

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2015 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Pownall and John Reid.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 3 March 2015 had been distributed to Committee members. **FL** had installed some nest-boxes around the site. **SJ** was investigating a petrol-powered tipper truck instead of a battery-powered one. Colin Storey was delighted to be offered honorary membership of Moorside and his key would be restored to him.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF reported that only one rent was outstanding and would shortly circulate an updated membership list.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SJ (in **SP's** absence on holiday) reported that sales in the Trading Hut were buoyant; £290 had been made in one session and opening on a bank holiday had generated £52 in sales. A delivery of paraffin was imminent. One wheelbarrow had disappeared and the inside of the wastebin had gone missing. The central gate is being left unlocked on a regular basis. **SP** would need to be reimbursed £120 spent on print-ready pdfs for the newsletter. **TW** had bought two new wheelbarrows for £63. **SJ** asked for access to cheques for occasions when **NF** was away.

MEETING WITH TIM TOWNSHEND AT 6.00 PM

Tim is from the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at Newcastle University; his research centres around human health and wellbeing and the environment, and people's interaction with nature. Allotments are a force for good and are good for the community. His colleague is interested in food production and healthy ageing and also in technology; he is part of a digital interaction group that analyses research data and how it can be applied to solving problems. Tim and his collaborator are looking for suggestions from allotment sites for a topic to research; the research would be funded by the *Institute for Ageing*. A focus group, consisting of 6 to 8 people gathered from several allotment sites, would decide the issues to be discussed. The committee agreed that Moorside supported the research project in principle as it was felt that it would be up to individual members to decide whether to become involved in the venture.

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS

There were 14 people on the waiting list but as 5 of them were returning the number came down to 9.

TW had let the following plots:

56a - Anya and Lawrence Bonner (no longer John and Christina Cranford)

63b - Bridget Deane

74a & b - Andreas Welz

99 - Lat Allman

107b - Charles Fox

109a - Charis Docherty

All plots were now let and congratulations to **TW** for his hard work.

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BEE GROUP

There bees were starting to fly. The new tenant on plot 107b had expressed an interest in beekeeping; **SJ** and **TW** would discuss this with him. Hamid Haykal wanted to re-site his hive but as it is the wrong time of year to move hives, **SJ** and **TW** would discourage him from doing so.

NAWG MATTERS

Plants Plus would be sponsoring the City Show; this amounted to £1,000 for the cost of hiring the sports centre venue.

PLANT SCHEME

The early plants started by the scheme were selling well. **SJ** had seeds to raise autumn plants for sale at the Moorside show.

OTHER SITE GROUPS

Bee Garden group: work in the garden was progressing.

Newsletter group: work on the newsletter was awaiting **SP's** return from holiday.

SHOW COMMITTEE

Arrangements for the show were under control. More raffle prizes were needed.

MOORSIDE NEW TENANTS ADVICE LEAFLET

PW would remind committee members about the articles they were meant to contribute to the leaflet.

EASTER SKIP

The Easter skip had been delayed because the Allotments Officer was signing off jobs for the last financial year. It was hoped that a skip would arrive within the next fortnight.

PRINTING THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND RULES

The cost of printing 200 copies would be £78.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

◆ Letters would be sent to 4 or 5 members as a result of today's inspection.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 5 May 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 6.45 p.m.