**EWAA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 12 January 2017, 7.30pm**

Chair: Clare Ferguson

Present: Jon Willis, John Butler, Antoine Flett, Stewart Young, Sarah Pollard, Pat Mansfield, Nicola Jones.

1. **Apologies**

Jane Millar, Chris Parker, Jane Nimmo Smith, Dan Thorpe, Jevon Lancaster, Meryl Wilford.

1. **Minutes of last meeting** (10-11-16): were not available. It was agreed that they should be reviewed and signed off at the next meeting.
2. **Matters arising – water troughs update**
* We have received £1,200 from the council to be spent on improving water availability, but little progress has been made.
* Mr Beesley came before Christmas to cost additional piping for taps, but needs to know exactly where the existing pipes run. He arranged to come back today but didn’t show up. If the pipes don’t run along the roads, the price will be higher. We believe that the main pipe is along the shop road, with spurs off across the plots.
* Water troughs are expensive at approximately £200 each. We may be able to reuse the plastic barrels which are already on the site. There was a discussion about the possibility of offering plot-holders half price butts.
1. **Finance / shop / machinery**
* Very little change in finances apart from the receipt of the grant from the council.
* Shop sales year to date are 30% of annual budget for the 4 month period, which is encouraging as the winter period is always slow.
* The potato order has been placed, with delivery agreed for the week commencing 20th February. Members to be told that they will be available in the shop on Sunday 26th February.
* The seed order is to be placed shortly – more herbs to be ordered than last year.
* The mower is to be serviced next week.
1. **Membership report / plot update**
* There are 5 people on the waiting list. 1 whole plot and 6 part plots are available.
* Nick Lunch’s plot has been relet but his boat is still there. The new plotholder has asked whether she can dispose of it. It was decided that she can.
* Plots 200 & 201 have been abandoned. Jevon wants to tidy them up for reletting.
* The mini-plots near the shop have been taken by 2 families. We propose to reduce the rent to the standard rate for the part plots which do not have raised beds.
* Raised bed plots should continue to be charged a premium as the construction was funded by the council. The plot-holders should be advised that the raised beds cannot be removed.
* Plot 219/1A is not needed for work parties, so could be let.
1. **OUWG update**
* Chris to contact the council about cutting back of vegetation on shared path as this was not carried out by OUWG. The council may have to arbitrate if Alan does not agree to the work being carried out. The work needs to be done before the nesting season so there is time pressure. Jon Willis is a qualified chain-saw user and can do the work if necessary.
1. **Planning for next few months**
* Andy from Heritage Fruit is due to come on Sunday 11 March. He should be asked to give a talk as well as selling the trees and equipment.
* Sarah Pollard will catalogue the silverware, then a decision will be made as to what should be done with it.
* The work party waste will be burned soon, weather permitting.
* Stewart to reinstate the informal mowing rota after the March meeting.
* The ODFAA meeting on 24 January will be attended by Stewart Young and Jon Willis.
1. **AOB:**
* The ‘driving on wet ground’ notice is being ignored. It should be left up over the winter because of the inconvenience of having to put it up or down.
* The lease on White House project ended on 29 September, but we have heard nothing. SY and JW to follow up.

**Date of next meeting: 9th March, 2017**