

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 29 CURTIS ROAD, FENHAM

PRESENT: Peter Whewell (Chairperson), Krys Gaffney (Secretary), Sue Brophy, Robert Germany, Sue Johnson, Sue Pownall and Niels Souter. Nicola Loose had been invited to the meeting as Treasurer elect.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Frank Lightfoot.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 29 January had been distributed to Committee members. These were agreed as being a true record of that meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 2009 AGM held on 22 January had been distributed to Committee members. These were agreed as being a true record of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- ◆ Peter Horrocks, who is the Regional Representative for the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) and is also on the Newcastle Allotments Working Group (AWG), had looked over the Trading Hut accounts and found them to be in order. The most important item concerning the issue of tax is outlined in the CTM40550 document; the Association needs to have associate members in order to trade with those who are not its members. If no charge is made for associate membership, this will get round the problem of associate members having to renew their membership annually.
- ◆ An EGM on the future of the Trading Hut will be held on 14 February 2009. **PW** had considered the idea of having two managers who would support each other; their role would be to organise the stock and the accounts and to have co-opted helpers. Two members, besides Nicola Loose, had volunteered to become Treasurer!
- ◆ **NS** would be the Show Secretary for 2009. The main activity connected with the show occurs approximately a month beforehand and **NS**'s main concern was to have enough volunteers to do the necessary setting up on the day before the show. The City show would be held on the 12th/13th September 2009; it was agreed that the Moorside show would be held on 5 September 2009. **NS** had a supply of *Robinson* seeds which he would distribute at the EGM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

CO-OPTION OF TREASURER

Nicola Loose had volunteered to be Treasurer for the Association and was co-opted onto the Committee. **NS** had arranged for payment of the water rates to be delayed for another month. At least two people need to sign cheques for the Association and it was agreed that the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary should act as signatories. **NS**, **NL** and **KG** would meet at 11.30 a.m. on 14 February (before the EGM) to arrange for the handover of documents. **PW** and **KG** would meet at 7 p.m. on 17 February to correct and update the membership list before handing it over to **NL**.

LETTING OFFICER'S REPORT

There were 4 new members and **PW** had arranged for six more keys to be cut.

SITE INSPECTION TEAM

Site inspections would start in March and **SB**, **NL**, **JR** and **PW** would be on the team.

MARCH NEWSLETTER

This would be available on 1 March 2009 and would be posted on the website; **RG** would also produce some paper copies for those without internet access. The deadline for submission of items for the newsletter was two weeks before the publication date.

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GARDEN CLUB UPDATE

Five members had attended the first Garden Club; **RG** had given a talk on soils and pH. The next Garden Club would be at 11.00 a.m. on 21 March in Fenham Library, on the subject of *Potatoes*.

WORKING PARTIES

- ◆ Flood prevention - **KG** proposed to start with sending out a questionnaire to members to gauge the extent and location of flooding on the site. Members whose plots were near the turnaround were keen to develop and improve the drainage in this area; it was agreed that a 'Turnaround Project' could run in tandem with the flood prevention project; **SJ** and **KG** would liaise.
- ◆ Bumblebee project - **SB**, **PW**, **JR**, **KG** and two members (from plots 21 and 84) would have their first meeting at 11 a.m. on 21 February 2009 to discuss the plan of action.
- ◆ Bird conservation - the member from plot 10 was happy to contribute to a bird conservation project; **SJ** agreed to lead this working party.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The member from plot 10 had suggested that Committee minutes should be circulated to all members; it was agreed that postage costs to do so would be prohibitive. Minutes are now posted on the Association's website and copies are also posted on the noticeboards and are available in the Community Hut. Members should have access to the Community Hut which should be kept open so that it can be used by members but the difficulty lies in opening, and then locking, the hut.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grants would be needed to fund the various projects proposed for the site e.g. paving around the toilet block, materials for flood prevention, printing the Association's constitution, bird conservation and bumblebees... **PW**, **NL** and **KG** would liaise.

SEED EXCHANGE EVENT

This would take place at 12 - 2 p.m. on 7 March 2009.

TRANSITION-INITIATIVE-NEWCASTLE

This is a food group which meets in the *Star and Garter* pub near Byker Bridge. They also show films on various topics such as climate change, and host other events which may be of interest to members.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ **PW** would contact the Allotments Officer about the tree problem mentioned by **NL**.
- ◆ **SB** reiterated her concern about the member who paid for four plots but did little to cultivate them.
- ◆ **NS** requested that wood chipping deliveries be dropped off nearer the back of the site to help members whose plots were at the farther end of the allotments.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be on Thursday 26 February at 7.15 p.m. in the Community Hut.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.