**EWAA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 14 September 2017, 7.30pm**

Chair: Clare Ferguson

Present: Jon Willis, Simon Bazly, Josie Procter, Stewart Young, Nicola Jones, Peter Corcutt, John Butler, Antoine Flett, Pat Mansfield, Dan Thorpe, Amandine Lepers-Thornton.

Minutes: Meryl Wilford

1. **Apologies**

Jevon Lancaster, Jane Miller, Helen Edwards

1. **Minutes of last meeting** (14-07-17): approved.
2. **AGM - Proposed change to rule on date of AGM**

Proposal to change wording of Constitution from “*The AGM of the EWAA shall be held on the last Thursday in September each year*.” To “*The AGM of the EWAA shall be held within 13 months of the previous AGM*…”

Discussion about whether holding the AGM on the rent day would encourage more people to attend or not. Opinions varied from the view that the traditional date and an evening weekday meeting should be maintained, to the view that, as the AGM is not well-attended, we should try a different time at the weekend and see whether attendance is higher. The date of the AGM could be changed back to an evening slot if the change does not result in significant rise in attendance.

Vote carried to change Constitution wording to allow AGM to take place on Sunday, 1st of October 2017 from 11.00 -12.00.

Votes in favour: 10

Votes against: 1

Abstentions: 2

All posts will be elected at the AGM. Some officers have offered to stand for re-election but all members are encouraged to put themselves forward for posts, including:

**President**

**Vice-president**

**Secretary**

**Machinery officer**

**Treasurer**

**Shop officer**

**Membership secretary**

**Liaison with Urban Wildlife Group**

Current trustees (Chris Parker, Pat Mansfield and Meryl Wilford) will remain in post.

1. **Treasurer’s report**
* Full update will be given at the AGM.
* There has still been no response from Thames Water regarding the challenge to the £900 water bill.
1. **Shop update**
* Closed for summer break in August.
* Stock take completed (When seeds reaching sell-by date, they have been marked down to 20p; 1 bag of lawn care has been written off; and, green manures have been disposed of.)
* New stock: green manure; onions; broad beans; mushroom compost. Garlic is due in next week.
* Request to clear plot 1 to make way for the delivery of cow manure. TBC
1. **Membership matters**
* Apple theft. Matter has been discussed with parties involved and apples should be returned to rightful owner after being left in the shop. Clare to follow up.
* Following the inspection

- 25 plot-holders have been reminded about need to cultivate

- 3 eviction notices served although 1 rescinded due to illness

- 12 people are on the waiting list

-10/11 current members are seeking more space.

* Rent amount to be confirmed at AGM.
1. **Machinery update**
* Machinery in good working order
1. **Site matters**
* Committee keen for work to be undertaken on the water troughs and pipe work.

Agree that work to go ahead on 3 new water butts per road.

* Peter to let Clare know which plots would be used for site of new butts so that she can contact the plotholders.
* Peter advises that trenches probably need to be 3 feet deep need to be in the middle of the roads to minimize pipe damage.
* Creation of a “Site Matters Subgroup” agreed ( Peter, Dan, Peter, Molean)
* Money is available to pay for some of the work to a subcontractor e.g digging trenches or hire of bobcat. Clare to send budget.

* Other jobs for site matters include renewal of guttering to carry water to water tanks next to the shop.
* Work parties to continue. Autumn work party12th November
* Skip hire 1 week before work party.
1. **Site boundaries**
* The council have offered to charge £500 to cut the willow which needs to be cleared on the boundary fence. This seems expensive.
* New liason officer with OUWG is Chris.
* No updates on the Whitehouse project ( some asbestos has been removed from site).
1. **Apple juicing**
* Apple juicing to take place on the 2nd rent day ie, Sunday October 8th 2.00-5.00.
1. **Trophies**
* Discussion about what to do with trophies once they have been located.

**Date of next meeting: AGM 1st October 2017**