

## **MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

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

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Sue Brophy.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 1 September 2015 had been distributed to Committee members. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The site rent for the second half of the year had been paid.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NF** was finalising the show accounts; some engraving costs were still outstanding but the show had made a small profit. It was agreed that the public address system had worked well at the show. **NF** would send off the completed forms for changing signatories on the Santander bank accounts. **SP** and **SJ** would do a stocktake at the end of November. The AGM would be held on Wednesday 27 January 2016; 21 day's notice of the AGM had to be given to the membership and the literature would be sent out before Christmas; the hall would need to be booked. **NF** would review the final accounts to determine whether a change to rents would be necessary but needed confirmation from the Allotments Officer about any change to the site rental for 2016. **SP** would discuss concessions with NAWG. A new pop-up gazebo would be purchased for the 2016 show. Members need to submit rent forms to inform the association of changes in their contact details; it was suggested that members should be provided with a form pre-filled from our records and be asked to inform the committee if any of their personal information was incorrect.

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

**SP** would not be buying any more soil conditioner. The manure supplier was retiring so would not be providing any more manure; **SP** would thank him for the service he had provided to the association over the years. Chicken manure and volcanic rock dust can be used instead of farmyard manure and both are available in the Trading Hut.

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

There were 23 people on the waiting list; plots 45 and 91 had been let to two new tenants. There would be no more inspections in 2015; it was proposed that there should be an inspection shortly before the AGM in January 2016 to assess the state of the gardens.

#### **RECENT BREAK-INS**

On the night of 1 October, the chain on the middle gate had been cut but the lock had been left. The chain and lock from the top gate leading to the Town Moor had been taken; the gate had been secured with keys for use by those who have right of way. **SP** had contacted the police who would ensure that they patrolled the area; she had also spoken to the Allotments Officer to determine whose responsibility it was to pay for replacement locks in future in such circumstances.

#### **BEE GROUP**

The bees were calming down and preparing to overwinter. The bee inspector had discovered a case of European Foul Brood in Chester-le-Street. To monitor possible infection, beekeepers would need to inform the committee where they were sourcing bees from and **SJ** would prepare a notice for the website and noticeboards.

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### NAWG MATTERS

CCTV on Moorside would be the subject of a large report. Individual cameras are not allowed on sites because of child protection and other issues. The Plant Scheme would like to erect a polytunnel on plot 86; this would have an impact on other gardeners and the 25%/75% ratio of structures on plots and needed the assent of the management committee.

### OTHER SITE GROUPS

**Bee Garden group:** there was nothing to report.

**Newsletter group:** noticeboards would be annotated directing members to where new information is located.

### PLANT SCHEME - END OF SEASON REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The scheme had wound up for 2015. Expenditure had amounted to around £661 and the turnover was approximately £1,300 (as it had been in 2014); more monies needed to be added so the final total would probably be higher. Catalogues were beginning to arrive for next year's seed orders. Bulbs grown last autumn had not sold well and would not be planted this autumn. Nigel Wood had offered DIY help during the winter months.

### 2015 SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There had been a good turnout at the show despite the weather. **SJ** was stepping down from the show committee.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ A skip would need to be ordered (through the Allotments Officer) for the week of half-term, in the last week of October.
- ◆ **SP** would liaise with Tony Francis about turning off the water supply; it is normally turned off when frosts are forecast.
- ◆ Bonfires would be allowed from 1 November and the usual hedgehog warning would be posted.
- ◆ The users of the disabled garden were putting garden rubbish behind the toilet block; they would be offered a compost bin to compost their waste. **SM** or Plant Scheme may have a spare bin, otherwise one could be bought from Moorside funds.
- ◆ Colin Storey, now an honorary member, needed to have his key returned to him so that he could access the site.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

**KG**

**1 November 2015**