**EWAA Committee meeting 11th January 2022**

Present: Clare F; Sarah P; Mike M; George M; Mike Y; Pat M; Jon W; Simon B; Chris C; Meryl W; Dan T; Renata R; Bridget and cat.

Apologies: Tony F; Andra

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**:

Approved with no comments

1. **New padlocks onsite**

Meryl expressed thanks from the Committee to Jon, Mike and Tony for rolling out the new padlocks and keys. Meryl noted that no complaints had been received and that it has been a big success. Some negative comment on Facebook but nothing serious to report. Problems with Boundary Brook gate lock rectified. 15-20 plotholders have so far not collected their keys.

1. **Ongoing lease and EWAA status regarding carpark by woodchip gate**:

Background: Consent has been approved by the council for demolition of 66 Cricket Rd to be replaced by 2x semidetached properties. Carpark may be used for access to building work and is also used by local residents for offroad parking. Proposal to include the woodchip carpark in the new lease. Simon and George noted that Council should still be responsible for maintenance aspects of the carpark. **Action point (CC / MW)**: Following unanimous support on show of hands Chris will draft letter to the council outlining EWAA desire to have the carpark included in the new lease. Draft to be forwarded to Meryl for approval and sending on to council.

1. **Membership**

Invitations sent out to view 9 half plots.

133b (2 plots) 2 portions to be rescinded by plotholder. **Action Point (MY / MW)**: Mike to discuss with Meryl offline.

4 plot holders with rent still outstanding. To be collected when/if plotholders come to collect keys for these plots.

1. **Finance**

Since last meeting: Spent £500 on another 50 keys which are in reserve at the moment. Children’s Allotment has not paid last invoice for electricity and water. Jon expressed some concern about this and will invoice them more regularly.

Changing banks and adding signatories: Discussion about proposal to switch to Metro Bank and their pros and cons. Jon outlined the conditions for opening an account and that we may want to hold off pending decision to change our status to a Co-op. We currently have 2 signatories only with Barclays. **Action point (JW / MW / CC):** to talk to Barclays re adding Meryl and Chris on as signatories.

1. **Shop**

Simon had no action to report since last meeting. Shop to remain closed pending discussion at next committee meeting re opening to sell non-perishables.

Andy Howard has sent information about pruning courses. **Action Point (CF):** Clare to reach out to Andy and see if he can run a pruning course for EWAA and also sell trees and equipment on the day.

1. **Urban Wildlife Group**

Background: OUWG is undertaking maintenance work. Proposal to work on boundary hedging in order to tidy up rubbish from neighbouring plots and establish clear boundary. Some material can be burnt. Non-burnable material needs a place to be stored and then disposed of. Plot 94 is not available as it has been rented out. Proposal that rubbish might be stored temporarily in containers where the skip used to be for collection by the council. **Action point (MW / JW / MY)**: Meryl Jon and Mike will discuss further offline.

Joint Management agreement: **Action point (MW):** to circulate the most recent revised version for review by the committee.

1. **Site matters:**

Noticeboards: Perspex has aged on Woodchip gate noticeboard. **Action Point (DT / CF):** Dan and Clare to meet up and look at the board to see if it can be repaired or should be replaced. Proposal also to resite opposite the gate.

1. **Restoring water supply for plots 94 and 95:**

Proposal to move waterbutt. Meryl noted that this is a site decision to improve the water supply so decision should not be contingent on plotholder approval. Moving the waterbutt will involve rerouting a section of pipe and encasing this securely above ground. Use of scaffold pipe as a secure casing could be an option. It was agreed costs to be shared 50:50 between EWAA and OUWG. **Action point (DT):** Dan to obtain costings and circulate to committee by mid Feb.

1. **Slug Pellets**

New legislation bans sale and use of slug pellets containing metaldehyde beginning April 1 2022. **Action point (CF)**: Clare to circulate email reminder to plotholders and announcement on website and noticeboards.

1. **AOB**

Workparty dates required.

**Next committee meeting: Thursday March 10th 7.30pm**