**Chair:** Clare Ferguson
**Minutes:** Meryl Wilford
**Attending:** Chris Clifford, Pat Mansfield, Stewart Young, Tony Flett, Simon Bazley, Dan Thorpe, Louise Evans, Jevon Lancaster, Mike Yeadon

**Apologies:** Helen Edwards, Jane Millar, Nicola Jones, Jon Willis

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Approved.

1. **Matters arising**
* The delivery of the new Toro ordered from Mr Bark, has been delayed and it may no longer be available. Purchase TBC.
1. **Treasurer’s report**
* Net assets are £9,838 at 7 May 2019.
* Bank and cash balances are £9,947 before liabilities.
* Shop sales at £1,820 are £200 above last year's total for the same period.
* Pipework expenditure, solar pump and new mower have not been paid yet, so will reduce the reserves when accounted for.

**Actions**

Nicola will be in shop on Sunday to receive any expenses receipts.

1. **Shop report**
* I’m looking into getting a bio-degradable alternative to Mypex. Any suggestions?
* Seedlings due in next week or so. Maybe Clare has an update on that.
* Black netting on order - due this weekend
* Pelleted Chicken Manure, fibre fleece and Maxicrop Seaweed Extract on order. (Chris Clifford confirmed that delivery has happened.)
* Potato sales disappointing - we still have 60 kg unsold, even though I ordered less this year. Was it because the delivery wasn’t until late Feb, or because there are cheaper and/or better suppliers, or because of the ODFAA potato sale?
1. **Membership report**
* 23 new people are on the waiting list
* 15 people have received a warning letter and have been given the 6 week deadline to make a difference.
* General comment is that plots are on the whole looking more well-cultivated.
1. **Taps and water troughs and solar pipes**
* Fantastic to be able to announce that the new taps are all in place and that members have been really pleased to have closer access to water. The last part of the job is the reseeding of the paths (which the council will complete) and we need to sink the troughs. There are four tanks/ barrels that are available to use as troughs.

Simon / Meryl to work on Chip gate road

Dan - middle road

Tony- Shop road

* Chris nominated Janita to get caps for the black trough.
* Claire has approached council about mending the leaking pipe. In the meantime, the water is still leaking.
* Simon is working on the pump for rain harvesting by the shop and it should be ready as soon as sealant in place.
* General comment about the process by which costs incurred by people working on projects is rather time consuming. Questions about how this could be streamlined while still maintaining the need for transparency and need for detailed receipts for purchases etc. (comments to be passed on for discussion with Nicola)
1. **OUWG**
* All allotment members have been invited to attend the OUWG AGM to take place at Florence Park Community centre in Cornwallis Rd.
* Question posed about whether a new joint site management plan is needed.
* Suggestion for a 7 year coppicing plan.
* Separate water supply and/or meters needed.

**Actions**

New lease comes up in two years both for EWAA and OUWG [ September 2021] so it is important to have clarity about how the two areas work together e.g water supply.

Suggestion that a working group is set up to aim to clarify site issues with both OUWG and Children’s Group in relation to the new lease with the council.

1. **Children’s Allotment**
* Several members expressed concern about the lack of clarity on the Children’s Allotment website. At present it seems they are part of EWAA and this may potentially have important legal implications e.g liability if there should be an accident on their part of the site. Zurich Insurance organised by ODFAA will not cover us for any enterprise other than running an allotment and not anything that involves providing childcare to children.

*\*Suggestion that email is sent to Children’s Allotment* ( see below)

* The group seem to operate as an unregistered charity but perhaps we should ask Alice for clarification of this.
* They have an easement ( right of access) through EWAA until their own access gate is set up. They also have permission to use toilet facilities. When EWAA negotiates the new lease with the council, the access arrangements should be clearly stated.
* Some frustration voiced about the lack of clear boundary fencing with the result that people helping on the Children’s Allotment work parties often wander onto the EWAA allotments. Also, some concerns about the way that the gate has been left unlocked or that EWAA members have been asked to open the gate rather than their designated keyholders.
* Another source of friction for some has been the bonfires. Agreement that small camp fires as part of Friday programme for children seems reasonable even though not complying with the allotment “After 6.00 or dusk” rule.

**Actions**

Suggestion that email is sent to request immediate changes to their website/ Facebook page, to remove inaccurate and misleading statements:

*'in Oxford's East Ward Allotments',*

*'in the heart of Oxford's East Ward Allotments',*

*'in the East Ward Allotments on Cricket Road'*

*'We are a community group with a plan to create an inclusive outdoor education space for the local community in the East Ward Allotments on Cricket Rd'.*

Suggested alternative wording could be:

*'in the heart of East Oxford adjacent to the East Ward Allotments' or,*

 *'our current access is via the main entrance to East Ward Allotments'.*

1. **Break-ins**
* Jevon is keeping a log of break-ins.
* Thefts vary from stealing seed trays or seedlings to theft of large items such as tools.
* Sheds have also been broken into.
* Suggestion that all the thefts are reported to the police so that there is an official record of the incidents and EWAA can show evidence in future.
1. **Early Summer celebration June 8th**
* Summer Social Event is going ahead: planning meeting on Monday 3rd June
* Committee to help with setting up. Mike coordinating
* Gazebo needed in case of rain (Simon offered to lend his; Chris suggested purchase of one ( £90?)
* Discussion about how to organise food and drink – Mike to buy some food for barb-b-q . Should we advertise as bring-and-share?
* problem with catering is not knowing the numbers of people who will attend.
* Agree that soft drinks could be provided but not alcohol.
* 2 Barb-b-qs; veggie and non-veggie. Free food to celebrate should be irresistible!
* Ideas for children’s games needed; Tug-of-war MW to bring rope
* Exhibition – trophies from previous Allotment competitions. ( Chris?)
* Raffle prizes needed.
* Exhibition of things found on allotment. Prize for strangest thing!
* More publicity on website needed nearer the time.
1. **ODFA**
* Fees for membership to go up to 50p per person.
* Centenary to be celebrated with a competition - 100 years of ODFA
* Case of Lyme’s Disease reported.
1. **AOB**
* First Aid kit in toilet block.
* Skills swapshop idea to be discussed in more detail at next meeting.
1. **Date of next meeting**

11th July 2019