**Thursday 8th September 2022, 7.30pm, SHOP**

**Present** Meryl Wilford, Jon Willis, George Murry, Michael McNaboe, Mike Yeadon, Clare Ferguson

1. **Apologies [Renata Allen, Tony Flett, Dan Thorpe, Andra Pirvu, Chris Clifford]**
2. **Minutes of July meeting** and matters arising

APPROVED

**Chair report**

* No update on thelease, MW will get in touch with the allotment liaison officer at the council. There is an ongoing concern about EWAA needing to on the woodchip car park as part of the lease.

We (MW) will also contact councillors for St Mary’s ward and possibly Cowley Marsh to ask them to push the issue forward.

* + - The process of renewing our constitution and a making a decision regarding incorporation of the association (as a co-op or similar) in order to reduce the legal liabilities of trustees is currently on hold in anticipation of the new lease. Jon W will look into the possibility of liability insurance for the trustees as is offered to charity trustees.
    - Chris Clifford has tendered his resignation as a trustee, and has kindly offered to continue to offer his expertise. We would like to acknowledge his immense contribution, and offer our sincere thanks for all the time and work he has put into supporting the association.
    - A large crack willow branch fell onto plot 23b on the Howard St row, and the council have sent a tree surgeon who has evaluated the situation. Jon has been able to contact the owner and work is in progress to arrange removal of the branch.

1. **Membership report** 
   * + Waiting list is currently at 60, with 12 vacant half plots and another one waiting to be confirmed
     + 8 people are coming to view plots on Saturday morning
     + 25 people were offered viewings and those who did not reply have been removed from the waiting list, but 3 or 4 requests for plots are coming in every two weeks.
     + New plotholders are being informed of the requirement to get started straight away.
     + The next 10 people will be offered the chance to take on a more difficult plot and jump the queue
     + Autumn inspection will be on 15th October, by Mike Yeadon and George Murray.
2. **Treasurer report** 
   * + A stock take is due – Jon and Michael McNaboe will do this on Sunday 11th Sept
     + The major expenditure this year has been the new keys, at £1300+ in subsidies, and wrote off the historical key deposits. We have also spent a significant amount on skips.
     + Ride-on mower – on offer for £500, agreed to buy this and try it for one year.
3. **Preparation for AGM**
   * + Proposed date 25th September at 12 noon, plot inspection on 15th October. Rent demands and plot warnings will go out straight after this, with a rent day on the 29th October, obliging to people to decide whether to carry on with a plot if they are struggling.
     + We are proposing a rent rise of 20% for most plotholders, but the concessionary rate will remain fixed. Full plots will be £30, half plots £15.To be voted on at the AGM.
     + Autumn work party will be on the 25th Sept before the meeting at 10 am, and again in the afternoon. Michael McNaboe intends to be foreman and will provide a list of jobs if not able to be present.
     + We will have a trustee vacancy
     + We are also still looking for someone to run the shop
     + MW to produce posters for AGM, rent day and work party
4. **OUWG** 
   * + We will seek an update on the boundary at the end of the shop road and whether a hedge will be laid there.
5. **Site matters** 
   * + deer are still very present on site, but fencing is very expensive.
6. **Any Other Business**

Date of next meeting – November 10th, 2022