

# **Minutes of EWAA Committee Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> July, 2025**

**Present:** Tony Flett, Chris Clifford, Maurice Leen, Vicky Bell, Dan Thorpe, Mike McNaboe, George Murray, Jane Millar, Meryl Wilford

**Apologies:** Jon Willis

**Matters Arising:** Minutes of last meeting were approved.

GM confirmed suggestion of a dual registration system due to difficulties associated with the variety of communication methods required to reach all members.

**Action Point.** CC to fwd software package to GM for registration scheme.

Water Policy- update to new trial hosepipe policy to be advertised to the membership.

**Action point.** JM/Amy to upload information to website. *Secretary's note- events around the TW Hosepipe Ban have intervened.*

Children's Allotment- Netting not fully effective. We are still waiting on CA's PLI document.

**Action Point.** JW to pursue document.

Skip-Howard reports abuse by members bringing home waste for disposal. Still a large pile of wood waste remaining. Proposed to amalgamate all waste wood into one heap as far from shop without blocking lane and cover with tarp until it is appropriate to burn.

**Action Points.** CC to order tarp. JM/Amy to post notice asking members not to interfere with covered heap or deposit any more waste. GM, ML to liaise with Howard to amalgamate heaps.

**Financial Report:** As agreed in the previous meeting, the Children's Allotment has now started paying £85 per month for water and electricity. Meters will be read every 6 months (April/October) and amount will be adjusted as necessary.

Clare Ferguson has agreed to do 5 hours/month maintenance work on the site, including clearing of public spaces. She will bill monthly in arrears.

Expenditure - both card reader and tablet needed to be replaced - total cost £130  
- as agreed at last meeting, a skip was organised, costing £492  
- £1000 spend on shop items since last meeting.

**Membership Report:** Since the last Committee meeting 18 people on the waiting have been invited to a series of allocation meeting and we have welcomed 5 new allotmenters.

The waiting list now stands at 23 with the oldest name on the list being 17 April 2025.

We have 5 vacant plots that are in medium condition totalling 20 poles. There are a further 8 plots totalling 40 poles that have been abandoned and vacant for over a year.

A plot inspection took place in May with a series of emails being sent to members whose plots were overgrown, this has led to a number of resignations but also leniency has shown to a number of plot

holders who are experiencing health issues or other issues that have prevented them from cultivating their plot.

**Resignations:** JM and GM to stand down from committee and all responsibilities from the next AGM. Thanks were given by the committee for their contributions. The following expressed a willingness to continue; ML, DT, MW, CC. TF to step back from responsibilities but will remain on committee. VB possibly leaving but happy to carry on in shop.

**Action Point:** MW to begin process of recruiting committee members.

**New Structure of Organisation:** Tasks include finding volunteer directors, take existing constitution and convert into company articles, establish relationship between directors and committee.

All committee members were asked to comment on their opinion of change of structure and options for that change. CC proposed change to company structure. JM, ML, VB, TF agreed to pursuit of company structure. DT expressed disillusionment with path of progress but resigned to inevitability. MW had mixed feelings but pragmatic about limitations of co-op model. GM emphasised need to get JW on board with any change in structure. Co-op structure seen to be impractical but there is a need to keep people included despite powers devolving to directors.

The committee will prepare a proposal to be presented to the next AGM set for 12<sup>th</sup> October. A sub group will be raised to take proposal forward in preparation of the next AGM.

**Action Point:** CC to arrange meetings for subgroup.

**Potential Changes to Association Rules:** There were several proposals for amendments to bonfire policy. Unrestricted burning at limited times in winter was strongly opposed. Simplicity in new rule interpretation emphasised. If summer burning is to be further restricted then we need to define summer in the rules.

**Use of Funds to Clear Plots:** Offers have come in to help clear plots but the problem is so great now and members cannot be expected to maintain an open ended commitment to keep vacant plots clear. There was a proposal to front refurbishment costs to clear plots and pass costs (possibly over several years) on to potential allottees by providing 'serviced plots'.

**Action Point:** GM to liaise with JW and Clare F to move things forward.

**Cultivation Standards:** Plots range from derelict to model. GM suggested that guidelines may need to be tightened and enforced more quickly. Creative workarounds subverting guideline enforcement such as 'no mow May', rewilding and no dig may need to be addressed to prevent scope for pushback and evasion. Specific issue of George Monbiot's ex-plot may need to be raised at the AGM. GM suggested a 'Membership Team' rather than officer in order to spread workload.

**ODS Update:** CC suggested suspending works until taps are turned off for winter.

## **AOB**

None

**Date of Next Meeting-11th September 2025**