**EWAA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 12 November 2015, 7.30pm**

**Chair: Clare Ferguson**

**Minutes: Meryl Wilford**

**Present: John Butler, Antoine Flett, Alice Hemming, Stewart Young, Chris Parker, Jane Millar, Jon Willis, George Murray, Peter Corcutt**

1. **Apologies** – Julian Stern, Josie Powell, Jane Nimmo-Smith, Helen Edwards, Mike Harris
2. **Minutes of last meeting** Not available
3. **Matters arising** Not available

*Action point* 🡺 MW to check with Julian whether the last minutes are available.

1. **Treasurer report**

* Shop sales are slightly down in comparison with same time last year.
* Rental income is very similar to previous year.
* Equipment rental income is up from £16 to £30
* Grant for the gate replacement has now been received. Date for completion of the work is tbc but Tony says will be confirmed shortly.
* Would be interesting to pursue lottery funding

*Action point* 🡺 George and Jon to investigate re “Awards for All” etc

* Question posed about whether to go ahead with the idea of making payment in place of participation at a work party. Suggestion that we should pilot this idea. Several people voiced the need for the “fine” to be high enough to act as a deterrent. Ie. It should be more than £5 or no-one would attend Work Party.

*Action point* 🡺 George to prepare some scenarios for costing e.g balancing the potential revenue against the income from % of plot holders choosing to pay “fine” rather than attend work party.

*Action point* 🡺 Jane to *maintain spreadsheet with list of people attending work parties:*

*17th October – 15 people attended (including leader),*

*18th October – 4 people (including leader)*

* Organization of work parties. Difficult to predict pattern of need in terms of prioritizing tasks for work party, some occur regularly and some are sporadic. Peter has broken down work into specific tasks. JB suggests that certain jobs could be put on website so that people can complete them outside work- party if preferred.

1. **Membership report**

* A good year for membership with successful rent day.
* Some non-payers have now been reallocated, but the only difficulty that has arisen is with Plot 85. .

*Action point* 🡺 George to discuss with Julian.

* Some plots (at least 4) are now unlettable because too overgrown, including plot 2. On road 3 (shop road), the plot boundaries are very confusing.

*Action point* 🡺 George to work with Stuart to clarify boundaries and re-measure if necessary.

* Regarding the very boggy ground on certain plots, one suggestion is to get some infill from the council compost dump which could be put onto the boggy areas and this could help by raising the ground level. Worth further investigation.
  + General impression is that allotments are in better state of repair/ upkeep and this is positive in terms of perception with council and community at large.

1. **Water Turn Off**  -watch for frosts.
   * When Clifford was President, water went on and off with with clocks going back / forward

*Action point* 🡺 Stuart will keep his eye on weather and turn off if necessary.

1. **White House Project area.**
   * Alice Hemming presents ideas for use of the Whitehouse site. Main suggestion is for after-school activities for Primary, Secondary children as an outdoor, hands-on place to play. It could be an after-school activity centre with playgroup as well as full-time outdoor nursery.
   * It could be a Community centre and arts centre with courses.
   * There are lots of Forest schools but not a lot of environmental activity centres in Oxford.
   * Poly tunnel could be a growing area; there could also be yurts or tents. As this would be a community resource, there probably needs to be redefinition of boundary so separate EWAA.
   * There could be compost toilet.
   * Cooperative organization
   * Not clear how the organization would be funded, Oxford Commons, Good Food Oxford are existing organizations running similar schemes.
   * Installing solar generation.
   * Compare with : Stansfield House – Near the coach House Headington Quarry
   * Historically there has been some difficulty with supply of water and electricity because comes via EWAA.
2. **Machinery**

* Two petrol strimmers should be ready for work party as new heads fitted but the electric strimmer should not be used

1. **Site maintenance & Work parties:**

Sat 14th Nov - Jon leading work party

Sun 15th Nov - Stuart leading work party

Suggested tasks:

* Laying mypex on vacant plots; (Not this time – for later in year as plots)
* coppice hazels around play area; Stuart suggests
* strim small plots area;
* strim plot at top of middle road;
* collect rubbish from car parks and elsewhere to skip.
* Finishing the door painting.
* Hazel by play area - Stewart suggests this should be cut down.
* Chris Rumble's dark plot near OUWG , massive willows growing. Should we clear? What can we do other than strim the grass?

1. **Communications**

* Participation in forums: requires registration (?)

1. **Any Other Business**

* Car park: Discussion about how to discourage late night visitors. Suggestion to put up a motion sensor light.
* After two successful apple pressing days on October 10th and 17th October, proposal to buy an apple press and chipper for future apple pressing.
* Suggestion for a communal bonfire with baked potatoes and mulled wine. MW and CF to make plans.
* Praise for new posters on noticeboards – thanks to Peter.
* Suggestion to remove dangerous metal poles along path from shop to middle road at new work party.
* Proposal to mend dripping gutters on toilet block, but when weather is fine.