

Exmouth & District Allotment Association Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Venue: By Zoom
Date: Wednesday 20th July 2022
Time: 7pm- 9pm
Attendance: John Barwick, Cheryl Chessum, Councillor David Poor, Carolyn Priest, Stewart Shram, John Singleton, Jan Wells

Apologies: Councillor Olly Davey, Janet Cuff, Annie Goodman, Julia Jacobs
Absent:

Chair: Cheryl Chessum

Minutes: Jan Wells

		ACTION BY WHOM	ACTION BY WHEN
1.	Welcome and Confidentiality Statement and declarations of conflict of interest	CC	
2.	Minutes of the Last Meeting The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 22 nd June 2022 (version 3) were accepted as a true and accurate record. A pdf version can now be published on the website.	JB/JS CC/JS	End of July 2022
3.	Matters Arising from last meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules review – cold frames. JB confirmed he had researched and carefully worded the cold frame rule amendment to reflect health and safety concerns relating to visibility of structures and materials used in construction. The newly worded amendment was approved by the committee. It was agreed that the rules review was now complete. CC to send out a final draft to committee members this evening for sign off. The rules will then be submitted to the next full Town Council meeting for approval. It was confirmed that all changes would be highlighted for easy identification. • Bamboo invasion from Bronte Court (HL183) CC stated that she was unable to confirm the extent of the problem as the area at the back of the plot in question was heavily overgrown and inaccessible. CC will contact Bronte Court to follow up the issue. 	CC CC	17 th August 2022 17 th August 2022
4.	Chair's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal damage and security issues CC summarized the recent criminal damage that had taken place in and around HL allotment site. The incident happened at around 05:00am on a 		

	<p>Sunday morning and is believed to involve one individual. Damage included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ damage to the key-safe to enable access to toilet store cupboard was smashed open, CCTV camera, toilet mirror and a glass window brick at the community building ○ Damage to cars on Hamilton Road and an attempted break-in ○ Multiple shed break-ins across the HL site ○ 2 beehives overturned on one plot and a gas canister emptied and discarded on another plot. <p>No items were reported stolen. All allotment holders affected by the damage have been asked to log the incident with the police who have supported logging the crimes.</p> <p>A wildlife camera on a plot caught a grainy image of the perpetrator and this has been passed on to the police. It has now been placed on the ID sought pages for identification.</p> <p>CC asked JS to update plot holders regarding the incident and will provide some information to be published on mass email.</p> <p>In a further incident a plot holder in the Kingston Road area reported seeing two well-dressed women with carrier bags walking along the allotment road. When challenged they ran off. There is concern they were planning to steal produce.</p> <p><i>As a result of these incidents plot holders have been asked to close and lock the site gates whenever they enter or leave the site.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aggressive behaviour A plot holder (HL226B), with a previous history of being verbally abusive on site (Aug 2019, March 2020), has again verbally abused and threatened another plot holder who asked him to shut the site gate. He threatened to use a shotgun to harm them. <p>CC/JB/JC experienced a further tirade when he visited the shop on Wednesday 20th July to complain about the gate shutting policy. His tirade was incoherent in structure but centred around a number of people/institutions who he felt had wronged him in the past. These included a bank manager, the council (who he accused of taking his money) and the government. He was verbally abusive and threatened again to shoot various individuals.</p> <p>It was agreed that this was a police matter in the first instance in case he is the owner of a firearm. CC will speak to the police about the matter. Once this situation is clarified disciplinary steps can be taken to terminate the plot holder's tenure (in line with EDAA rules).</p> <p>DP asked that Lisa Bowman (as a council employee and plot holder) be informed of the incident.</p>	<p>CC/JS</p> <p>CC</p> <p>CC</p> <p>CC</p>	<p>End of July 2022</p> <p>17th August 2022</p> <p>17th August 2022</p> <p>17th August 2022</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collapsing wall on boundary of PL. Not practical to access from PL site. CP will follow up again with the neighbour who has said he will send a photo of the problematic wall. Shade from oak tree. An oak tree is casting heavy shade over two gardens that back onto the PL site. DP stated that advice must be sought from the planning committee before any work is done on the tree. <p>A Highways Agency report has identified a dead tree on the boundary, which requires attention. CP will check to see if there is a visual marker/sign on the tree. A course of action will be discussed with Shane on his next visit.</p> <p>Hamilton Lane CC requested help with clearing the brambles and bindweed from the wildlife pond area. Once the ground has softened after some rain, it was agreed a working party would be formed to tackle the issue.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>CC/JB</p>	<p>17th August 2022</p> <p>17th August 2022</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Site Co-ordinators reports Pound Lane PL 49 has been divided to form 2 plots. One is vacant. PL 9 has been divided to form 3 plots PL 28 is proving difficult to let as it has previously been sprayed with glyphosate PL 65B is vacant PL 66B is vacant PL 56 is still vacant and being tidied due to its poor state. PL 69A and 15B have been let</p> <p>Hamilton Lane 87B and 128A are available to be let. They may need to be strimmed prior to letting. HL 237. Plot holder contacted due to the poor state of the plot. The plot holder has had a number of personal difficulties to deal with. They may reduce to a half plot at rent renewal in January.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>JJ</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DP confirmed that obtaining access to a meeting room (for EDAA Committee Meetings) at the Town Hall was still under discussion. JB reported an issue with a trailer parked on HL 80A (adapted plot). The key to the trailer lock no longer works so the trailer will need to be manually lifted off the plot prior to Shane starting work. JB stated that he had found a very helpful Allotment Health and Safety Checklist on the Welsh Government Website. This can be found at : <u>Allotment Site Management Toolkit Social Farms & Gardens (farmgarden.org.uk)</u> It was agreed that September's meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th September 2022 as a number of EDAA members are unavailable on the original date. 	<p>DP</p>	<p>17th August 2022</p>

10.	Date and time of next meeting Third Wednesday every month – Wednesday 17th August 2022, 7pm. All until further notice by Zoom.		
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