

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2011 AT 5.30 P.M. IN THE NUNSMOOR CENTRE

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

There were no **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 1 November 2011 had been distributed to Committee members. The green power facility generating light for a trading hut at Red House Farm Allotments in Whitley Bay was not currently functional and our visit there had to be postponed. **SJ** would arrange for her paving contact to visit the site re our disabled beds project. The Public Liability Insurance cover to be arranged by the Council would cost more (around £2 per plot) but be more equitable since smaller sites would pay less. The Trading Hut needs to be promoted more at the show to raise funds. There would be a working party on Saturday 10 December at 10.00 a.m. to work on plot 59. The amendment clause to the Association's constitution would be compiled.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Nathan Brown, Chairman of Lemington Allotments, was interested in beekeeping there; **KG** had given him **TW**'s contact details.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Association's financial year ended in November. **NL** would reconcile the separate accounts for grants, keys and association funds. **NL** needed to clarify whether Moorside would need additional insurance cover for third parties and Employer's Liability cover. Peter Stoddart's hut had sold for £50.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

The scaffolding planks were selling well and more bird food was needed. The fine grit which **SP** had bought was unsuitable; alpine grit would replace it. **NL** and **SP** had done the stocktake and **NL** was happy to also do the cash. Susan Hrisos had effectively resigned from managing the sale sheets and **SP** had obtained all the documentation from her. There were 500 litres of paraffin in stock and sales were starting to pick up.

BEE GROUP

The bees were now dormant and a meeting of the bee group would be arranged in late January 2012.

NAWG MATTERS

A conflict continues at Nunsmoor allotment site concerning the eviction of a member there.

MOORSIDE 2012 SHOW

PW had agreed to be the Show Secretary and the Show Committee would try to find a sponsor for the show booklet. The marquees were now at least eight years old and would need to be replaced; **TW** would cost the purchase of new ones.

PLOTS UPDATE

Keith Rogerson NAWG rep from Thropton Terrace had compiled a chart to help quantify cultivation criteria during plot inspections; it was felt that his model was too complicated to apply to 109 individual plots but Moorside would perhaps consider using a simpler version. There would be a site inspection on Saturday 10 December at 9.00 a.m. Plot 59 would be covered in black plastic to suppress weeds; it was agreed that the plot would be offered to a couple, currently fifth on the waiting list, who wanted a full plot. Beverley Sawyer wanted to move to plot 101b since the shed on her current plot, 79b, took up a lot of space. This was agreed. Plot 30b had been let to Wendy Howdin. The tenancy on plots 40 and 41 had not been terminated since the member had given assurances that he would intensify their cultivation and he had therefore been given more time to do so.

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FLOODING

Sue Stokel-Walker had written to **PW** that the Council intends to address afresh the issue of flooding at Moorside in the New Year.

TASK GROUP FEEDBACK

A) Bee garden - the Freeman's Steward's Committee had rejected our request to plant the area fronting Moorside. We were told the association's lease does not allow planting outside the site.

B) Disabled beds – Emma Hughes had informed us that using THRIVE criteria, beds of different heights will be needed to cater for different disabilities and the paving around one needs to be wide enough to allow wheelchair access. In the area available, it would be possible to erect three beds together with a shed and greenhouse

HOUSING THE TOP SITE SHIELD

KG was housing the shield at present and would pass it to **SB** in January 2012. It would be displayed at the AGM for members to see.

VISIT BY TREE OFFICER

The Tree Officer would be visiting the site on Thursday 8 December at 11.00 a.m. The cherry tree on plot 4 and the large willow on the eastern pathway needed inspection. The members on plot 26 had asked for a laburnum tree to be cut down and a sycamore on plot 25 needed to have its crown raised. There was a dead cherry tree on plot 10 and a yew and holly tree on plot 45 would need inspection as well as a tree at the top of plot 96a.

RE-ELECTION OF 2012 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nomination forms for re-election to the Committee for 2012 had to be completed.

FUNDING

A funding sub-committee would be set up. **SJ**, **PW** and **TW** agreed to be on the sub-committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ The Association needs a bigger Trading Hut.
- ◆ **SP** had 3 metres of lagging for the pipes under the basins in the toilet block but more would be needed.
- ◆ The rent for 2012 would need to be raised to cover the cost of Public Liability Insurance; **NL** would calculate what the rise should be.

DATE OF AGM

This would be held on Wednesday 25 January 2012, probably in St. Basil's and St. James's Church Hall.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 3 January 2012 at 5.30 p.m. in the Nunsmoor Centre.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.