**MINUTES**

**EWAA Annual General Meeting - 2018**

**Sunday, 30th September 2018 [10.00 – 11.00]**

**Chair:** Clare Ferguson

**Present**: Nicola Jones, Meryl Wilford, Louise Evans, Michael Yeadon,

Tony Flett, Pat Mansfield, Simon Bazley, Chris Clifford, Jane Millar,

John Butler, Jon Willis, Chris Flett

1. **Apologies:** Jevon Lancaster, Stewart Young, Helen Edwards, Dan Thorpe,

Jane Nimmo-Smith, Rich Ellis, Vicky Bell.

1. **Minutes of AGM, 1st October 2017**

* Approved with correction of errata.

1. **Chair’s Report**

* -Thank you to everyone who helped EWAA run smoothly this past year and especially to Jevon in the demanding role of Membership Secretary; 13 new members started in September and more will join as other plots become available. Jevon has developed new procedure with the aim of making the allocation of plots as fair and speedy as possible.
* -Special thanks to Chris and AnnHelen, (Stewart spoke for all of us in his email tribute):

“*Grateful thanks to AnnHelen and Chris Parker, who are departing their plot on the middle road. During their time at EWAA they have contributed hugely to the life of the association. AnnHelen was Secretary, and then Membership Secretary, for best part of a decade, combining efficiency with sympathy. Chris has been a Trustee for several years, as well as performing the tricky role of Liaison Officer with the Urban Wildlife Group, and being one of the go-to people for practical tasks like installing the ceiling in the shop, putting-up dummy CCTV cameras, and so on, as well as sinking a near-metre-deep metal barrier around their plot in an attempt to keep the mare's tail weed out! Both your contributions have been much appreciated...”*

* Chris Parker has resigned as a trustee – Chris Clifford has offered to take his place. There is some doubt about whether the role of the trustees will be maintained long-term. The role will continue until the end of the current lease (there are 3 years left on the lease). There are ongoing discussions at the Allotment Federation (ODFAA) about an alternative system to trustees; the council proposal is that officers should possibly take over the trustee responsibilities. (Chris Clifford will follow this up.)
* Happy to report that several issues, which have been perennial discussion points especially in relation to maintenance of boundaries, are now being resolved. Firstly, the Urban Wildlife Group is under clear direction (three cheers for Jon Willis for his input) and communication regarding upkeep of boundaries is clear and will go through Chair. Secondly, the renovation of the White House by the Children’s Allotment is also going well; the clearance of rubbish from the site is continuing and new fences will be erected before they hope to open for business next year. Thirdly, the boundary at Wood Chip gate has been secured with the new metal gate and fence.
* The water butts project is still not finished, and it is proving very difficult to get an outside contractor to quote for the job. This is something to try and finish in the coming year. There is still £800 available from grant for this.
* The annual apple pressing took place on September 23rd slightly earlier than last year.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

* There is a healthy overall balance in the account (total net assets £8,887)
* For 2017-2018, expenditure was more than income so there is a deficit for the period of £1,527. This was mainly because of accrual payment of 2 years’ rent to the council and the stolen cash from the shop in March which was an unexpected loss of £480.
* After the theft of cash from the shop, no cash is left on the premises and a card reader has been introduced to track sales more effectively and allow for card payments.
* The shop made a profit of £355. The aim of the shop is not primarily to increase profits and prices are deliberately kept as low as possible as it provides a service to plot holders and is an important point of contact for members and committee.
* An outline budget has been drafted for next 5 years and the trend is for expenditure to exceed income because there are expected increases in costs e.g insurance, tree maintenance and possibly council ground rent increase. Reserves will be run down unless other income is generated, hence proposal for rent rise.
* Question about whether it would be good idea to open a deposit account to keep reserve separate from current account and earn more interest. This has been researched in the past and discounted due to low interest rates.

1. **Rent: 2018-2019**

Proposal to increase rent by £4 / year to £25. We need increase to keep pace with expected rises in costs. Reminder that in other cities allotments are considerably more expensive e.g. Bristol £75; Swindon £49; Bath £84

Proposal passed with one abstention.

Rent days: October 7th and 14th 2018

1. **Election of Committee for 2018-19**

Election of officers (proposed and seconded)

**Chair:** *Clare Ferguson*

**Treasurer**: *Nicola Jones*

**Shop Officer**: *Jon Willis*

**Assistant Shop Officer & Machinery Officer**: *Tony Flett*

**Membership Secretary:**  *Jevon Lancaster*

**Website Secretary:** *Rich Ellis*

**Secretary:** *Meryl Wilford with Rich Ellis*

Committee members –

*Josie Procter*

*Simon Bazley*

*Michael Yeadon*

*Louise Evans*

*Dan Thorpe*

*Helen Edwards*

*Pat Mansfield (not shop duty)*

*Stewart Young*

*Jane Millar*

Approval of non-committee shop duty only volunteers

*Vicky Bell*

*Jane Nimmo-Smith*

Trustees

*Meryl Wilford,*

*Pat Mansfield*

*Chris Clifford*

1. **AOB**

* Proposal to create a path through plot 64L to give access to social area from Wood Chip road. Proposed, seconded and passed with no objections. Work could be done at next work party.

**Answers to 2017 AGM AOB questions:**

* Suggestion that if the Association purchased a generator then members could use relatively inexpensive electric-powered strimmers etc more easily. Suggestion was researched and discussed at committee meeting 11th January 2018
* *Load and power requirements for power tools would easily be covered by generator.*
* *Some concerns expressed over possible safety issues and the danger of electrocution to users along with insurance implications.*
* *Main drawback seems to be how best to facilitate access and use. e.g lock box, payment of deposit and payment of hire.*
* *Noise could be an issue.*
* *Having the generator would involve someone taking responsibility for fuel e.g correct petrol/oil mix, as this is not something to leave to users.*
* *The current price of approx. £500 is currently at a discount but set to rise.*

*🡺*Consensus that there is not a clear case for purchase.

* There is no longer a Site maintenance sub-committee to supervise site maintenance work.

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