

MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 10.00 A.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS, FENHAM HALL DRIVE

PRESENT: Peter Whewell, Krys Gaffney, Dorota Antoniak, Sue Brophy, Sue Johnson, Sue Pownall, John Reid, Niels Souter and Tony Whittle.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Frank Lightfoot and Nicola Loose.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Not all members of the Committee were at the meeting but the majority of those present agreed that the election of officers should go ahead. The following were nominated, seconded and duly elected:- Peter Whewell as Chairperson, Krys Gaffney as Secretary and Nicola Loose as Treasurer. Niels Souter was retiring as Show Secretary; the position would remain vacant for the time being. Charliegh Brown had expressed an interest in filling it, but was not able to proceed for personal reasons.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING held on 16 January 2010 had been distributed to Committee members. **SB** had sent her apologies for that meeting. The Trading Hut would continue opening for two hours each day, not one hour as stated in the minutes. Mr. Atkinson, who is on the Association's waiting list, would carry out the work of waterproofing the containers. The wildlife hedge had been planted. The area round the toilet block had been paved; the Allotments Officer had actioned the job which had been paid for by a £500 grant from the Council and £500 from the Muckle firm of solicitors and letters of thanks would be sent to them.

MINUTES OF THE 2010 AGM

Apart from a minor alteration to the Trading Hut Manager's report, the minutes were agreed as being a true record of that meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KG had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approximately 15 members had not yet paid their rents.

TRADING HUT MANAGER'S REPORT

Some of the volunteers objected to collecting rent payments from members at the Trading Hut especially having to hand out change; it was agreed that a receipt book should be kept. The scrap merchant was due to collect scrap metal from plot areas one and two. **SP** had sourced a supply of untreated scaffolding planks, ranging in length from 6 to 13 feet.

QUESTIONNAIRES

- ◆ **University** - 46 members had completed the questionnaire. 75% of those who had responded had agreed to be interviewed on site by the students who also wanted to photograph the site.
- ◆ **Trading Hut** - Members had submitted suggestions for items to be sold in the Trading Hut.
- ◆ **Garden Club** - Some members are only interested in gardening and not attending a Garden Club. Those that were interested had suggested a variety of topics such as the basic techniques of gardening, digging and weed eradication (especially marestail). The Garden Club would be held at 10.00 a.m. in the Community Hut on the second Saturday of each month, beginning in March. In liaison with Rob Germany, **NS** would plan a programme for each month.
- ◆ **Newsletter** - 8 members had volunteered to submit topics for the newsletter. Although Rob Germany was no longer on the Committee, he was happy to continue producing the newsletter.
- ◆ **Flood survey** - It was evident from members' responses that a major cause of flooding was water running off the Town Moor onto the site; some modifications in the turnaround area would go some way to alleviating the problem. NAWG was in the process of collecting data on flooding problems from sites across the City.

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GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE

Jayne Butler had experience in applying for grants. **PW** would be applying to the Ward for a grant to pay for the canopy project. **SJ** agreed to draft the noticeboards that were to be situated outside the site; she would need ideas for the design and advice on how to produce and vandalproof them. The existing board from Northumbria Water would be used to advertise events such as shows and open days and there would be a board to be used by the Trading Hut. There was some discussion about enhancing the area where the manure is presently stored; it was agreed that an enclosure should be built to house the manure before deciding how the rest of the area should be developed.

BEE GROUP

The group was up and running and had held its first meeting.

NAWG MATTERS

One of the NAWG members sits on the Joint Town Moor Committee and reported that the autumn Freeman site inspections had been under discussion and one site with a direct Freeman lease was said to be in breach of its lease; another site had been given six months in which to remove a pond. From this report it seems that the Freeman's focus is not currently on Moorside...

NORTHUMBERLAND IN BLOOM

The Allotments Officer has volunteered Moorside for *Northumberland in Bloom*. **PW** has requested details about what this entails.

LETTINGS

SB, PW, FL, NS, KG and **JR** agreed to be on the sub-committee for lettings and inspections.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ◆ There had been a reply from David Slater, Director of the Environment, to our Wingrove Ward petition for increased provision of allotments in Newcastle, indicating that steps were being taken to identify vacant land that could be used for allotments. **PW** would contact the people who were currently on the waiting list to let them know the situation and ask them to confirm their interest to continue upon the waiting list.
- ◆ The Comfrey Project does not meet in the winter months; their meetings would re-commence every Friday, beginning in March.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This would be on Saturday 20 March 2010 at 10.00 a.m. in the Community Hut.

The meeting closed at 11.35 a.m.