

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2022 AT 5.30 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Susan Pownall (Chair), Sue Johnson (Sec), Tony Whittle, Rich Littlewood, Frank Lightfoot, Steven McDonnell, Sue Brophy, Joyce Ozouaki (joined at 17.42), Nick Coster, Nicola Francis

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 3 May were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

SP would contact The Comfrey Project a second time regarding the fence bordering plot 77 which was leaning due to rubbish being dumped against their side of the fence.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was a discussion regarding the proposed removal of the willow tree on plot 73a. It was highly unlikely that Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) would accept responsibility. The contractor they contacted was unable to undertake the work in the immediate future. It was agreed that quotations would be sought from tree surgeons as well as from Northumbria Water who may have concerns about the water chambers beneath the West Lane pathway.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rents outstanding had now been paid.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The takings for May amounted to £1155.13.

SP regretted that, for personal reasons, she would have to resign as Trading Hut Manager. There was a discussion about the future management of the Trading Hut and volunteers both current and potential. SP would inform the current volunteers after this meeting.

WAITING LIST AND LETTINGS AND INSPECTIONS

The tenant of plot 10 had left and the plot had been re-let. The tenant of plot 33 had left and the plot was likely to be re-let shortly.

The tenant of plot 70 was unable to continue.

Continuing problem plots were identified as 11, 17, 20b, 52 and 70 although it was noted that some work had been done on 52 and 70 had been discussed. Several other plots were identified as needing work done.

The tenant of 57 had reduced to a half plot and was now on plot 57a. Plot 57b had a new tenant.

There was a discussion regarding plots 76, 106 and 107a rented by The Comfrey Project and their ability to manage all of the land. It had been noted previously that their co-ordinator had left.

The tenant of 108 had made some effort.

The tenant of 107b had made an application to erect a greenhouse. The size proposed was acceptable but the width between the greenhouse and the hedge backing onto to a householder of Moorside North was only about one foot. This could be a potential

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problem for maintenance and was under the one metre width noted under the Buildings regulations. The tenant would be advised accordingly. It was also noted there was an existing base which could be used for a greenhouse.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

Hedges and growth overhanging communal paths were a potential hazard. All tenants would be advised that edges and borders must be tidied and cut back.

PLANT SCHEME

Selling was going well and would conclude before the end of June.

COMMUNITY PLOT

Discussions would be made regarding an Open Day in August. RL suggested that the entire site could be open for members of the public to access while events would take place on the Community Plot garden.

URBAN GREEN /NAWG MATTERS

A City Show would probably take place during the third week of September. The internal inspections of plots would take place during the last week of June and members would be advised.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RL advised that filming by the television Springwatch programme team was due to take place to go out on their live Tuesday programme following recent investigations on site. The email address for JO would be added to her name and mobile number on the Committee Member list.

SB would cut back shrubs in the planters outside the perimeter fence and generally give them an overhaul.

The tenants of plot 104 expressed to SM their concern about an increasing number of unkempt plots.

SP confirmed that no letter had been sent by her to the tenants of plot 20a and referred to a previous agreement by the committee that no letters would be issued to these tenants in the foreseeable future. SJ and SP referred to the necessity to refer queries from members to the Committee and also to maintain confidentiality regarding matters and persons discussed within the Committee.

NF suggested future support for and communication with new Committee Members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday 5 July at 5.30 p.m.

The Committee thanked RL for once more facilitating the meeting by ZOOM.

The meeting closed at 6.54 pm

SJ 3 July 2022