

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE ROBERT STEWART MEMORIAL HALL, WINGROVE ROAD, FENHAM

The meeting was well attended by over 45 members and Peter Whewell was in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Harry Carter, David Lancaster, Julia Roxburgh and David Walter.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held in January 2010 had been circulated to the membership and were confirmed as being a true record of that meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2010

See attached.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The surplus of £4,800 in the Association's accounts was the bee grant which has not yet been spent. There is a deficit of £630. A backlog of trophy engraving had used up most of the profits made by the 2010 Show.

5. TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The Trading Hut's income had risen by £302 and the purchase of new products accounted for the £1,160 rise in expenditure. Prices were likely to rise in the future because of the rise in VAT. As a result of questionnaires completed by members in 2010 the Trading Hut now offers a broader range of organic stock, sharp sand and three varieties of bird seed. A supply of scaffolding planks was available; four varieties of seed potatoes would be available at the end of January at 80p/kilo. The Trading Hut manager was working with seed companies to obtain discount prices for individual members and/or the Association. The new sign board has attracted more associate members who are charged £1 for a year's membership and passersby often ask if Moorside sells its surplus produce; the Association is not allowed to sell this commercially but donations are accepted. The manager thanked Nicola Loose for taking care of the cash, Susan Hrisos for stock control and all the volunteers who gave up two hours per month to run the Trading Hut. New volunteers were always needed.

6. SITE MAINTENANCE

Keeping the outsides of plots and driveways tidy has always been an issue at Moorside; it is the prime responsibility of individual members to do so. The Committee has considered ways of helping individuals who have difficulty maintaining the driveways and especially so on crosspaths where the maintenance area is considerably greater. The meeting affirmed the motion that the primary responsibility for keeping tidy and trim the outside of their plots and the adjoining driveway rests with the plothead. The meeting also agreed to the formation of a maintenance group to keep tidy and trim driveways not adjacent to plots and to assist those plotheaders who require help; the responsibility remains with plotheaders to request help from the maintenance group if needed. The communal lawnmower was awaiting repair; this can be used by all members with fuel supplied from the Trading Hut.

7. RENT FOR 2011

A discussion document on the rent for 2011 had been distributed to members. The meeting affirmed the principle that rents should cover the basic running costs of the Association. The rental charged for the site by the Council would not be known until April 2011; it was feasible that if the site rental was higher than anticipated then the membership would be asked to pay an additional rent. The meeting also affirmed the principle that the Association will continue to be socially inclusive by offering a substantial discount to concessionary members; Moorside offers in excess of a 20% concession to its members. A motion to set

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the rent for 2011 at £55 per full plot (£40 per concessionary full plot) and £30 per half plot (£23.50 per concessionary half plot) was questioned from the floor. Historically, a higher rent had been charged for half plots to discourage the halving of plots. A further motion to reduce the rent for a half plot to exactly half that charged for a full plot was agreed by the meeting, making the rent in 2011 for a half plot £27.50 (£20 per concessionary half plot). An additional motion from the floor to set a higher rent of £60 for a full plot was not agreed.

8. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

A motion to establish a category of honorary membership for past members who have contributed greatly to the running or wellbeing of the Association was proposed - such members would have a key to the site and could come and go as they pleased; this motion was agreed by the meeting. A motion to give honorary members voting rights was not agreed. A motion proposing Rob Germany as an honorary member was seconded and agreed; as a member, Rob had edited the Association's newsletter and had co-run the Garden Club

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Association's policy of letting only half plots to new tenants was questioned; there was a danger of Moorside becoming a site composed only of half plots. It is now the Council's policy to allocate half plots to plotholders who can then proceed to a full plot by being put on a waiting list. Moorside operates two waiting lists; new tenants are allocated a half plot in the first instance and are put on a second waiting list for a full plot if they so wish. Most new members are, however, happy with a half plot. The necessity for associations to let only half plots would be obviated if the Council were to supply more land for allotments.

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2011

Prior to the meeting, eight people had been proposed and seconded for Committee membership:

Sue Brophy, Krys Gaffney, Sue Johnson, Nicola Loose, Sue Pownall, John Reid, Peter Whewell and Tony Whittle. They were all elected to the Committee.

A vote of thanks for the work done by the Committee was extended from the floor.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.