

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2018 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Nick Coster.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 6 March had been distributed to Committee members. The water supply had been turned on and the toilets were now open. The lock on the gents' toilet is broken and the toilets have been used during the winter; Eddie Gilchrist would padlock the door over the winter months in future. **RG** has experience of risk assessment and is not a professional in this field. The lock on the gate at the bottom west lane was difficult to close; **TW** would attend to this matter.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NF reported that 4 rents were still outstanding and that she had contacted the members concerned. **SP** would write to the members who had not paid their rent; if they did not reply it would be assumed that they no longer wished to be tenants and they would be sent (by recorded delivery) a final notice to quit. The tenant on plots 64/65a/75 would be giving up his tenancy. *Age UK* had gone into receivership and would not continue working the plot; **FL** suggested that the raised beds on the plot should be lined with non-permeable plastic sheeting (which he could supply) to preserve the life of the wood. **NF** had brought along the rent forms so that members' contact details could be updated. The rent to the Council was due.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

SP reported that sales were gradually increasing. The takings for March amounted to £803.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

The safety audit would take place on 14 April at 10.00 a.m. **SP** and **SJ** had submitted their risk assessments and **FL** and **SM** had risk assessed the access paths etc. **SM** and **FL** had started to clear plots 64/65a/75; it would be a major clearance operation, possibly requiring three skips to remove the waste. In view of all the rubbish and dangerous structures in the gardens, they had closed off access to the area and would have a concessionary bonfire to burn all the timber on the plots. **SM** would remove the tenant's personal possessions and transport them to his house and **FL** would remove the fencing from the front of the plots. **SM** would put up a notice advising members who hang hoses on their fences to do so on the insides of their plots. A spring wheel was needed on the gate leading to the toilet block. The Plant Scheme plot was well signposted in terms of safety for visitors. **SM** warned against climbing into skips to re-position rubbish.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

The first site inspection of the year had taken place to assess the state of the gardens. The site was wet from recent rains and it was felt that the pattern of water drainage in the area had changed over recent years. It was agreed that **FL**, **SM**, **SB** and **TW** would be on the inspection team; **KG** no longer wished to be on the team. **TW** reported that there were now 34 people on the waiting list. *Age UK* on plot 109a was now in administration; it was agreed that the half-plot should be let to the tenant who had worked the garden over the last three years although the beds would remain the property of Moorside. The tenant on plot 26 was giving up his garden but wanted to remove some tools, a wheelbarrow and some fruit trees.

NAWG MATTERS

The group now met every two months and their next meeting would be in May. There was no news on the fate of Freeman sites.

2018 PLANT SCHEME

SJ reported that it would be mid to late April before plant sales began.

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2018 MOORSIDE ANNUAL SHOW

The Show Committee meetings would begin in April. No committee member was on the Show Committee but **SP** would circulate show minutes to members of the main committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ There had been more break-ins since the last committee meeting. **SP** had a crime report number for the damage done on **FL's** plot.
- ◆ Parking spaces outside the site were being taken up by commuters; **TW** suggested that this should be an agenda item for discussion at the next committee meeting.
- ◆ The subject of bee-keeping should also be an agenda item for discussion at the next committee meeting.
- ◆ **SP** would be ordering a supply of decking boards and contacting the Allotments Officer about the provision of a free skip for the clearance project on plots 64/65a/75.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre. There will be a site inspection at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

KG

29 April 2018