**EWAA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 10 March 2016, 7.30pm**

Chair: Julian Stern

Minutes: Meryl Wilford

Present: Clare Ferguson, John Butler, Antoine Flett, Stewart Young, ,Jon Willis, Peter Corcutt, Sarah Pollard, Pat Mansfield

Apologies: Josie Powell, Helen Edwards, Jane NS, Jane Millar, Pat Mansfield, Chris Parker, George Murray.

1. **Minutes of last meeting** (14-01-16): approved.
2. **Matters arising**:
3. **Treasurer update**

* 95% of rents are now paid.
* Wildlife Group has still not paid their water bill.

*Action point* 🡺 Julian to follow up water bill with Wildlife Group.

1. **Membership Sec update**

* After allocating plots to new members, there are now only 4 half plots left to rent.
* Several small plots will probably become available because clearly some existing members have not cultivated their plots.
* There are 3 or 4 active enquiries waiting for suitable plots to be allocated, and there is trickle of new inquiries.
* Plot numbering still needs further clarification re boundaries and missing numbers from plots.
* Suggestion to remind members that their plots need to be numbered and this is stated in EWAA rules.

*Action point* 🡺 MW to put up key rules in noticeboards (fires, gate-locking, not going onto other people’s plots.

*Action point* 🡺 Rules to go up on website (not currently there?)

1. **Plot inspection dates:** 9/10 or 16/17 April?

* Agree to Sunday 10th April.
* Keep the “Is your number up?” reminders in noticeboards.

*Action point* 🡺 Remind people put up numbers.

*Action point* 🡺 Date for inspection to be put on website.

1. **Maintenance Surcharge**: draft motion for AGM

*“To add a £5 maintenance surcharge to the annual rent, with no concessions, payable for the first plot of any plot holder with more than one plot. The surcharge will be discounted if the plot holder has, in the past year, participated in any Work Party or other Association maintenance activity such as mowing the common areas. The first charge to be applied for the year 2017-18.”*

Discussion about proposed systems for administering maintenance surcharge:

* start keeping records from rent day in September 2016.
* Principle is that when rent is due, members choose either to pay an immediate surcharge of £5 or sign up to a work party.
* Alternatively, the rent could go up by £5 for everyone and then people who take part in a work party have £5 refunded from following year’s rent.

*Action point* 🡺 Julian to redraft wording of the motion and bring to next committee meeting.

1. **Work Party 12/13 March**

Peter leading Work Party on Sat 12th March.

No-one has signed up for Sunday 13th, therefore cancelled.

Possible jobs for Work Party:

* Collect / clear rubbish from site esp. car parks.
* Sort out fencing alongside new build.
* Clear compost heap.
* Clear out water butts (optional) .
* Clear plot 217
* Remove brushwood from coppicing so that play area is clear. Possible bonfire?
* Paint new putty on shop window.

1. **Other major maintenance jobs**

* **New water butts** – Peter to report on costs at next meeting.
* Discussion about benefits of galvanized water butts and decision to cost for them.
* George may be able to find a way to access grant money for the water butts. Tbc.
* Discussion about whether all water butts need replacing.
* **Machine shed roof** – 2 quotes received, both for about £1,000.
* JB offered to do job using “butyl” and including roof slope (9 degrees).
* Peter suggests that joists also need to be replaced.

*Action point* 🡺 JB agrees to work on roof once frost is past.

8. **AOB**

* **Security:** There have been some shed break-ins. Discussion about security issues and need for 6-foot chain link fencing in some places. Stewart thinks it is unlikely that grant funding would be available for fences.
* **White House project**: At the end of March, the lease will be terminated for current White House tenancy (although still needs to be formally terminated.)

Julian has spoken to Tina Mould at the council. Suggestion has been made that EWAA host a public meeting in the shop to allow interested parties to have the opportunity to talk to the council about possible future projects and basis of new leases.

EWAA has no say in decision about future leases but would like to take this opportunity to clarify access arrangements and to separate utility supplies. Arguably, the **Council need to make a separate entrance for White House users and separate electricity and water supplies so that it is not supplied via EWAA.**

* **Show of appreciation**. Vote of thanks to Peter C and John B for all their site work. Big Thank you! From everyone present.
* **Machinery.** Battery packs have been sorted.
* **Turning water back on**. Agree that date for water on: **27th March** unless still frosty.
* **Mowing rota -** new people are needed for regular grass cutting esp middle road and play area. Also we need to remind members not to leave stones etc on grass verges which could damage the cutters.

*Action point* 🡺 Julian to send email asking for volunteers who could do cutting 2 or 3 times a year.

* ***Men in Sheds*** – no news until at least the end of March.
* **Shop ordering**: more mypex has been ordered. Tony to help with delivery.
* **Padlock for new gate:** suggestion to put back the padlock from previous gate.
* **Security lights:**  to discourage night visitors in the car park, agree to put up security lights.

*Action point* 🡺 Jon offers to go to Screw Fix re prices etc..