

# MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Peter Whewell and John Reid.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 7 April 2015 had been distributed to Committee members. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

John Mead wanted to formally take over the tenancy of plot 26; there was no objection to this as he had been working the garden on his mother's behalf for some time. The site rent had been paid to the council. **KG** would order another skip for the end of May. The reason for asking members to empty compost sacks into the skip was that it allowed the rubbish to bed down and made more efficient use of the space available.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NF** reported that the last outstanding rent would show in the most recent bank statement. The association's finances were in a healthy state.

### **TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT**

**SP** reported that the Mantis rotovator was available for hire at £5 per session. Members who use the equipment need to be trained and **SP** would raise the matter at the next NAWG meeting and also with the Allotments Officer. There had been requests to use the association's equipment off-site; such requests had been refused since it was felt that the equipment is for the use of Trading Hut customers and Moorside members on the site. Wheelbarrows are now stored in the hut. The central gate is being left unlocked on a regular basis; the chains on the locks need to be longer. Sales in the Trading Hut were good; sales of the raised beds had made £325 for the Alzheimer's Society. Tony Francis continues to repair the lawnmower; a new one would be bought when the current mower is beyond repair.

### **WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION**

No more plots had been let. There were 18 people on the waiting list but 5 of them are deferring. James White would like to be re-added to the waiting list. **TW** would contact the tenant on plot 90a to clarify how the garden was being worked. Multiple structures and greenhouses were beginning to appear on some plots; this was acceptable providing that they did not take up more than 25% of the garden and were positioned appropriately. The tenant on plot 63b had asked for a conifer to be cut down to make room for fruit trees; **SP** would consult the Allotments Officer. **PW** had put forward **SM's** four plots for independent inspection by the AWG; this had arisen because the inspection team had been unable to reach agreement at the inspection on 7 April. The NAWG representatives found the plots to be satisfactory. **FL** asked for clarification on the position and powers of the Chairman in such cases. It was felt that the matter could not be discussed at length since **PW** was not present to address any concerns.

### **BEE GROUP**

Hamid Haykal had agreed not to re-site his hive.

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## **NAWG MATTERS**

**SP** would be attending the next meeting on 14 May. Judging for the Newcastle Allotment Competition normally takes place during the week commencing 6 July.

## **PLANT SCHEME**

Plants for sale were being left outside and only tender plants were being taken back to the greenhouses.

## **OTHER SITE GROUPS**

**Bee Garden group:** work in the garden was progressing; **SB** and **KG** would be shopping for new plants.

**Newsletter group:** **SP** would welcome contributions to the newsletter.

## **SHOW COMMITTEE**

Flyers for the show had been prepared. Volunteers were needed to put up the marquees and help would be needed on the day to run the various stalls.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

◆ There were a lot of dandelions on the paths; members are responsible for keeping pathways outside their plots tidy. **SP** would reiterate this message in the newsletter.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 2 June 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.