

## MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY HUT, MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS, FENHAM HALL DRIVE

There being no lighting in the Community Hut, the meeting adjourned to **SB**'s lovely warm house at 29 Curtis Road...

**PRESENT:** Peter Whewell (Chairperson elect), Krys Gaffney (Secretary elect), Sue Brophy, Robert Germany and Frank Lightfoot. Sue Johnson and Sue Pownall were welcomed to their first meeting on the Committee.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Niels Souter.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS BY THE NEW COMMITTEE**

**PW** was willing to continue as Chairperson and **KG** as Secretary; both were re-elected. Until a Treasurer is appointed, **KG** is willing to continue doubling in this role. **PW** said that in his view it was not appropriate at present to re-elect a Vice-Chairperson in view of the difficulties experienced at the AGM. Firstly there was a serious ongoing and unresolved personal quarrel between **FL** and a senior member of the Association. Secondly many members appreciated the past management of the Trading Hut and some impartial members had spoken of feeling intimidated by the manner in which matters were brought up, creating an atmosphere in which it was not safe to speak. The meeting felt that if there were issues about any irregularities in the running of the Trading Hut or the behaviour of the Letting Officer, then these should have been resolved at a Committee meeting and not in as public a forum as the AGM. It was evident that long-standing, unresolved, personal conflicts existed between the Vice-Chairperson and the Trading Hut manager. **FL** disagreed with these views and left the meeting.

#### **THE FUTURE OF THE TRADING HUT**

There was discussion about whether the Association needed to complete a tax assessment form for the Inland Revenue; **SP**'s accountant had advised her that the Association should do so. **PW** had sought advice from the regional NSALG forum in Durham, the Newcastle Allotments Officer and the Secretary of the Newcastle Allotments Working Group and it appears that none of the allotment associations in Newcastle or those present at Durham who run a trading huts, make a tax return. He circulated the Inland Revenue circular CTM40550 and section 21 of the Tax calculation annual turnover limit for charities detailing a maximum permitted turnover of £5,000, which was above our trading level. It was agreed that we needed further advice. The account books for the Trading Hut were currently with an accountant and it was agreed that the Trading Hut's accounts should be incorporated in those of the Association. **PW** would call an EGM on Saturday 14 February 2009 in the Robert Stewart Memorial Hall. The EGM would decide the future of the Trading Hut. A volunteer (or a team) to take responsibility for the hut would be sought; in the absence of any decision, the Trading Hut would have to close.

#### **2009 ANNUAL SHOW**

No date had yet been arranged, but **NS** was keen to be the Show Secretary and this was agreed. It was agreed that external judges should be retained for the show.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- The Association needed a Letting Officer; **PW** agreed to take on this role. It was agreed that only half-plots should be let for the foreseeable future.
- The member on plot 8 held the Association's supply of seed potatoes and would be selling them from the Community Hut.
- The ex-Chairperson and his wife open and close the toilets and also keep them clean. There are times, however, when the toilets are 'inconveniently' closed and **RG** suggested that a keybox system, operated by the same key that opens the gates, should be introduced.

## **MOORSIDE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This would be held on Wednesday 11 February 2009 at 7 p.m. at 29 Curtis Road

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.