

# MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2010 AT 10.00 A.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS, FENHAM HALL DRIVE

**PRESENT:** Peter Whewell, Krys Gaffney, Frank Lightfoot, Sue Pownall, John Reid, Niels Souter and Tony Whittle.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Dorota Antoniak, Sue Brophy, Sue Johnson and Nicola Loose.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING** held on 20 March 2010 had been distributed to Committee members. There was still a surplus stock of seed potatoes; it was agreed that they should be reduced to 50p/kilo and any remaining earlies would be planted out in the manure area after the bank holiday and seedling swap. Paraffin prices at Littlemoor were lower than Moorside's at present since they had bought a large quantity whilst prices were low and so are still able to pass on the lower price to their customers. **PW** was still waiting for a response from Kevin Batey about flooding. **PW** had advised the member who had asked for committee minutes to be emailed to the membership that she should submit a new communications policy to the Committee for consideration. The Association needed advice on whether planning permission was needed to put up sign boards.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**KG** had received two more applications for an allotment; this brought the number on the waiting list to 34.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer had nothing to report.

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

Some bags containing the most recent consignment of compost were splitting. Organic products in the Trading Hut were selling well and nearly all the scaffolding planks had been sold. The sand was being sold at £1 for 24 kg which represented good value compared to commercial outlets. The prices of many products had changed and a new price list would be drawn up. A form outlining the rules for the use of hired equipment, including a risk and damages disclaimer, would need to be compiled; **SP** and **NL** would do this.

### **GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE/BEE GROUP**

The City Council is actively pursuing a bee strategy and Moorside would become a pilot project. The Association has received a grant of £7,078.00 from *Sustainable Communities Fund* which would be approximately allocated as follows:

**Bumblebee project:** £2,000 for interpretation boards, £200 for text and pictures for the boards to the Bumble bee Trust, £1,000 for printing an information booklet to be distributed to members, visitors and to other allotment sites

**Beekeeping project:** £3,800 was available for start-up costs for bee keeping with the rules of the grant stating that each individual beekeeper would have to match each individual grant with a personal payment of at least £50. It was agreed that in the first instance £500 each would be used to pay for start-up expenses for **TW** and **HH**. Such expenses would include equipment and training costs and the cost of the bees themselves. It was estimated that the actual cost of starting up would be around £700 minimum, so **TW** and **HH** would be putting in more than £50 of their own money. It was agreed that the balance of the grant would be used to buy spare equipment (e.g. suits) and to organise taster and training courses for others interested in the project. **PW** suggested that setting up a bee-friendly garden competition would raise the profile of bee-conservation at Moorside. **PW** would need to check the conditions of the grant (whether it had to be used up in the first year) and expand and complete the child protection statement which he had been required to compile as part of the grant application. The Association would shortly receive 100 butterfly and 100 bee plant plugs for the bee garden from the Ecology Officer.

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## NAWG MATTERS

The City Show would be held on 4/5 September 2010 and Forum Elections were due to be held in June.

## NORTHUMBERLAND IN BLOOM

The judges had appeared pleased during their visit to the site. Jesmond Nursery had provided 12 planters and would supply compost to fill them. Since the planters were on loan, **PW** suggested that there should be a competition for members to construct planters. **PW**, **FL**, **KG** and **JR** agreed to be on the *Northumberland in Bloom* sub-committee.

## THE 2010 MOORSIDE SHOW

Pat Francis would be away in August and therefore unable to organise the show; **PW** would do so instead. **FL**, **TW** and **NS** agreed to be on the Show sub-committee. The Association had been awarded a grant of £925 from Wingrove Ward Committee for half of the cost of the canopy; it was hoped that *Awards for All* would be able to supply a grant to cover the remaining cost.

## GARDEN CLUB 2010

The first meeting had been well attended by 15 people; it had been a success and was particularly well attended by Comfrey Project members. **NS** felt that it would improve with time. People on the waiting list are told about the Garden Club and encouraged to attend.

## SITE INSPECTION TEAM

No letters had to be sent out to members after the team's first inspection! Plot 96b had not been cultivated yet and could become a problem. **NS** would vacate plot 50 in June and it would be re-let as two half-plots. The next inspection would be on 12 June at 9 a.m.

## SEED AND SEEDLING SWAP SUNDAY

Emma Hughes was organising a seed and seedling swap on 2 May from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Trading Hut would remain open during the event.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ Members were watering excessively, cars were being parked in front of the entrance gates and dogs were fouling the footpaths. **PW** would produce a notice covering all these issues and post them on all gates, including the gate leading to the Moor.
- ◆ Children of Moorside residents had been playing on the site. **FL** had asked them to leave and felt that it would be useful to have the phone number of the West End Police Station to contact in the event of a recurrence of such situations.
- ◆ Two bags of rubbish had been dumped in the manure area; **SP** would dispose of them.
- ◆ The roofs of the containers had been treated with water sealant at a cost of £130 (instead of £150 as originally quoted). **NL** would need to write a cheque for payment.
- ◆ The members on plot 5 were keen to develop the forest glade garden in the manure area; **PW** and **SP** agreed to be on the Manure Garden sub-committee.
- ◆ The Show sub-committee would meet on 29 April at 6 p.m.
- ◆ The Northumberland in Bloom sub-committee would meet on 9 May at 10 a.m.
- ◆ A date for the Manure Garden sub-committee meeting would be arranged.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be on Thursday 3 June 2010 at 6 p.m. in the Community Hut.

The meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.