**MINUTES**

**EWAA Annual General Meeting - 2019**

**Sunday, 29th September 2019 [10.00 – 11.00]**

**Chair:** Clare Ferguson

**Present:** Jon Willis, Meryl Wilford, George Murray, Jane Millar, Pat Mansfield, Renata Retallack, Rich Ellis, Vicky Bell, Tony Flett, Hilary Squire, Stewart Young, Leo Young, Simon Bazley, Maurice Leen, Chris Clifford, Louise Evans, Bridget Wheatley, Zara Skitt, Grzesiek Gorski, Charlotte Attlee

1. **Apologies:**

Mike Yeadon, Nicola Jones, Jevon Lancaster, Helen Edwards, Dan Thorpe, Jane Nimmo-Smith, Josie Proctor

1. **Minutes of AGM, 30 September 2018:**

Approved.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Several improvements have been made to the site this year:

1. **A new path** has been made leading from the wood chip gate road to the social area in the middle road. It is currently rather overgrown, but it is a useful cut-through and should be cut back again at the next work party.
2. **New taps and water butts** have been put in to make the water points more accessible and nearer to all members. This task was completed with help from the Council who dug the trenches and laid additional pipes.
3. **Boundary fencing** has been improved between EWAA and the Urban Wildlife area where hedge-laying and coppicing has made this more clearly defined and attractive as a result of the joint work parties/ skill share days.
4. The **Children’s Allotment** have been developing and continuing to work on their part of the site and EWAA are liaising with them over some shared issues such as water supply. Their boundary fencing is still not in place but hopefully will be in position soon.
5. **A successful Summer Social** took place. Good weather and EWAA branded gazebos helped the bar-b-q get into full swing. There was also a display of produce; a curiosity corner with weird and wonderful items found on plots; and a display of the trophies from yesteryear, reminding us of the serious competition that used to go on between plot holders. The annual apple pressing also took place.
6. **Talks and Skill Sharing** also took place. There was the annual fruit pruning talk with Andy Howard in March, along with a Skill Sharing session to promote more eco-friendly cultivation to foster more wildlife gardening.
7. **Vote of thanks**. Special vote of thanks to the following people for their contributions to the life of the allotment this year:

Thanks to **Jevon Lancaster** for his fantastic work as Membership Secretary. He has put in an enormous amount of work detailing and tracking all the plots and he has made sure that prospective new members on the waiting list have been matched to plots as soon as they become available. He has been a wizard with spreadsheets to record any incidents that are reported with a detailed who, what, when and where.

Thanks to **Nicola Jones**  for her work as Treasurer. Her eye for detail has been invaluable in the overseeing of the finances.

Thanks to **Jon Willis** for his work as Shop Officer and for making so many innovations which have brought us (sometimes kicking and screaming) up to date with shop technology. We have him to thank for the card reader and ipad which has greatly facilitated stock-taking, and eased in cashless transactions.

Thanks to **Stewart Young** for his tireless work for the Association over many years: he is now standing down from the Committee.

Thanks to **Clare Ferguson** as the outgoing Chair for her energy, skill sharing, clear guidance at meetings, and sheer hard work pursuing the day-to-day running of the Association.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

The Association has a healthy balance of £8,500.00 in the account.

The rent rise last year means that the annual expenditure can be covered comfortably from the yearly income and this safeguards the savings for any unexpected costs.

Projected budget until 2022 seems to indicate a surplus therefore no rent increase is needed.

The shop sales seem to be down but this is in part due to accounting adjustment which means that any residual stock is priced at cost at end of trading in August.

Query about when the last water bill was paid. Nicola to clarify.

1. **Rent Days**

Rent days are on Sunday 6th and Sunday 13th from 11.00 -1.00.

1. **Election of Committee and Officers for 2019-2020**

Clarification of the role and current position of the Committee. All the allotment sites in Oxford are run by committees of volunteers. The sites are rented from the City Council on a lease agreement. The current lease will come to an end in 2021 and negotiations between the Council and ODFAA (Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations) are currently underway on the terms of the new lease. The Rules ad Constitution may be reviewed at that time along with the City rent charges (which may be reviewed every 7 years).

At the last ODFAA meeting, the Federation explained that the negotiations are currently trying to agree on whether a License or Lease agreement should be used . Noted also that negotiation can be lengthy process when a site has multiple users (as is our case with Wildlife Group and Children’s Allotment).

Election of officers (proposed and seconded)

**OFFICERS**

Chair - Chris Clifford

Vice Chair - Josie Procter

Treasurer - Jon Willis

Membership Secretary: Mike Yeadon (+Meryl Wilford assisting)

Shop Officer - Simon Bazley

Secretary (shared role) - Brigitte Wheatley + Charlotte Attlee

**OTHER ROLES:**

Website Secretary - Rich Ellis

Machinery Officer - Tony Flett

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

George Murray

Claire Ferguson

Renata Retallack

Jane Millar

Dan Thorpe

Louise Evans

Leo Young

Grzesiek Gorski

Zara Skitt

**SHOP DUTY ONLY VOLUNTEERS**

Jane Nimmo-Smith

Vicky Bell

Helen Edwards

Bridgette Henderson?

**TRUSTEES**

Meryl Wilford,

Pat Mansfield

Chris Clifford

1. **Rules** : **Motion to propose change to hosepipe rule**

Proposal: Revised wording to clarify hosepipe use and protect EWAA budget from overuse of water. Discussion of amendment. Approved new wording:

*Rule 13. not to use hosepipes from EWAA water supply, except in special circumstances, with the written permission of the Committee, and on payment of an annual hosepipe supplement of £20 per half plot per annum. Sprinklers, leaky hoses or any water distribution device apart from hosepipes using EWAA's water supply, are not permitted* under any *circumstances. Any permitted hosepipes must always be handheld. Plotholders with cans have priority.*

1. **AOB**
2. **Publication of Rules**

Suggestion that Rules are circulated before the Rent days (by email) to notify people about the rules and that by joining the Association they agree to abide by them. MW to circulate.

Use of bank transfer to pay membership fees to be discussed at next Committee Meeting.

1. **Toilets**

The toilet roll holder has been unscrewed from the wall and the toilets are not in good state. Suggestion that shop volunteers check toilets as part of duty.

1. **Skip hire**

A skip needs to be organized for the next work party. This has traditionally been organized by Stewart. New Secretaries to organize this.

1. **Apple juicing**

Apple Pressing to take place on Sunday 6th at 12.00 if the apple press can be located!

1. **Stewart Young**

Additional vote of thanks to Stewart for his enormous contribution to EWAA over the years dating right back to 1992! His good humour, energy and expertise (especially with dahlias) have been an inspiration.

**NEW Committee Meeting to be called by Chris Clifford in October to plan Work Parties. TBC**