

# MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 2015 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

There were no **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 9 December 2014 had been distributed to Committee members. **PW** had written to the tenant on plot 55 about the siting of his greenhouse and also to six other members about rubbish on their plots.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**KG** had received a cheque for locks from the council.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NF** was working on the Association's accounts; keeping rents at current levels would result in a significant shortfall in revenue. Rents have not risen for two years and members have been warned that the Council rent was due to rise in 2015. **NF** recommended a £15 rise per plot; the rent for a full plot would be £70 and £35 for a half-plot; the corresponding concessionary rents would be £55 and £27.50. The insurance for Moorside had been renewed with full PLI cover although a premium would still be paid to the Council for their insurance. To avoid the onerous administration involved, the Nunsmoor Centre would be booked for meetings for six months in advance. The completed show accounts revealed that the 2014 show had made a profit of £200. The paraffin return would need to be completed by 21 January 2015.

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

**SP** had ordered a lot of new stock and the seed potatoes had arrived. Sales were gradually improving with bird food and paraffin selling well; there was a shortage of canisters for paraffin. The newsletter would be ready for the AGM.

### **WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS**

There were 27 people on the waiting list. Plot 92 had been let to Marjolaine Drew and plot 4 to John Ludlow. The tenant on plot 93b now had the other half of the plot. The tenant on plot 63a would move to plot 36 after the AGM and the tenant on plot 77 would be leaving. The future of Nunsmoor Allotments was uncertain; members had been given three month's notice to vacate their plots but they would not be offered plots at Moorside ahead of others on the waiting list.

### **BEE GROUP**

The bees were quiet. There was debate about whether there should be a maximum of six or eight beehives on the site.

### **NAWG MATTERS**

Item already covered under Waiting list, Lettings and Inspections.

### **PLANT SCHEME**

The group would be meeting next week. Volunteers were needed for the scheme; it was agreed that Terry, an Associate member, would be suitable as a volunteer. Greenhill Allotments were interested in setting up their own plant scheme and **SJ** would be able to supply them with pots.

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## SITE GROUPS FOR 2015

**Bee Garden group:** work on the garden would continue through the winter months.

**Newsletter group:** there was inconclusive discussion about the future of the newsletter.

## 2015 CONSTITUTION AND RULES

**NF** had circulated an updated version of the constitution to the committee but members at the AGM would want to know what specific changes had been made. The new version would need to be validated at the AGM.

## 2015 AGM ON WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY

There would be four questions to members on the rent form, asking for volunteers for the Trading Hut, the plant scheme, the maintenance group and helping out on show day. The issue of the newsletter would be discussed under AOB. **NF** suggested that more use should be made of contacting members via email. **PW** would include possible projects and spending for 2015 in the Chairman's report; suggestions so far included buying a small generator, a laminator, wheelbarrows and a new Sherpa truck. **SM's** 7-minute film of an overview of Moorside life would be screened at the start of the AGM at 7.30 p.m.

## FLY-TIPPING ON VERGES

Topsoil, tree chippings and four lots of manure had been deposited on the verges outside Moorside, from unknown sources, over several weeks. The Allotments Officer had supplied official 'no fly-tipping' notices bearing the City crest which would be posted at the gates.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

◆ Money from the bee grant was still available. **KG** and **SB** would be buying new plants for the bee garden in 2015 and **FL** suggested that bird-boxes should be bought for tree bees.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 3 February 2015 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.**

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.