

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Nick Coster.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 1 August had been distributed to Committee members and, with minor corrections, were agreed. Minutes for the April and July meetings had been corrected and circulated to Committee members. There was discussion about the accuracy of these minutes; **FL** suggested that meetings should be recorded but this was not agreed. **KG** offered to resign as Secretary but no-one was willing to take on the role; the April and July minutes were agreed by all those present except **FL** and **SM**. **SP** thanked **FL** and **SM** for laying the chippings on the central path. After the show, **FL** suggested extending the gravelling over areas of path not covered by grass in the direction of the toilet block at an estimated cost of £270; **FL** would arrange this. **FL** suggested using weedkiller outside plots of members who did not clean them although **SJ** advised caution with the cost. **FL** would ask Northumbria Water for a supply of gravel and offered to lay it himself on the path around the water tanks.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF had little to report; preparations for the show were in hand.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP had circulated Ben Pollard's dissertation regarding children on allotments. Agreed that relevant parts of the report might be abridged and displayed in the shop. Lindsay Bramwell had completed her biomonitoring survey and had offered to attend the show to discuss the results. The member on plot 30a had submitted a plan to erect a removeable weatherproof shelter; sited at the front of his plot, it would not comply with the council regulations for structures on plots. The Committee felt unable to approve his plan but would look at his proposed structure and possibly suggest an alternative. **SP** had received the seed potato list from *CTS* and a catalogue from *KG Loach*; the latter offers smaller stock quantities at a competitive rate. The Trading Hut would not be open on Saturday 9 September because of the show. **FL** suggested that the Trading Hut should stock a supply of 4 ft gravel boards that ploholders could use for fencing; although there was not much room for storing these in the hut, **SP** would investigate suppliers.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTION

TW reported that there were 33 people on the waiting list; other allotment sites in the city have vacancies and **TW** directs prospective applicants to these sites. The tenants of plot 48 would be leaving at the end of the season and were in discussion with the new tenants about structures on the plot. The tenant on plot 59 would be leaving; it was unclear whether the polytunnel on the plot should remain in place and **SP** would query this with the Allotments Officer. Today's inspection was the last for 2017 and site inspections would resume in April 2018.

CITY ALLOTMENTS SHOW 2017

This would be held on 23 - 24 September. Moorside would not be staging a stall and **SP** would be deputising for the NAWG Chairmn at the show.

REPORT FROM SHOW GROUP

Preparations for the show were proceeding well. Colin Storey would video the performance of the *She* choir. Jonathan Wallace, the lepidopterist, would not be attending the show. Raffle tickets would be sold on the day only.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SM reported that the second round of risk assessments (for toilets, Trading Hut and Plant Scheme) was due and that a safety audit needs to be carried out once a year. The issue of a safety audit

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would be discussed at the next meeting. **FL** and **SM** had carried out a risk assessment for the paths ahead of the show.

NAWG MATTERS

There was nothing to report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ **FL** complained that weeds were being dumped in that part of the turnaround area currently known as the 'Butterfly Conservation Area'.
- ◆ **SM** asked for the item on health and safety to be moved up the agenda at future meetings.
- ◆ The Allotments Officer would shortly be undertaking a programme of tree maintenance; Moorside would need to compile a list of any necessary work to be done on the site.
- ◆ **SB** requested that the Council be asked to remove rubbish that had accumulated outside the site by the residential home.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 3 October 2017 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

KG

29 September 2017