**EWAA committee meeting 10th March 2022**

Present: Meryl Wilford, Clare Ferguson, George Murray, Tony Flett, Simon Bazley, Pat Mansfield, Sarah Pollard, Mike Yeadon, Jon Willis, Mike McNaboe, Chris Clifford, Dan Thorpe, Bridget Henderson, Renata Retallack

Apologies: Andra Pirvu

Minutes of the last meeting – no matters arising

Chairs report – noted that there are several issues to address

1. ODFAA – notice received from the City Council surveyor re play equipment on allotments and liability issues.

Simon contacted HSE for advice, and has requested specialist advice. His view is that a lot of things on allotment sites could be considered a risk, and that the City Council’s advice shouldn’t be considered definitive at this point.

We agreed a few years ago not to have any play equipment on the play area, as we didn’t want to accept responsibility for it. But this doesn’t seem to apply to individual plots.

It is not clear what lease covenant we have breached – if the City Council wanted to act, they could do so. The notice via ODFAA doesn’t amount to this.

Decision: No action to be taken unless we hear more from the council

1. 66 Cricket Road – issue of builders using the woodchip car park to access the new building site at the rear of the property

The current owner is asserting historical right of way over the site. None is registered with the land registry. He will go ahead with the building according to the planning permission, and we can expect a lot of heavy building traffic over the next 6 months. It appears that the property owner is moving the boundary approx. 1m into the car park.

Chris will draft a letter to the City Council about it, but we ultimately have no rights over the land. We may have missed an opportunity to establish our own right of way at the previous lease negotiations.

1. Andy Howard fruit tree sale – no one attended for the pruning talk, we should maybe consider how we publicise it next year. However enough trees were sold to make it worth Andy’s while
2. Asbestos issues – there seems to be some delay, but removal is believed to be in hand by the council.
3. Membership report

67 people are now on the waiting list, we only have 6 half plots available. Approx. 50% are still interested when plots become available.

Some people may still to be without keys, a few have yet to pay the rent. Mike will contact these and decide whether to give them notice and relet the plots.

1. Treasurer’s report

The Children’s Allotment have paid what they owe us.

Meryl is now a signatory on the bank account.

1. OUWG

Work on the boundaries is ongoing, and buffer zones are in place almost the whole length of the boundary.

Meryl received a few comments on the joint agreement and will report on that later.

A lot of rubbish has been cleared from the boundary and is in the process of being disposed of though some metal remains by the shop.

1. Site matters

Reconnecting the end water butt on the middle row is planned for 22nd/23rd March. A digger will be hired to dig along the path from the nearest butt. Cost approx. £100 for materials to get to the last plot on the left, or £28 to connect another one further up. Proposed budget is £500 total. Agreed by committee.

Trees

Trees along the line between the Howard St and Middle rows have become very overgrown and are affecting adjacent plots. Mo and Pete Byfield will cut these back tomorrow.

This needs to be discussed with those adjacent plotholders.

Children’s Allotment – intruder

Someone has been using their space despite it being locked. Further discussion to take place via email re alerting plotholders to the fact that the site is not 100% secure despite the new locks and that they may encounter people who have no right to be there, and items do sometimes go missing.

1. AOB

The floor has been taken up in the machine shed.

**Date of next meeting: Tues 10th or Thurs 12th of May – to be confirmed**