

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2016 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

There were no **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 6 September 2016 had been distributed to Committee members. John Reid had been given a special award at the Moorside Show.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF had paid the second half of the site rental to the Council. Rents at Moorside would not need to be raised in 2017 unless the Council raises its rent next year. Tony Francis had repaired leaks in the roof of the storage hut by painting with a waterproof sealant. Replacing the huts would be expensive at around £2,000.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

Business was steady and **SP** had received the form for ordering seed potatoes. David Vincent was co-ordinating the *Kings Seeds* scheme. *Thompson & Morgan* was offering 50% off seeds and 20% off plants; order forms were available in the Trading Hut.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

There were 38 people on the waiting list; there had been no new lettings in September. The tenant on plot 33 wanted to erect a 10ft x 8ft greenhouse on his plot; the Inspection Team had approved the proposed siting for the greenhouse and **SP** would contact him to confirm the committee's approval. The member on plot 4 wanted to move one of his greenhouses.

BEE GROUP

Bee activity on the site was quiet.

BEE GARDEN

SB had tidied up the tubs.

NAWG MATTERS

The City show had been a success. Thanks went to Moorside members for donating their surplus produce for sale at the show. The Group was revising the guidelines on buildings, structures and cultivation standards on allotments; some suggestions had been received for consideration from allotment secretaries and a special sub-group was being set up to implement this complex issue.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

SM had ordered 4 signposts, at a cost of £20, to display the guidelines on health and safety which would refer members to the association's booklet. He recommended that a simple form should be compiled for use by the Inspection Team to carry out a risk assessment on each inspection and for Trading Hut volunteers on trading days. There was barbed wire on plot 110 which would have to be removed.

MOORSIDE SHOW GROUP

TW had retired from, and **SM** would be joining, the show committee. The 2016 show had been a success and had broken even; it was felt that leaving the back off the marquee had opened up the site to visitors. **SM's** crazy golf had proved popular. The proposed date for the 2017 show was 9 September. The Trading Hut would not be opened on show day as it generates very little income but still has to be manned. There was discussion about the raffle draw in the event of bad weather causing cancellation of the show. The Show Committee was suggesting that the draw should take

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place at a date after the show to allow for ticket sales; a better suggestion from the main Committee was that the Trading Hut should open on show day for the sale of raffle tickets and that the draw should take place on the day. The Show Committee's next meeting would be on 26 October.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ A depression was forming around the Northumbria Water cover and causing a possible tripping hazard; **SP** would contact them.
- ◆ The wildlife corridor hedge around the perimeter was quietly growing...
- ◆ The plants fronting the site on Fenham Hall Drive had died back and would need clearing; **SB** was happy to do so, with help and with due regard for overwintering wildlife.
- ◆ **SM** has a camera for filming wildlife visiting the site.
- ◆ **KG** would order a skip for half-term.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 1 November 2016 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

KG
28 October 2016