

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

NOTES IN LIEU OF MEETING WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN HELD ON TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER BUT NOT HELD DUE TO COVID-19

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Susan Pownall Chair, Tony Whittle, Richard Littlewood, Frank Lightfoot, Steven McDonnell, Sue Brophy, Nicola Francis Treasurer, Nick Coster and Sue Johnson, Secretary

NOTES DATED 10 September 2020 had been distributed to Committee members. No comments were received and therefore these notes were taken as read.

MATTERS ARISING

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- SP reported that a large section of the front boundary fence between the middle and east gates had been repaired with the cost being met by Urban Green. The fencing had become very loose with recent winds and rotten upright posts.
- SP had continued to take to the Food Bank large quantities of excess produce from ploholders. She wished to thank everyone for their donations, which were all distributed immediately to deserving families.
- SP had sought an update from Urban Green on the latest Covid-19 restrictions and how they affect our allotments. As it stands at the time of the PM's announcement in the House on 12th October, the directive is we continue to observe the restrictions set out by UG earlier in the year. I.e. a maximum of six persons from **one** household **only** able to attend their own gardens. The sanitising arrangements we have on site will continue and ploholders are reminded to be especially careful when operating gate locks, washing hands regularly and observing social distancing at all times. The toilets are also being serviced regularly. The shop will also remain open at present.
- There have been reports from several ploholders about the presence of one or perhaps two grey squirrels on Moorside. One ploholder had independently informed the Red Squirrel Society. SP had consulted Urban Green who work with the Society who confirmed that no action was being taken; there were no red squirrels in the area; and currently – unless the environmental situation changed - the creatures were considered part of the allotment's wildlife scene

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- FL has advised that a fork, spade and metal stake have been taken from his shed and garden
- SJ has reminded members by email of the dates for the bonfire season.
- SB, Jean Hannon and Nick Coster expect to start clearing the front of the site in November.
- The Committee minutes from 2019 and 2020 were passed to the webmaster so should be available to view shortly.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

- September takings in the shop were £275.88.
- SP had also received the seed potato selection available from the wholesalers and would be placing an order shortly for January 2021 delivery.
- She had also been advised by the wholesalers that the Humax Original compost (with the silver sand) was being discontinued with immediate effect on environmental grounds. SP had bought up the last remaining stock. Similarly, the Humax Multipurpose compost was also being reconstituted in the New Year to contain a very much lower level of peat. Here again, SP had bought in what was available. No further details were known about the composition of future supplies of Humax Multipurpose.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

WAITING LIST, LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

There are 47 people on the waiting list and no lettings.

NAWG MATTERS

There was nothing to report.

CITY SHOW

The virtual City Show was now available to view on the Urban Green website. It comprised allotment stories, recipes, videos, produce images, gardening tips including a Q & A, making up a varied 2-hour piece of entertainment. Amusing or interesting contributions comprising images of quirky sheds, ugly vegetables, scarecrows, allotment anecdotes for example had been judged for a one-off prize. Moorside plotholders on Plot 26 had won a hamper for a story relating their experiences of gardening under lockdown.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Planning Application for Garden Shed on Plot 26

SP had been approached by Plot 26 gardener for permission to erect a shed, replacing the existing construction. A plan is attached for the Committee's approval /comment. The proposed shed is 10 ft in length across the back of the garden, 6 ft deep into the garden with a height of 7 feet including a pitched roof. The materials would be an appropriately coloured wood. SP understands that there would be a gap of 60 cms between the left hand wall of the shed and the boundary with Plot 27 but only 30 cms between the back of the shed and the rear boundary of plot 37.

SP requests the views of the Committee on the construction and its size/location in relation to other plots. SP's own recommendation is that the distance at the rear of the shed be increased to 60 cms to allow for essential maintenance e.g. both on the shed and the boundary fence, as well as weed control. SP does not think that 30 cms (1 foot) would be sufficient space for that purpose.

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Views welcome, please no later than 12 noon on Saturday 17th October as the tenant is anxious to proceed before winter weather sets in.

SJ

14 October 2020