**Chair:** Meryl Wilford  
**Minutes:** Jane Millar  
**Attending:** Chris Clifford, Jevron Lancaster, Mike Yeadon, Pat Mansfield, Stewart Young, Tony Flett, Simon Bazley

**Apologies:** Clare Ferguson, Dan Thorpe, Helen Edwards, Josie Procter, Louise Evans

1. **Minutes of last meeting**  
   Approved
2. **Matters arising**

a) *Manure & Compost*

Discussion regarding selling both at a loss

Important to continue providing membership with the means to improve the soil on their plots

Need to increase the price per load in order to break even

ACTIONS:

* Order another load of Council compost
* Order 3 more loads of manure, 1 per “lane”
* Ensure the deliveries *don’t* block the lane
* Announce on website and by email, explaining the need for the price rise, and the importance of respect for the system (be honest, don’t take more than your share, don’t take it off site, etc.)
* MW: print & display more signs reminding everyone to pay at the shop on Sundays for both Manure and Compost

b) *Graphite for padlock*

ACTIONS:

* TF noted, and will do this shortly

1. **Treasurer’s report**

NJ reported healthy bank balance.

Total net assets £10,390 at 10/01/2019.

Takings of £272 since last meeting

Some small under-reporting of takings

Major outgoing was skip for workparty - £341

ACTIONS

* Find out from NJ when the last stocktake was done, and when the next is due to happen

1. **Shop report**

Seed order from Kings received

iZettle updated with new pricing

ACTIONS

* Print 3 copies of updated price list for the shop

1. *Spuds*

Order scheduled to arrive in Feb

Many alternative places to buy spuds and competition from the recent potato fair, which was pricey.

ACTIONS

* Need to publicise EWAA list ASAP, and give membership plenty of warning of what will be available when
* If there are many left at the end of April, send note to the federation offering them to other Oxford allotments

1. *Volunteering*

More 121 training needed in how to use iZettle, especially how to troubleshoot

ACTION

* MW to take iPad home and investigate the data allowance to determine the cause of recent “freezing”

1. *Shop Library*

Good to have books available in shop for all to consult

ACTIONS

* Publicise the collection better (website, email)
* Volunteers should point members to this resource when they come into the shop with a query
* Ask for more donates, using the weekly update email

1. **Membership report**

JL: Site full and 10 names on the waiting list.

Vote of thanks from the committee for his continuing zeal and skill in dealing with myriad problems that arise

1. **Hens on the EWAA site**

* CC, SB: note that all allotmenteers have a legal (statutory) right to keep hens on their plot, which cannot be overridden by local Council or Allotment rules.
* 3 different allotmenteers have expressed an interest in keeping hens on the plots.
* The discussion explored the potential problems hens could cause: animal welfare issues risk of escape/deliberate release, conflict between neighbours, foxes, rats, etc.
* There is plenty of advice, guidelines, best-practice, etc. on various websites, including the RSPCA’s.
* The issues of policing any EWAA decision was explored.

ACTION

MW: In a mid-Feb discretely invite anyone interested to an informal exploratory discussion to take place in the Shop at 12:00 on a Sunday

CC & SB/JP coordinate – contact Ellie Patullo (experienced keeper or hens) to see if she would also be able to attend to give advice and answer questions.

1. **Bonfires**

Issues with the current rule, in particular it doesn’t provide much opportunity for burning during the months of short daylight.

Some things, such as blighted potatoes and tomatoes should be burnt ASAP.

Proposal approved to change rule to state that: “for material gathered during work parties, bonfires may be lit at the discretion of the committee”.

1. **Children’s Allotment**

No updates since last committee meeting.

They have applied to OCC for permission to access their site from the footpath – no outcome as yet.

1. **OUWG Update**

Free coppicing and hedge trimming courses on Feb 9th and 16th

ACTIONS

Note to JW – everyone very excited about this!

Publicise to all members

Agree where the coppiced material will be left for collection on the OUWG site, and advertise this help-yourself resource to membership (for use as bean and pea sticks).

1. **Machinery Report**
2. *Toro mover*

TF sought permission to take it for a service – it has been done for a couple of years

Usually costs £250~£350

Meeting agreed

1. *Stihl strimmer batteries (2)*

CC would like to buy these from the EWAA at the current retail rate

Meeting agreed

1. **AOB**
2. *Early Summer Social Event*

MY proposed he organise an Early Summer gathering for plotholders and their families

To be held on the Play Area

Saturday June 8th 12:00~4:00 proposed and agree

ACTIONS:

* MY to form a subcommittee of helpers to gather:
* Gazebo
* BBQ
* Tables
* Chairs
* Bunting
* Publicity (posters, website update

b) *Shop page on EWAA website*

Is the list current and are the prices accurate?

Could it be updated and get a mention in the next weekly email?

ACTION

MW, CF, RE: liaise to put recent list from JW in place

Include details of **spuds** ordered and anticipated **date** in store

1. **Date of next meeting**

??? 14th March 2019