

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 JANUARY 2017 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 December 2016 had been distributed to Committee members. **SP** had not heard from the Newcastle Building Society about the grant application. There had been a delivery of manure. Mark Gowland, project manager for *FAR*, had requested frogspawn in the spring for his project; **SP** would give **FL** his contact details so that they could liaise.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had received 5 nomination forms for committee membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF was in the process of completing the association's accounts.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP was expecting delivery of the seed potatoes. Paraffin sales had dipped slightly. The winter opening hours did not appear to have affected Trading Hut takings.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

TW had received two new applications which brought the total to 38 people on the waiting list. Tests on the soil at Nunsmoor allotments, carried out on behalf of the Freemen, had revealed high levels of toxins and heavy metals making the ground unsuitable for growing root vegetables.

BEE GARDEN

Clearing had begun in the garden. **SB** and **KG** would dismantle the wooden tubs in the picnic area since they were beginning to rot.

NAWG MATTERS

The citywide policy document regarding buildings and structures had been completed and should be ready for the new rent year. The fundraising event at St. James' and St. Basil's church on 15 December had raised £185 for NAWG and £59.05 for Moorside. Nicky Walter was proposing to hold a fair in the summer, again with Moorside's participation. Moorside was one of five sites selected to participate in a scheme to sell 100 raffle tickets; the prize was a tour of St. James' football ground.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SP had prepared her Chairman's report and had distributed the documentation for the AGM to the membership. A notice of the rents for 2017 would be posted on the noticeboards after the AGM. It was agreed that speakers at the AGM should stand up when speaking to allow their voices to carry in the hall.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ Part of the perimeter fence in the east right-hand was collapsing; the Council would be asked to repair it. Any barbed wire on the site below a height of 6' would have to be removed although it was unclear whose responsibility it was to do so.
- ◆ **SP** thanked the team who had cleared the area fronting the site on Fenham Hall Drive. **KG** had sourced some rubber rakes which had made the job much easier.
- ◆ There had been an alert that thieves were breaking into containers at allotment sites. Police had visited Moorside and had provided the association with alarms which would need to be fitted to the Trading Hut and storage containers. The police had also promised to step up their patrols of Moorside.

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- ◆ **FL** volunteered to enlarge the hole on the east access gate to make it easier to reach the chain when opening and closing the gate. **FL** and **SM** would work on the middle gate to enable it to be bolted into the ground.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

KG

6 February 2017