

## EWAA Committee Meeting Minutes

11th March 2021, 7.30pm

Zoom videoconference

**Chair:** Meryl Wilford

**Minutes:** Jane Millar/Meryl Wilford

**Present:** Chris Clifford, Jon Willis, Pat Mansfield, Dan Thorpe, Mike Yeadon, Tony Flett, Sarah Pollard, Renata (Nina) Rettalak, Simon Bazley.

### 1. Apologies

Retrospectively: George Murray, Mike McNaboe

### 2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

Approved

**ACTION:**

**JM** – Publish minutes on the website

### 3. Chair report

- Cricket Road planning application

An objection to a Cricket Road building application was made in February because of the potential impact on the wood chip gate carpark. The application has since been rejected by the council.

One very important result of this process was that after making the searches in relation to this application, Jane discovered that the EWAA site is not fully defined in the Land Registry and this needs to be corrected.

**ACTIONS:**

- a. **Subgroup** – work to register comprehensive Land Registry records.
- b. **JM** – circulate the rejection notice to the committee.

- Update on work of Lease sub-group

The group prepared a 5-page response to the lease drafted so far by OCC and sent both general feedback and comments on specific clauses, as requested by ODFAA. By doing this, EWAA have really engaged in the process and it seems that our comments are very much along similar lines to the other associations who have also commented, and also in line with feedback which ODFAA have given the council.

JM explained that councillor Louise Upton will act as interlocutor between OCC officers and ODFAA, to facilitate progress. ODFAA will also make contact with other councillors across the city who have allotment plots.

- Asbestos update

Replies from the survey have come in and there are 8 plots with asbestos which ploholders would like to have removed.

**ACTION:**

**MW & DT** to talk to **JW** about quote for removal and what is feasible/affordable.

#### 4. Treasurer report

- Council rent has been paid but other than that no movements.
- Signatures have still not been finalized with the bank.

**ACTIONS:**

**SB** – try and contact the bank again.

**MW** – send SB details of helpful contact at the Templars Square branch of Barclays.

#### 5. Membership report

- Car damage to path  
Plot holder was contacted.
- Waiting list update  
There are now 27 names on waiting list with 4 half plots available with the possibility of another 4 half plots becoming available soon. Plots will start to be assigned to new plot holders.
- Date for plot inspection set for **w/e May 1<sup>st</sup>~ 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Volunteers needed to help with inspection – contact Mike.

**ACTION:**

**JM** – Notify membership of upcoming inspection, website & posters.

#### 6. Shop report

- Date for shop opening  
Shop to be opened on **Easter Weekend**: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>. 10.00-12.00.

**ACTIONS:**

**JM**

- Contact all those previously on Shop rota to confirm who is able to volunteer at this point
- Propose and agree a rota, post it on the webpage
- Advertise re-opening date, webpost and signs
- Put a list of the main stock items on the website

#### 7. Admin and maintenance issues

- Work party for shop – perhaps in June the shop can be cleaned and organized as a club house not just for storage. Discussion about whether further storage is needed and necessity to notify council if we put up any structures by the shop.
- Date to switch water on  
**ACTIONS:**  
**DT** – On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> will turn on water and test the plumbed installations  
**JM** – Webpost to advise that water will be switched on to coincide with start of BST on **28th March** (i.e. the convention).
- Date for vehicle access – it is still too soft for vehicles.  
Agree that ground is still too soft for vehicles.

**ACTION:**

**JM** – Webpost explaining the intention to restore access for Easter, but dependant on weather and ground conditions.

- Temporary structures (trampoline/climbing frame)  
Majority of committee feel that as long as 75% of a plot is cultivated, then if the rest of space is used as a recreational area that is OK. However if permission was given for e.g. trampoline, specifically for duration of lockdown then this can be clarified at inspection in May.

There seems to be a proliferation of built structures for which permission may have been requested in the first instance but which subsequently evolve and grow almost organically. Suggestion that a more rigorous audit is made of structures in inspections and also that there are clearer guidelines and rules established for built structures.

**ACTION:** Group needed to establish new guidelines.

**MY** – Start the ball rolling. [Volunteers needed](#).

- Mowing rota  
Tony suggests that first (high) cut is made in April. Tony to notify when mowers are needed.
- Bonfires  
Can take place following the normal EWAA rules.  
**ACTION:**  
**JM** – Webpost to confirm this.
- New padlocks – to be fitted when Men in Sheds can help.  
**ACTION:**  
**TF** – Liaise with MIS when that is possible.
- Water butts outside shop  
**ACTION:**  
**SB & DT** – Meet on site to agree the simplest way to fill the empty butt(s).
- Path Maintenance  
Special thanks go to Dan for the work he did laying woodchip on the path to the social area.

## 8. OUWG

- Boundary dispute – encroachment  
As in January Minutes:

*“The boundary between the allotments and the OUWG is not well defined in some areas and means that some members have extended out beyond the boundary. At meeting with OUWG on 17-12-20, we discussed the possibility of arranging a meeting with ploholders from plots 92,93,94,95,96 and 97. This is not going to be possible due to lockdown but perhaps these members could be reminded of the boundary by observing where OUWG put blue rope along the line of the boundary.*

Action points:

- *Communication with members affected to let them know that “reminder” rope will be put up along the boundary. MW and MY to coordinate.*

OUWG have not put up a boundary marker (iron poles and blue rope) but are now suggesting that better to talk to the ploholders involved and explain the situation first so they understand why boundary needs to be agreed esp in light of new lease.

**ACTION: MY & JW** meet with ploholders.

- Update on muntjac cull

On hold as council have not granted licence to marksman.

- Coppicing

Coppicing of the play area hazels has taken place and Dan has used offcuts to build a fantastic laid fence along part of boundary as agreed at last committee meeting. As minuted in last committee meeting:

*“Some plot holders are helping themselves to wood and branches from the Wildlife area. We need to let ploholders know that there are designated share sites adjacent to gates which are marked as sharing piles*

*Action points:*

- *Communication with members via website to explain that OUWG is not open for foraging! MW and JM”*

**ACTIONS:** Communication needs to go out to explain as above.

**JM** – Confirm text of webpost with MW & JW before circulating.

**MW** – Request that OUWG make labelled place for sticks that can be taken.

## 9. Comms/Tech subcommittee

- Aktivix List

Mike Harris hopes that this can soon move to the same server as the EWAA officer email boxes. He is discussing the timing with the hosting team.

## 10. Any Other Business

- Urban Forest Strategy

OCC is actively seeking input from interested parties to its draft proposal, before the strategy is opened for public consultation. As such all allotments have been contacted for their thoughts.

**ACTIONS:** The OUWG is already engaging in this feedback exercise, and will incorporate any input from the EWAA.

**JM** – Circulate the document to this meeting

**All** – Submit any feedback to JW

Date for next meeting – Thursday **13th May 2021**

**ACTION:**

**JM** – Add to website calendar