

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2017 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Nick Coster and Nicola Francis

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 7 March 2017 had been distributed to Committee members. It had been necessary to postpone the committee meeting originally scheduled for 4 April since three of the officers (who report to the meeting) and one committee member had been unable to attend with a further two members finding it difficult to be there for all or part of the proposed meeting. **NF** had sent off the renewal for membership of the National Allotment Society. **KG** would order a skip for the Easter weekend. Solar panels to provide the toilets with light and the Trading Hut with heat and lighting would cost around £1,000; Richard Littlewood would be asked to provide detailed costings. A replacement generator would cost in the region of £500 secondhand or just over £1000 to replace with new.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Four rents were still outstanding and **NF** would be sending out further reminder letters to the members concerned.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

Trading Hut sales were improving and **SP** was expecting another delivery of compost. Alpaca manure was available from a supplier in Ponteland. **SP** to try to source.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

TW reported that there were 32 people on the waiting list; some applicants had been deleted from the list since they had not responded to communications from **TW**. The overall appearance of the site was good. The members on plot 56a had taken over the other half of the plot. Plots 7, 14, 20 and 91 had been re-let. The member on plot 79b would be written to and the Inspection team would monitor progress on plot 73b.

NAWG MATTERS

Active Newcastle is a group involved with encouraging people to be active and take exercise. They would like to visit Moorside on Friday 28 April to film activities and then to interview the individuals concerned. **SP** would post details on the website for any volunteers who would be interested in taking part. It was unclear how the plan to devolve the management of parks and allotments to private trusts would affect allotments in particular.

BEE GROUP/BEE GARDEN/BUTTERFLY GARDEN

TW reported that David Rochester's bees were actively collecting pollen and therefore feeding the hive; one of Hamid Haykal's hives had died. The new tenant on plot 7 wanted to bring in bees but his neighbour on plot 8/9a was concerned about the positioning of the hive; it was agreed that **TW** would liaise with them about where the hive should stand and which way it should face. Work was in progress in the bee garden. **FL** had sunk planted pots in the butterfly garden and had sown wildflower seeds. **SP** had also sourced a crab apple tree from Greening Wingrove to add to the area. **FL** to plant.

REPORT FROM SHOW GROUP

It had been suggested that a tombola should replace the raffle at the show and Pat Francis was considering this possibility. Local companies would be asked to donate prizes. There would be no cash prizes for children but it was planned to award 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. It was queried if the show group met too frequently and that the meetings began too early in the year; group members preferred that future meetings should be held in a hired venue, not in individual members' homes; the Treasurer

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had advised that in 2016 cost of the room rental had been allocated against show proceeds, which the Committee agreed. There was little enthusiasm for holding a separate social event for members.

MOORSIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY

SM and **FL** had carried out risk assessments on pathways, fencing, the plants scheme and the male toilets; there was a possible issue of dim lighting in the latter. They had prepared a list of action points resulting from the risk assessments; the noticeboard at the east gate was in a poor state of repair and some perimeter fencing was in need of attention.

2017 PLANT SCHEME

The weather was affecting the scheme's decision on when to open for sales. **SJ** would be starting to harden off plants in the cold frames after Easter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ **FL** objected strongly to the postponement of the committee meeting on 4 April; **SP** apologised for having to postpone the meeting although she considered the reason for doing so was valid.
- ◆ There was discussion about honorary membership at Moorside. At present there are a few honorary members, not all of whom hold keys and in many cases they are unlikely to visit the site. It was agreed that the concept of honorary membership should be discontinued and that the very few current honorary members who do hold keys should be asked to return them to the association.
- ◆ **SM** had offered the use of two beds on his plots to an elderly plothead who was struggling with his own garden but as the plothead had since given up his membership of the association the committee was against his retaining a key for entry to the site as they felt that it may set a precedent.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre. There will be a plot inspection at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

KG

29 April 2017