**EWAA Extraordinary Committee Meeting 9th Feb 23 7.30 – 9.00**

Present: Jane Millar, Sarah Pollard, Jon Willis, Meryl Wilford, George Murray, Clare Ferguson, Pat Mansfield. (from 8:)Renata Retallack. Mike Yeadon, Simon Bazley, Mike McNaboe

**Agenda :**
**1. Fire, 13th Jan 2023 approx 3am.**

Two sheds and a greenhouse were burnt to the ground, believed to be due to arson. The fire brigade were called and have declared the site unsafe due to the nature of some of the materials stored in the sheds, meaning that a specialist clean up is needed.

Big thanks to Jane M for being very thorough about dealing with all the consequences of this.

- approval of money for one of the quotes for the clear-up of fire debris

**Quotes for the clean up are**: Safe Site – skip + people £2361

Feisal (neighbour on Boundary Brook) - £850-£950

Rentakil – almost £10k

Removing topsoil would be prohibitively expensive, and any contamination is expected to be confined to the footprint of the shed. We may need to alert future plotholders to this.

Agreed to ask Feisal to carry out the work (Jane M), which we will pay for, following fire brigade advice. However we will not be in a position to pay out again for any future fires, and no precedent is being set.

- notification to members of need to adhere to rules regarding sheds - (esp valuables and flammables) (Draft from George)

We will make it very clear in repeated communications that flammable items (batteries, paraffin, paraffin heaters, white spirit, diesel, oil or petrol, gas cylinders) must not be stored in sheds. We will not be covering any future costs of any fires. George will add this to the draft email as a strict rule, and also recommend that people do not use their sheds as general storage as they are vulnerable to theft as well as fire. The email will be reviewed by JM, MW, and MY then sent out directly and not via the website.

Concern was noted that the shed concerned may have been booby trapped with wood with nails in. We will not follow this up at present, but will remind the plotholder that he needs permission to rebuild a shed.

**- implication for future possible fires**

Proposal to tighten the rules about fires further, particularly in hot dry weather – to be on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

In fact this incident is believed to be arson.

**- site security**

We believe that plotholders are better off not locking their sheds, but that is a personal decision.

Fencing – we have reinforced the fence near woodchip gate.

**2. Re-opening of the shop**

JM is in charge of this.

- budget for new stock – agreed by treasurer

-JM needs more responses re shop rota.

We really need to encourage plotholders to come and spend their money as we are buying a lot of stock.

**3. Dates**

24th Feb – fallen tree on Mr Ali’s plot will be cleared

9th March - Next committee meeting

25th March -Inspection

26th March – rescheduled workparty