

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Brophy and Nick Coster.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016

SP agreed to continue as Chairperson, **KG** as Secretary, **NF** as Treasurer, **SP** as Trading Hut Manager and **TW** as Lettings Officer. **SP** continued to chair the remainder of the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 5 January 2016 had been distributed to Committee members. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had received a questionnaire from the Allotments Officer requesting information on the breakdown of plots and gardeners, which she would complete and return.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF had not received an excessive number of rents through her letterbox and members were able to pay their rents at the Trading Hut. **SJ** would post the new agreed rent for 2016 on the noticeboards. The rent form would be amended to inform members that cheques should be made payable to 'Moorside Allotments Association'. There was a discussion about whether members experiencing difficulty in paying their rent should be allowed to pay by instalments; it was agreed that consideration would be given in exceptional circumstances to any such cases should they arise.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP had not received any orders for *Thompson & Morgan* seeds. *Desirée* seed potatoes had sold out and others varieties were selling well. **SP** would be ordering a large quantity of seed compost from *CTS*. A delivery of free, well-rotted horse manure was expected. Individual members are able to order their own supply of manure from the previous supplier; **SP** had a contact number for him.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

There were 29 people on the waiting list and plot 101a had been offered to the existing tenants on plot 101b. The Comfrey Project's plots were a cause for concern since no work had been done on them since the autumn; **SP** would contact the project's leader. Plot inspections will begin in April.

NAWG MATTERS

SP had nothing to report.

BEE GARDEN

Winter tidying of the garden was in progress. **KG** had cut down the overgrown honeysuckle between the huts and had taken down the damaged trellis support. The area would be re-planted with bee-friendly plants in the spring.

2016 AGM PLANT SCHEME

There were no objections to **SJ**'s proposal to erect a 4' x 6' shed on plot 86. The garden was in the process of being tidied for the year ahead.

MOORSIDE BEEKEEPERS

Hameed Haykal's bees were causing a problem on his neighbour's plot by using it as their flight path. **TW** and **SJ** had suggested that he should install a screen to divert the bees in their flight; they would draft a letter for **SP** to send to him.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ **SP** had been contacted by Ralph Thoburn who has a colleague with access to community defibrillators. These briefcase-sized devices require an electricity source; the user needs to phone a number printed on the case, is given a number to open the case and is then instructed on how to operate the defibrillator. With a view to having one on the site and possibly using Northumbria Water's power supply, it was agreed to proceed with this enquiry.
- ◆ High winds had brought down large branches of the poplar tree on plot 34, opposite the Trading Hut. **SP**, **TW** and **SJ** had compiled a list of trees on the site that needed attention and would liaise with the council's tree surgeons.
- ◆ There was discussion about resurfacing the middle path between the gate and the Trading Hut ahead of the 2016 show. It was agreed that if the suggested work went ahead, it should be done in stages; it would have to be costed and a grant would be sought to pay for the work.
- ◆ **Site groups:** **TW**, **SB**, **SP**, **SM**, **FL** and **KG** would continue on the **Inspection Team**, **SJ** would continue on the **Plant Scheme**, **SB** and **KG** would continue on the **Bee Garden**, **SP** and **SJ** would continue on the **Newsletter**.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

KG

22 February 2016