

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.15 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS, FENHAM HALL DRIVE

PRESENT: Peter Whewell (Chairperson), Krys Gaffney (Secretary), Robert Germany, Sue Johnson, Frank Lightfoot, Nicola Loose (Treasurer) and Sue Pownall.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Sue Brophy.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 11 February had been distributed to Committee members. The City Show would be held on 12th/13th September, and not 19th/20th September. The minutes were agreed. **KG** had not yet finished the minutes of the EGM.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

TRADING HUT UPDATE - Julie Marshall had withdrawn as one of the Trading Hut managers because of a change in her personal circumstances. **SP** had drawn up a draft rota of volunteers which could run for 5-6 weeks. There had been no handover from the previous Trading Hut manager although **PW** and his wife had had a short operational briefing. The volunteers should decide on the Hut's opening times and these should be advertised once a concensus had been reached. It was agreed that a float of £50 should be kept. It was suggested that the Community Hut should stay open for the use of members at the same time as the Trading Hut; **NS** was to be consulted about the safe-keeping of the prize trophies. **SP** would ask if any of the volunteers wanted to become a joint manager and would liaise with **NL** about the accounts. A stock card system, on a reducing balance, would be started.

MARCH NEWSLETTER - **RG** was about to finalise the newsletter. He would include the dates for the shows, publicise the vacancy for the Trading Hut manager and would forward it to **PW** for 1 March.

GRANT APPLICATIONS - **PW**, **NL** and **KG** had met and looked at applying to *Grassroots* for funding; grants of up to £5,000 were available. **PW** was to apply for a grant to have the Association's constitution bound. It would be necessary to find out who was going to do the paving work around the toilet block.

GARDENING CLUB MARCH MEETING - it was unclear whether this was going to be held in Fenham Library.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had received copies of the NSALG allotment magazine and *Dig This*; they would be left in the Community Hut for members to consult.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NL had received £660 from the Trading Hut.

LETTING OFFICER'S REPORT

All plots were now let. There was a discussion about whether the Association should buy greenhouses and huts on vacated plots and then sell them on to new tenants. It would be difficult to keep a record of which structures were owned by whom and it was agreed that the Association should not get involved in greenhouse/hut transactions. New tenants would have the option of negotiating with the outgoing tenant about any structures on the plot.

WORKING PARTY REPORTS

KG would be compiling a questionnaire for members to establish which parts of the site were prone to flooding. The Bumblebee project was under way; the garden next to the Community Hut would become a showcase for flowers and bumblebee nesting sites. **SJ** had met with the member from plot 10 and had discussed the purchase of nesting-boxes for bird conservation; a talk or a workshop on making bird-boxes was suggested. It was agreed that initiatives to encourage wildlife should not be overpublicised on the Association's website (in case the Freemen got wind of them...)

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

BREAK-INS

Thieves had broken up two aluminium greenhouses, presumably with the intention of selling the (not very valuable) metal for scrap. The police allocated a crime number to the incident but did little else. It was suggested that a perimeter hedging of thorny plants such as pyracantha and blackthorn might discourage intruders; the Allotments Officer would be consulted for a source of cheap hedging plants and the Association could apply for grants to buy them.

SITING OF HERITAGE BOARD

The heritage board was now ready and it was agreed to site it next to the noticeboard outside the Trading Hut.

COMMITTEE DETAILS

Committee members could elect to be contacted on their plots and/or email@moorside. These details would be available on the noticeboard or on the website.

YOUTH OFFENDER SCHEME

It was agreed that having young offenders on the site to help dig members' gardens was not a good idea...

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ The stock of compost held by the Trading Hut may soon be approaching its sell-by date... it would be advisable to sell the surplus as soon as possible, possibly at a reduced price. The viability of this would need to be costed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be on Thursday 2 April at 7.15 p.m. in the Community Hut.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.