lawn will be mowed beforehand. Glass piles must be safely stored, and a safety walk-around carried out before the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jen's Walks <p>Jen has proposed two dates for guided walks from the garden. TS & HM will advertise. Tea, coffee, and cake will be provided afterwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Days <p>Future dates: 11 April, 16 May, 20 June. TS to produce posters; HM to advertise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Concert <p>Meeting with Corra to be arranged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fayre <p>Plans include a new game and tea/coffee provision. The May 'Made in Raasay Fair' date will be confirmed before finalising the event date. Use of the community marquee will be requested. HM will produce the poster (similar to previous years). Layout and presentation will be refined. A gazebo will cover the BBQ.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SL/TS/HM HM/TS/JB TS/HM HM/ALL HM/ALL
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave will remove the walkway between his two plots. Compost is ready in the bins closest to the community plots. HM will inform plot holders. HM & TS will circulate costs for printed mugs for use and sale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB HM HM/TS
DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9th April 2026 - 7 pm @ The Farmhouse 	

Minutes proposed by TS

Seconded by SL