

## MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

**PRESENT:** Susan Pownall (in the Chair), Krys Gaffney, Sue Brophy, Nick Coster, Nicola Francis, Sue Johnson, Frank Lightfoot and Steven McDonnell.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Tony Whittle.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 5 September had been distributed to Committee members. There was discussion about gravelling the paths and the consensus was that areas covered by grass should not be gravelled. It was agreed that gravelling on the middle path should be extended further up the path and work on the area up to the central gate should be completed. **FL** would contact Northumbria Water for a supply of gravel that he would lay around the water cisterns. **SP** had contacted the Council about clearing the rubbish accumulated outside the site by the residential home. The member on plot 30a had retracted his application to erect a removeable weatherproof shelter at the front of his plot. **SP** had obtained a quotation from *Quay Timber* for 4 ft gravel boards at £5 each and they would give Moorside ploholders a 20% discount on their products and a 5% discount on timber. The member on plot 59 had left; the polytunnel on the plot would stay unless the Freeman or the Council objected to the structure; if damaged by winds it would be taken down.

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

**KG** had received the rent demand from the Council; it was £2,301.66 for the half year.

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

**NF** had the interim accounts for the show which had made a small profit this year.

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

**SP** was compiling a list of work to be done by the tree surgeon. **FL** suggested suspending dumpy sacks on brackets in the manure area for members to deposit their weeds; this form of communal composting was not considered a good idea since it would be open to abuse. Instead, the dumpy sacks would be made available to individuals who wanted them. The *Thompson & Morgan* seed catalogue was available offering members a 50% discount on seeds. David Vincent was running the *Kings* seed scheme. A large tarpaulin was available for members taking delivery of manure.

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

**TW** reported that there had been no change to the waiting list; there were 33 people on it. Plot 59 had been re-let and the new tenant was aware that the polytunnel should be removed but a compromise was reached that it stays for the time being unless there is an objection (as stated above) and/or weather damage. The tenant on plot 83b had a friend to dig his plot for him and had been told that his friend had no rights as a tenant.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**SJ** would complete the risk assessment form for the Plant Scheme. Risk assessments should be carried out twice a year, before Easter and before the Moorside show. **SM** would carry out a safety audit in March 2018 which would demonstrate that the association is complying with health and safety issues. Notices about the use of equipment would be posted in the Trading Hut.

#### **POST MOORSIDE SHOW REPORT**

**SM** reported that the hardstanding on the paths had been a success since it had rained heavily the night before the show. Both marquees had been set up in 20 minutes and a show start-up manual would be compiled for future shows. There was praise for Pat and Tony Francis and their dedication in running the show. The barbecue had been well received and the jam and book stalls had done well. The show accounts revealed that expenses had not changed very much and there were some engraving costs to be considered before the accounts could be finalised. **SM** (and possibly **FL**) would not be continuing on the show committee.

#### **NAWG MATTERS**

There was little to report. A decision was awaited on allotments becoming part of a trust. The City

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show had been a success.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- ◆ The meeting heard that Harry Carter was in hospital and that John Reid's state of health was poor.
- ◆ **NF** would be getting a new quote for insurance very shortly.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

**KG**

**4 November 2017**