**EWAA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 12 May 2016, 7.30pm**

Chair: Clare Ferguson

Minutes: Meryl Wilford

Present: George Murray. John Butler, Antoine Flett, Stewart Young, Peter Corcutt, Pat Mansfield

1. **Apologies**:

Julian Stern, Josie Powell, Helen Edwards, Jane NS, Jane Millar, Jon Willis,

Sarah Pollard

1. **Minutes of last meeting** (10-03-16): approved after meeting.
2. **Matters arising**: None
3. **Treasurer update**

* New lights at main entrance are now in place and work well.
* Electricity supplier has been changed and this should result in saving over the year as standing charges are significantly lower with new supplier.
* Wildlife Group has now paid the water bill.

*Action point* 🡺 George to look into solar-powered lights for “wood chip” gate entrance.

1. **Membership update**

* Record number of plots are now occupied. Only 5 plots are now vacant.
* There are 12 people on the waiting list, 4 of whom are already members requesting adjacent plots.
* Plot inspection resulted in 15 reminders being sent out addressing concerns about the lack of cultivation. 2 people have subsequently given up their plots; and 5 have issues relating to ill-health preventing work of plot.
* It is possible that the inspection was held too early in the year to gauge whether people had simply not begun work on plots due to weather etc.
* Other plot inspections will be held in June and September.
* Plot 202 which was covered in brambles has now been let (and cleared) even though it is prone to flooding.
* MW has now put up key rules in noticeboards (fires, gate-locking, not going onto other people’s plots.)
* The pressure from healthy waiting list creates incentive for people to be active on their plots or give up the plot for other people to take over.

1. **White House Project area update**

* The response from the council has been disappointingly slow. Clare has been in touch with Andy Dier (Estates dept) and he said that it “may be some months” before any decisions are taken.
* Reason for inaction is due to the fact that notice on the lease has been served and that notice period needs to take its course.
* Frustration expressed at inaction.
* Suggestion that specific questions are put to the council to try and clarify the situation (Andy Dier in the Estates dept is responsible for terminating the current lease; Tina Mould and Ian Thompson in the Parks dept will be responsible for coordinating with possible new tenants).

a) what is the timeframe for the serving of notice?

b) Is there still idea to hold a public meeting about possible future uses?

* Suggestion that both EWAA and other interested parties contact the council again to avoid this dragging on and another year passing without a decision and meanwhile further dereliction of the site.
* Suggestion that local councillor is involved (David Henwood?)

*Action point* 🡺 Clare to follow up

1. **OUWG update**

* Water bill paid.
* Nothing has happened regarding the upkeep of access paths. It had been agreed that hoggin would be dumped on paths to improve drainage but this has not been done.
* Suggestion that Chris Parker speak to Alan re paths.
* Likewise, the strimming of the buffer zone has not been completed and this is becoming very overgrown again which affects neighbouring plots.
* Suggestion that some trees also need trimming.

1. **Revision of site plan drawings**

* Peter has redrawn “master plan”; thanks to him for very useful document.
* Suggestion to laminate and display in shop when finished.

*Action point* 🡺 George to work with Peter to make some minor tweaks to include changes to plot boundaries and update and finish.

1. **Machinery**

* Electric strimmer cord release is problematic but Tony now thinks this has been sorted.
* Other machinery is OK: Toro working well. The Allen has not been used yet this year.
* Encouraging responses to request to help with grass cutting. 8-9 offers of help including from Daniel Thorpe who also expressed interest in joining committee.

1. **Site maintenance and work parties**

* Shed roof now complete with guttering and looks great. Thanks to *ShedOxford*.
* Proposal to keep both trees along the boundary fence and not cut them down in preparation for new fence going up. Stuart to liaise with Jon about this.
* Proposal for a work party before 6th June (date of fencing) to clear brush etc
* Peter has mended 2 taps on the water pipes. Notes that some work on the support pipes is needed for a few water pipes. Also that bathroom tap is dripping although not urgent.

*Action point* 🡺 Meryl will lead work party on 28th May (date tbc) . MW to draft email and send Clare and Julian to circulate.

1. **Succession planning**

* Julian intends to step down as president so some succession planning needed.

1. **AOB**

* Brigitte has offered to run a plant swap. Possible date 29th May.
* Pat warns that muntjac deer are possibly visiting the site and eating lettuces. Warning notices needed?

*Action point* 🡺 Clare to contact Brigitte to confirm date and send out email to members.

**Date of next meeting: 14th July, 2016**