

## MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2017 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Sue Brophy, Frank Lightfoot and Tony Whittle.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 2 May 2017 had been distributed to Committee members. The old generator was not covered under the insurance policy since it had not been housed in a dedicated container secured with a 5-lever mortice deadlock conforming to an appropriate British standard. The perimeter fencing would be repaired gradually by the Council. Health and Safety would be included as an item on future agendas.

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

**KG** had received the entry form for the Newcastle Allotment Competition. The closing date for entries was 6 July and it was agreed that the site inspection should be brought forward to Tuesday 27 June at 2.00 p.m. (instead of 4 July) to nominate the plots to be put forward for the City Allotment Competition in time for the deadline.

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

**NF** reported that one rent was still outstanding despite stern reminders; there is some uncertainty as to whether the member had actually paid and **SP** would contact the member concerned to clarify the situation. The first tranche of the rent for 2017 had been paid to the Council. £600 remained in the bee grant.

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

**SJ** had banked around £750 of proceeds from Trading Hut sales for May. **SP** was buying stock only when necessary to avoid carrying an excess in the Trading Hut. A delivery of birdseed was pending.

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

**TW** reported that some assistance was needed on plot 110 to stabilise the beds. The members on plots 59 and 79b would need to be written to about the state of their plots. The members on plot 71 had asked to be moved to another plot since they felt that the garden was unworkable; it was agreed that in line with Moorside Rules, they could not move to another plot while there was a waiting list. The alternative was that they should be given the offer of reverting to a half-plot or added to the bottom of the waiting list for a new plot.

#### **NAWG MATTERS**

NAWG was holding its annual meeting on 15 June. A decision on the devolution of the management of parks and allotments to private trusts was expected. **SP** would emphasise the importance of the meeting on the Moorside website to encourage as many members as possible to attend.

#### **REPORT FROM SHOW GROUP**

Tables for the show would be set up for 7 a.m. and the prizegiving would take place at 2.30 p.m. *She* choir would perform a 20-minute programme by the butterfly garden. Videos on planting potatoes, carrots and parsnips and presentation of produce for showing had been produced. A raffle would be held and there would be a children's tombola on **SM**'s plots. The *Woodland Trust* had been invited to the show. The committee had been asked for nominations for Moorside's long service award; it was agreed that the nominee receive an award that they could retain. Nominations were required for the association's unsung hero award.

#### **2017 PLANT SCHEME**

**SJ** reported that May had been the biggest sales month and £450 had been banked; this was roughly equal to sales in 2016. Sowing of produce for autumn planting (e.g. hollyhocks and spring cabbages) had begun.

## **MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- ◆ The member on plot 7 had submitted an application to erect a greenhouse, relocate the shed and to install a beehive. There were no objections to his proposals and the installation of the beehive would be subject to agreement with his neighbour on plot 8/9a.
- ◆ On 2 June, **FL** had encountered two travellers on the site who were in search of produce; there were others outside the site. The police had been contacted; they have access to the site and would increase their patrols. Leaders of the travelling community would also be approached in connection with this incident.
- ◆ Richard Littlewood would be asked to investigate solar powered CCTV.
- ◆ The committee had confirmed the decision that officers of the association (i.e. Chair, Trading Hut Manager, Treasurer and Secretary) should receive a free plot. **SM** proposed that the Plant Scheme co-ordinator should also receive a free plot. However; **SJ** was adamant that she did not wish to be offered a free plot and declined the offer.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 4 July 2017 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.**

**There will be a plot inspection on Tuesday 27 June at 2.00 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

**KG**

**30 June 2017**