

EDAA management changes and update – 28th October 2019

Since August there have been a number of personnel changes on the EDDA management committee and it is overdue that the current membership and structure is shared with you all and how in the short and longer term the management of the Association will continue.

Karol Stannard – chair stood down at the end of August bringing forward her plan to step down at the February AGM. Karol was a very strong lead for us at our meetings and brought good discipline and process, whilst making sure our deliberations stayed focussed and outcomes were achieved.

Dawn Witkiss resigned from the committee at the end of August but continues to site co-ordinate an area of plots and remains actively involved with the polytunnel project and the new veg growers course to be offered in February. We are very much appreciating Dawns ongoing help and support.

Gill Payne - Secretary resigned from her role the beginning of September, earlier than planned and was originally stepping down in February after several years of dedicated hard work in a complex, huge and demanding role. Gill continues to support the Association through the Hamilton Lane shop and has lots of knowledge and information we will continue to draw on in coming months and beyond.

Roger Payne – President resigned in early September too likewise after many years of valuable input and support too huge to mention, in all areas of Association management and day to day running . Fortunately once again Roger continues to support the Association through the shop and activities related to club management as well as being another ‘font of all knowledge’.

However this has resulted in a change in committee composition. It is earlier than anticipated and we have to manage the absences of key officers. As a committee we need to acknowledge there is much locally being spoken about the reasons for the resignations and speculations in all sorts of ways about what will happen in the future to the Association. As a committee we will not be explaining the actions of the people who decided to resign and those who did not. As a committee any explanation is a perception and opinion based on conversations between people and a consensus of opinion would not be reached. As a committee we continue to regard those conversations as a matter of privacy.

Many ploholders will hold the view we should have shared this information before now under the circumstances and we will, as exceptional things occur, take this into consideration.

Officers of the committee have met with the Town Clerk to ensure the continued close working relationship. The Association manages all the allotments on behalf of the Town Council ‘one of its assets’ and has been fully informed of recent personnel changes and

how we are continuing to work on the day to day management issues as well as longer term plan and projects. The Town Clerk Lisa wants to help us with increasing our resilience with the administration into the future and we have discussed new ways of working within the association. These are being explored to increase wider participation of members wherever possible.

We have a huge variety of people with a broad skill set on the allotments and we would like to find a structure that allows us to take advantage of these without overburdening them with other management tasks but just call on what people feel able and want to offer. As soon as we have put together what we think the right approach we will share this with the wider membership but it will be an affiliated rather than membership role and would welcome any members speaking with any committee member if they wish to volunteer some skill or time.

Attached below is a copy of the current structure.

Exmouth District Allotment Association

Management Structure

OFFICERS

President

Janet Cuff co-opted

Vice President

currently vacant

Chair

Tony Hunter co-opted

Pound Lane

Vice Chair

Cheryl Chessum

Hamilton Lane

Secretary

Currently vacant

Treasurer

John Barwick

Hamilton Lane

Committee members

Eddie Cowley

Hamilton Lane

Annie Goodman

Pound Lane

Julia Jacobs

Hamilton Lane

Carolyn Priest

Pound Lane

John Singleton

Hamilton Lane

Name	position	site	Roles – current
John Barwick	Treasurer	HL	Financial management, accounts and oversight and financial security and governance.
Cheryl Chessum	Vice Chair	HL	Supporting chairperson and deputising where necessary, admin, social events, supporting site coordinators with plot coordination
Eddie Cowley	Member	HL	Toilets, monitoring site maintenance needs and management support
Janet Cuff	Co-opted president	HL	Advice to committee, disputes, site management and lets, and plot coordination and coordinating maintenance, shop cover
Annie Goodman	Member	PL	Plot coordination, working parties, events, shop cover
Tony Hunter	Co-opted Chair	PL	Lead meetings, disputes, Site coordination , site projects and working parties, shop stock and shop cover
Julia Jacobs	Member	HL	Site and plot coordination, monitor plots for necessary maintenance, social events
Carolyn Priest	Member	PL	News, site plot coordination, working parties, social and site events, shop cover
John Singleton	Member	HL	Website, plot coordination, polytunnel project, veg growing course

Proposal for updating management structure.

Affiliate membership – people that offer specific skills and contribution to management and maintenance of EDAA sites.

All Officers, members and affiliated members will be current ploholders.

This is a proposed new title in recognition of this contribution which allows officers/committee members to delegate specific tasks with lines of communication to them and offering oversight and guidance.

Aim is to reduce the burden on specific roles and reduce risk if we lose the contribution of volunteers. With the role of affiliated members it is hoped we can secure more volunteers to take on the management of the sites in good order and share the administration which falls on the secretary and can be difficult to fill.

All roles will link to the overall maintenance and management of the sites. However they will be in regular contact with a member of the management committee.

There is no technical limit to the number of committee members – these can be elected at the AGM or co-opted following nomination during the interim period. At the AGM all co-opted and elected members stand down and have to complete nomination forms and put themselves forward for election at the AGM. Therefore new members are always welcome.

Affiliated members will not be required to join the committee, nor attend committee meetings which we know is a barrier to joining the committee but will have lines of communication about their roles with specified officers or members. They will not receive minutes or agendas. The proceedings of the committee meetings will remain confidential and not shared with affiliated members. From meetings it could be agreed that affiliated members may be asked to do things in line with their volunteer role and skill set and see if they can help.

We hope therefore that the running of the association becomes more transparent and seamless to wider number of ploholders. We aim to increase transparency, openness and communication with our ploholders as it can be very mysterious to those outside the management committee about how their association is run.

As EDAA we hold some data on ploholders, it is personal data and not sensitive personal data. We have a privacy policy which reflects the protection and management of that data. However if we are to achieve breaking down the role of secretary to include affiliated members doing specific tasks ie rent renewals and maintaining data bases using up to date software for ease of management and communication then the privacy policy will be updated and ratified accordingly. Each affiliated member who needs access to personal data to undertake their delegated role will sign a non-disclosure agreement and which also commits them to adhere by the privacy policy.

