

# MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011 AT 5.30 P.M. AT THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE, FENHAM

**PRESENT:** Peter Whewell, Krys Gaffney, Nicola Loose, Sue Brophy, Sue Johnson, Sue Pownall, John Reid, Niels Souter and Tony Whittle.

There were no **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 7 December 2010 had been distributed to Committee members. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The member on plots 91 and 92 has moved to Stocksfield but had not indicated that he wished to give up his plots. **KG** had received two more applications for an allotment.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A surplus of £4,800 in the Association's account was money from the bee grant. The Trading Hut had made a profit of £440 and the 2010 Moorside Show had broken even. The Association's outgoings for 2010 were £5,135.58 and income from rents was £4,364; this left a shortfall of £771.58 and means that the Association is running at a deficit. To prevent a recurrence of this shortfall in 2011, the rent needed to be raised. NAWG was proposing a block insurance to cover all the associations in the City; this would seem equitable since smaller associations currently pay much more relative to larger associations. Moorside currently takes out its own insurance.

### **TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT**

**SP** had ordered a new supply of paraffin and seed potatoes would be available at the end of January. The signboard for the Trading Hut would arrive on 15 January. Delivery of 250 scaffolding planks, topsoil and soil improver was imminent.

### **GRANTS AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

The bee garden boards had been ordered before Christmas to avoid the rise in VAT. One lectern would depict the lifecycle of bees/ threats to bees/ identification of bees and the other would show which flowers attracted bees; they should be available for spring. The City Ecology Officer was designing the content from text and images from the Bumblebee Trust

### **BEE GROUP**

The bee group will meet later in January. The hive currently on plot 97 should be moved to plot 85 as agreed by the Committee in November.

### **NAWG MATTERS**

There was little to report. A survey had been done of the drainage scheme on the Moor but no report was available yet; **PW** had asked for details to be supplied to him before the AGM.

### **2011 AGM**

**NS** had decided not to continue as a member of the Committee. **PW** had prepared documents on rent and maintenance for discussion at the AGM; these would be distributed to members. There would be a form for members to complete volunteering to join working groups to carry out various activities associated with maintenance on the site. Rents should cover the Association's running costs and the rent for a full plot needed to be raised by £10 to £55 to ensure self-sufficiency; the rent for a half-plot should be raised to £30 (£40 and £23.50 respectively for concessionary rents). The rental charged for the site by the Council would not be known until April 2011. It would also be necessary to establish how many keys were held by the membership; any surplus monies in the key deposit account could then be used by the Association. It was agreed that the executive members of the Committee would keep their free plots but that they would no longer receive honoraria. A motion for honorary

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membership would be proposed at the AGM; honorary members would be ex-members who had made a significant contribution to the Association. Rob Germany, Jeff Sutcliffe and Trevor Maxwell were suggested as possible honorary members. So far only Rob Germany had been approached and he would be pleased to be an honorary member of Moorside.

### **MOORSIDE 2011 SHOW**

The Show Committee 2011 had met prior to this Committee meeting. **SJ** had prepared a draft of the Show booklet and invited suggestions for any amendments to it. The Show categories would be distributed to the membership by April at the latest. **SJ** was pursuing the arduous task of finding a main sponsor for the booklet and secondary sponsors who might donate raffle prizes.

### **GARDEN CLUB 2011**

Rob Germany would hold one or two meetings in 2011 and suggests gathering ideas for question/answer sessions.

### **SITE INSPECTION TEAM/PLOT CHANGES**

The Council would begin inspecting sites building and cultivation standards in mind in January. The building of any new structures on plots would need permission from the Committee. There had been a number of plot changes resulting in plot 59b now being vacant; the member on plot 59a was quite happy to have a quarter plot; this left a quarter plot of good soil vacant which could be let separately or added to plot 59b to make a three-quarter plot. Demolition and clearing of the greenhouse on plot 101 had to be completed. There were 35 people on the waiting list.

### **SIGN BOARDS**

This item already covered under 'Trading Hut Manager's Report' and 'Bee Group'.

### **MOORSIDE CALENDAR 2011**

47 copies need to be sold for the Association to make a profit; 30 had already been sold and the rest would be available for sale at the AGM.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- ◆ The conifer on plot 22 had been badly damaged by the snow; **PW** would contact the tree surgeon.
- ◆ The Association should look at ways to generate income for itself.
- ◆ There was discussion about health and safety and first aid for the Association's members; it was agreed that members should be responsible for their own health and safety.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**This would be the AGM on Wednesday 19 January 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in the Robert Stewart Hall. The next Committee meeting will be, provisionally, on Tuesday 25 January 2011 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.**

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.