**EWAA Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 14 July 2016, 7.30pm**

Chair: Julian Stern

Present: Jane Millar, Jon Willis, John Butler, Antoine Flett, Stewart Young, , Pat Mansfield, Clare Ferguson

1. **Apologies**:

Jane NS, Peter Corcutt, Chris Harris, George Murray.

1. **Minutes of last meeting** (14-05-16): approved.
2. **Matters arising**: None
3. **Dates for AGM & Rent days**

* Last committee meeting of the year: 15th September
* AGM: 29th September
* Rent days: 2nd and 9th of October

1. **Treasurer’s report and grant plans**

* Income higher mainly due to grants obtained for projects.
* Expenditure on administration is up because web hosting is higher but this reflects more realistic cost.
* A new grant application for water taps/ butts needs to be made by mid-August. Potentially 6 new taps and water butts needed. A quote for installation of new taps/ butts was approx. £100 per tap but without any digging involved. Suggestions that new quote for digging is obtained using e.g hire of mini bobcat or quote for digging through Checkatrade.com

*Action point* 🡺 Jon to liaise with Peter to get new quote which could be used for grant application.

1. **Shop update**

*Action point* 🡺 Julian to contact Sarah.

1. **Machinery update**

**Machinery for use by volunteers for public areas**:

* Both petrol mowers are working well.
* Petrol strimmers are working well.

**Machinery for hire by members**:

* Electric strimmer is out of service. Discussion about the electric strimmer and whether it worth investing further in its upkeep. This is the only strimmer available for hire but it is problematic (people don’t know how to thread the cord; it breaks down; it is used on areas where vegetation is too thick). Although this will mean that there is no strimmer for members to use, vote taken not to pay for any further repairs/ batteries for this strimmer and for use to be stopped. Members have many other possibilities including: using their own equipment, arranging shared equipment with other members or paying for someone to strim their plots as advertised on noticeboards.

**Non-mechanical tools request:**

* There has been inquiry about whether non-mechanical tools can be made available for members. Discussion about where tools could be left e.g in shop and how to make them available. Decision that not really practical; members need to provide their own tools which are readily available to buy including second-hand for very little money or on free-cycle.

1. **Membership update**

* George Murray has resigned as lettings secretary due to other commitments and his role being shared between Julian and Clare.
* Only 1 whole plot; 4 x half plots and 1x 1/3 plot are now available.
* There are 13 people on the waiting list,
* Plot inspection was carried out on July 6th and Clare is now contacting people about any uncultivated plots.
* Suggestion that lettings could be arranged for new members on Sundays during August so that people can begin working on plots before autumn.
* Discussion about possibility of having “Road Reps” for each of the roads to help coordinate the work of the lettings secretary which does involve a lot of work for one person. Tbc.

1. **Events**

* Unanimous vote in favour of sending out survey of members re Rule 14.
* Proposal to amend Rule 14 so that work parties become autumn and spring events. Survey to be sent out by email to find out opinions from members.

Proposal to change Rule 14 to say:

*"Work Parties: Members are invited to join one of the work parties held each autumn and spring to help maintain the common areas of the allotment site. Members will take instructions from the committee member in charge of the work party."*

*In place of the several Saturdays and Sundays we have been having, we will now have one Big Autumn clear up weekend in November, and one Big Winter Clear out weekend in March. These will be heavily promoted so everyone will be aware they are happening, with plenty of tea and cake as part of the deal. Plot holders will be expected to join in when they can, but we will not require signing up or committing to specific dates in advance.*

*We hope the outcome of this change will a) to make the work parties feel more worthwhile and enjoyable, and b) to encourage more plot holders, whatever their experience and ability, to join in.*

*We will also be maintaining a general list of odd jobs that need doing round the site throughout the year so that committed enthusiasts (!) and anyone who cannot make one of the Big Weekends can help out at any time.*

* Unanimous vote in favour of purchase of apple pressing equipment.

*Action point* 🡺 Julian and Clare to arrange Rule 14 survey.

*Action point* 🡺 Meryl to buy apple-pressing equipment. Approx. £200.

1. **OUWG update**

* Cutting back of vegetation and upkeep of paths.
* Muntjac deer: the council has been notified.

*Action point* 🡺 Julian to follow up OUWG upkeep agreement with Chris.

1. **White House area**

* Notice has been served and repossession by council to take place on 29th of September.

1. **AOB**

*Action point* 🡺 Stewart to put up Neville King plaque in shared garden area.

*Action point* 🡺 Meryl and Tony to see if Hayter Mower still available for £200.

**Date of next meeting: 15th September, 2016**