

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2015 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

PRESENT: Sue Pownall (in the Chair), Krys Gaffney, Sue Brophy, Nicola Francis, Sue Johnson, Frank Lightfoot, Steve McDonnell and Tony Whittle.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from John Reid.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 7 July 2015 had been distributed to Committee members. **NF** had obtained a form for changing the signatories on the Santander bank accounts; **NF**, **KG** and **SJ** (to replace **PW**) would be the signatories with any two to sign. The main account is used for rents, general bills and extraordinary purchases. It was noted that there was also a key money account and a grant account. It was unanimously agreed that **PW** be replaced as a signatory by **SJ** and that the form be submitted accordingly. **NF** had obtained a duplicate paying-in book for the HSBC bank for use by the Trading Hut and Plant Scheme. The strimmer had been serviced and the generator needed to be serviced. **FL** knew someone who may be able to service petrol-powered equipment and would contact him and report back to the next meeting. **SP** was investigating the available types of visor to buy for use with the strimmer and other mechanical equipment hired out from the Trading Hut; **NF** suggested Screwfix as being a possible supplier. **SM** had prepared a health and safety advice sheet for the new member pack which he would email to all committee members for consideration. **SP/SJ** also had advisory paragraphs to complete for new members, e.g. wildlife, water and toilets, all to be included in the pack. **SJ** had been researching lockable first aid kits; the range of contents that can be stored in a first aid kit is limited and a simple kit (which did not need to be kept locked) could be kept on the outside of the Trading Hut; new members would be advised to carry their own. Richard Littlewood was enhancing the website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF reported that there was £7,000 in the Trading Hut and Plant Scheme account but as monies were going out this would reduce to about £6,000. At around £440, the water bill had not been unreasonable but the amount varies from year to year. The second tranche of the rent was due to be paid in September. The Allotments Officer normally has a budget of £60,000 to spend on various projects but this amount will drop to around £40,000 because of concessionary rents. £300-400 is deducted from Moorside's rent bill due to concessions and the association relies on members' statements about their eligibility for concessions. Pensioners are defined as people aged 65 and over. **NF** agreed to provide a current financial statement on the Moorside activities for each future meeting.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

There was little of note for **SP** to report.

MOORSIDE'S SUCCESS IN CITY ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION

SP had written to the Moorside winners in the City Allotments Competition; details of the winners are on the website. Moorside had won third prize as the best large site; it was suggested that visits to other winning sites would be an informative exercise and she agreed to email committee members relevant contact details with a view to their making their own individual arrangements.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

There were now 26 people on the waiting list and no plots had been let during July. **SP** had joined the team on their inspection and had met the tenant on plot 101a. **FL** and **SM** had advised the tenant of plot 97 on how to suppress grass growth between his plantings. It was felt that the tenants of plot 91 were losing their incentive to work the garden and **SP** would write to them. **SP** had spoken to the tenant on plot 90a. The tenant on plot 83 was suffering health problems; **SM** offered his help and **KG** offered to trim his box hedge; **SP** would contact him accordingly. **SP** would also discuss cultivation

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standards with the Comfrey Project. The tenant on plots 68 and 69 had not responded to any correspondence; **KG** would trace the letters he had been sent and report to the next meeting. The standard of cultivation on the plots was good overall and especially on the plots of newcomers.

NAWG MATTERS

Item on concessionary rents already covered under Treasurer's Report. **SP** advised that the ploholders eligible for concessions may be asked in future to provide proof of their status although this was very much at discussion stage within the NAWG members at the moment.

BEE GROUP

There was little to report; it was quiet and the bees were doing what bees normally do in August...

OTHER SITE GROUPS

Bee Garden group: **SB** would be weaving the willows in the garden. **KG** would weed the flags outside the garden and generally tidy up.

Newsletter group: the newsletter was nearing completion. A bank of wildlife photos would be set up for use in future issues of the newsletter. **FL** had a selection available as required.

SHOW COMMITTEE

The show brochure was being finalised and a photo was needed for the front cover. Volunteers were needed on Friday 11 September to set up the marquees.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ The membership database had been updated and could be distributed to committee members who needed to use it, e.g. for emailing out the newsletter, making up show day literature for each ploholder. It was acknowledged that not all members complete a rent form at the start of the year to update their contact details and **SP** recommended this should be tightened up, particularly as some ploholders had not even given a telephone number for contact purposes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 1 September 2015 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre. There will be a plot inspection at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.

KG

29 August 2015